



**PROF MS MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA
OFFICIAL SIGNING CEREMONY:
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
CITY OF JOHANNESBURG AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
THURSDAY, 05 JUNE 2019
16TH FLOOR, A-BLOCK, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, 158 CIVIC
BOULEVARD, BRAAMFONTEIN**

Thanks Programme Director: Councillor Dr Valencia Ntombi Khumalo
(Member of Mayoral Committee: Corporate & Shared Service, City of
Johannesburg)

- Councillor Mr Herman Mashaba, Executive Mayor: City of
Johannesburg

- Councillor Dr Mpho Phalatse, Member of Mayoral Committee: Health & Social Development, CoJ
- Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, Vice Chancellor & Principal: University of Johannesburg
- Professor Adam Habib, Vice Chancellor & Principal: University of Witwatersrand
- Mr Jan Erasmus, Acting Group Head: Group Strategy Policy Coordination & Relations, (City of Johannesburg)
- Dr Ndivhoniswani Lukhwareni, City Manager: City of Johannesburg
- My Unisa colleagues and colleagues from sister institutions
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

I know that I speak on behalf of Unisa's Council, Executive Management, staff, students and stakeholders when say that I am pleased to be involved in this important MoU.

Unisa already has a similar MoU with the Tshwane Municipality, and we are delighted to broaden our collaboration to include the City of Johannesburg and my two esteemed sister universities of UJ and Wits. This MoU provides a visible manifestation of agreed strategic collaboration and a shared commitment to the leveraging of our collective intellectual capital and expertise, and resources and

capacities, in the advancement of our respective visions and strategic and operational interventions. It is a win-win collaboration, which, fully explored and exploited, has the potential to deliver quite far-reaching and impactful results for our students and the citizens of Johannesburg. In my view this is a true expression of Ubuntu/Botho. It is the magic that happens when people work together with common purpose and for the common good - irrespective of political affiliations or ideological agendas.

So, this MoU engagement is significant for three reasons. Firstly, it is a demonstration of the practical and pragmatic collaboration that is possible and that is not limited or confined to narrow sectoral interests or boundaries, when there is a willingness to give genuine expression to our commitment - both national and continental - to our (South) African renaissance. I say this because it is becoming clearer by the day that if we are to rise, we will need to harness and leverage every possible resource and capacity that we have as a collective, and be the architects of our own flourishing. We are all responsible.

Second, engagements such as this one speak to our mutual appreciation of, and deep commitment to, our citizens - and our

determination to make a meaningful and measurable contribution to the change that we would like to see in their lives, and by extension, our societies and our Continent.

And third, as universities in the region, we have a vested interest in seeing the region succeed and flourish, across all of the 9 priority areas which have been identified in this MoU. Mr Mayor, your success is our success and your sustainability is our sustainability, and *vice versa*. Our three universities have between us a massive reservoir of high quality, high calibre intellectual capacity that can be tapped into and leveraged across a really broad array of disciplines and competencies, in support of the priorities and our own institutional visions and strategies. We will play our part.

I have no doubt that this engagement will be of mutual benefit, and I am hopeful- and confident - that the relationship that we are forging today will grow and develop to the continued benefit of our respective and collective constituencies in the months and years ahead.

Thank you!