



The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor

PROF MS MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

WELCOME: TMALI CERTIFICATE CEREMONY

UNISA

09 JULY 2015

- Honourable Patron of the TMALI and TMF and former President of South Africa, Dr Thabo Mbeki and Mrs Zanele Mbeki
- CEO of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, Ambassador Dumisani Khumalo and TMALI trustees
- Dr Siphamandla Zondi
- Members of Unisa's executive and extended management here present
- Prof Vusi Gumede, Head of the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute
- TMALI Graduates s and recipients of certificates this evening
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Africa is acknowledged as a key global growth point – a Continent of unlimited potential. Growing numbers of influential voices – political, social and economic – are highlighting the growth taking place on the Continent and the opportunities that this presents for Africa – as a continent and as an influential global player. Our continent is often referred to as a *sleeping lion* that is awakening, stretching, and flexing its muscles - heralding its power and influence in world affairs. Africa, they say, is rising.

Yet, while one sees evidence of an emergent new order, of clear shifts in the balance of power globally, and of a fundamental reorganisation and reorientation of economies and societies along new lines, Africa currently seems to be more of an observer than a dictator of the pace and the confident arbiter of its own destiny.

There has of course been evidence of progress, of the assertion of the African voice in its own, and world, affairs. But this has not always achieved the kind of success that it deserves – one thinks for example, of the AU and the true extent of its power and influence in world affairs, let alone African affairs. But that too, I believe is undergoing a transformation towards a more effective and impactful articulation of its mandate, and I am proud to say that Unisa is very much a part of that process.

One sometimes gets the impression that the greatest stumbling block to our potential is Africans themselves. In fact, at times one could be forgiven for thinking that Afro-pessimism, self-doubt, and suspicion of our own capabilities and of one another, is more prevalent amongst Africans than it is amongst foreigners, begging the questions: 'Do we in fact believe in ourselves and our ability to unleash Africa's potential on the world? Why do we find it so difficult to act on the potential that others see, and in which they are investing to an increasing degree? Why do we seem to be so complacent about allowing "others" to - once again - influence and shape our economies and our power relations – continentally and globally?

Much of this inability to maximise our huge potential as Africans, could, I suggest, be ascribed to a dearth in the right calibre of leadership on our Continent – honourable men and women of vision and integrity, whose commitment to their people and their countries, outweighs any and all other considerations. It is strong, ethical leadership and unshakeable self-belief, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, that will drive us forward and upward and that will see this continent's potential blossom.

Generally speaking, we do not have a proud track record in that regard, and it should be a matter of concern to all of us that as a people who claim to be shaped and formed by Ubuntu/botho, there seems to be scant evidence of it in far too many places and cases in Africa. If Africa's *rising* is to succeed we will need the right calibre of leaders at the helm.

Africa needs visionary, dynamic leadership that will put paid to the pessimism and dejection, and lead this Continent confidently into a future that is designed and dictated by ourselves and that gains global recognition of African as peers – and treated with appropriate levels of respect and gravitas. Africa needs leaders whose integrity and skills will contribute to the unlocking and unleashing of the huge potential that resides in our continent.

That is why I am so delighted to be present at this certificate ceremony. The Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute at the University of South Africa is now an integral part of Unisa and this will ensure not only its longevity, but also the expansion of quality academic offerings in line with its developmental trajectory. We are excited and encouraged not only by the status and success of the TMALI programmes, but also by the continental interest that TMALI is generating. There is no doubt that TMALI is well on its way to becoming the premier leadership institute on the Continent and we are exceedingly proud of that.

The certificate ceremony covers the period from 2nd semester 2013 to end of 2nd semester 2014, and 208 students completed their studies during this period. The 'graduating' class is comprised of students who studied the following TMALI Programmes:

- African Political Economy - The African Economic Challenge
- Thought Leadership for Africa's Renewal
- Afrikan Feminist and Gender Studies
- Good Governance in Africa
- Africa and International Trade - Building an African Developmental State

The students predominantly come from South Africa, but we also have students from Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Ethiopia, Namibia and Nigeria.

In this cohort of young men and women reside future leaders, governors and administrators of the highest order – Africans who will do us proud at home and abroad. You are a very privileged group. Few are so fortunate as to have been schooled by eminent African leaders, as well as by academics and other persons of the highest intellect, calibre and experience. To our TAMLI Patron and our other contributors - Unisa sincerely appreciates your efforts.

To our graduates – the recipients of certificates, congratulations! We will be watching your progress with interest, excitement and a lot of anticipation, and we look forward to sharing in the success that many of you will undoubtedly achieve as you grow and develop in your careers. Bear in mind, we will all be the beneficiaries!

I thank you.