



*The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor*

**PROF MS MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**WELCOME: DR IVY MATSEPE CASABURRI MEMORIAL LECTURE  
Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in ICT: Smart Strategies for  
Radical Economic Transformation  
Senate Hall, Muckleneuk Campus  
21 March 2015**

- Thanks to our Programme Directors: Nokuzola Ehrens, South African Women in ICT Forum and Mameetse Mphahlele, Acting Deputy Director General – ISADR Branch
- Also thanks to Rev Dr V Mehana: Chaplain General
- The Honourable Minister Siyabonga Cwele, MP: Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services

- The Honourable Minister Naledi Pandor, MP: Minister of Science and Technology, we are honoured to have you Minister Pandor delivering this lecture tonight
- Honourable Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize, MP: Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, we are honoured to have you presenting the background to tonight's event
- Dr Sebiletso Mokone-Matabane: International Women's Forum South Africa and Deputy Chairperson on Unisa's Council
- Our panelists:
  - ✓ Honourable Dr Siyabonga Cwele, MP: Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services
  - ✓ Judge C Mocumie: President of the South African International Association of Women Judges
  - ✓ Mr Bonang Mohale: President of the Black Management Forum
- Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri's family members, Mr TV Matsepe (speaker on behalf of the family), religious leaders, political leaders, academics, organized labour, captains of industry in the ICT sector and state owned entities
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted and sincerely honoured to bid you all a warm welcome to this Memorial Lecture, held in honour of the late Dr Ivy Matsepe-

Casaburri, former Minister of the Department of Communications, of South Africa.

I think former President Kgalema Motlanthe said it best when on the occasion of her passing on the 6<sup>th</sup> April in 2009, he said that the late Minister Matsepe-Casaburri, was “*an outstanding leader and servant of the people of South Africa*”. That statement struck me quite forcefully, distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen, because it not only encapsulated the ethos of my fellow Fort Harian, but it also found resonance in the many tributes that have been, and continue to be made about the life of our recently departed Minister Collins Chabane, Minister of Public Service and Administration, who in fact was laid to rest today. Both have been characterized by all who knew them as *hard-working servants of the people*.

Much has been said of late about the malaise that seems to have gripped some of the people in our country. I speak here of course, of a seeming lack - or dearth - of the demonstrable practice of the values and ethos which were lived to the full and harnessed perpetually by those who brought freedom to this country and her peoples. Some of them have departed from this earth, but some are still alive. Among those who are still alive are those of you who are here tonight

Ministers and all leaders of our people. These values are: hard work, integrity, humility, sacrifice, servant-hood, caring, dignity, diligence, fortitude, strength of character, clarity of purpose and ultimately a deep, deep appreciation of the vision that we have for this country. The late Minister Matsepe-Casaburri exhibited those qualities and she exercised them richly and we – each and every one of us - have reaped the benefits.

It is fitting then, that as we celebrate her life today we should look inward and ask of ourselves: How do we measure up? Will we one day take our places amongst the exalted ranks of those who have served our county and her people diligently and with honour, or will our memory and our legacies be consigned to the rubbish bins of history. The choice is ours, but if our current status is to be used as a yardstick for true and selfless servant hood, I would suggest that many would be found wanting.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am the head of the largest University on the Continent - the University of South Africa. My university enrolls more than one-third of all South African students and as such, we have a solemn duty, which we take very seriously indeed, to produce the kinds of graduates who will be responsible, *ethical* citizens, committed not only to their own growth and development but

also that of their fellow citizens and of course, our country and continent. As an institution we have deliberately adopted a leadership model of *servant leadership*, which in our view, espouses those same values and principles practiced by the Ivy Matsepe-Casaburries of this world, and which we would like to see emulated, by our staff and students for the benefit of all. The servant leader asked him or herself:

*Do those served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And, what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit or at least not be further deprived?" (<http://www.greenleaf.org/whatiss/>)*

How are we faring? Even as we endeavor by all means to inculcate those principles, we are too often faced with apathy, stubbornness, withdrawal and a self-centredness that militates against the transformation which we hold so dear and which is so utterly necessary. Current developments at some our sister institutions again demonstrate that there are critical national conversations to be held, and we must ask: Where is the leadership? Who is owning that conversation? It surely cannot be a mere intellectual exercise that guides the national agenda and national conversations? Where are the other voices? More crucially why are they not being raised? Have we

all become so disengaged, so focused on our own needs and our own journey to riches and success, that we have forgotten that our success is premised on a healthy economy and an engaged, participative society? Dr Matsepe-Casaburri understood the need for inclusiveness in arriving at consensus on national issues. In her acceptance speech for the premiership of the Free State province she said:

*As part of the process, a series of meetings will be held with the ANC structures, including the caucus, alliance partners, SANCO, the Churches and other religious bodies, business community, academics, farmers and farm workers, women and youth organisations the idea being that we march in step together in the development of this Province.*

The truth is, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we cannot have one without the other and in retreating into our little cocoons of self-absorption, I would perhaps even go so far as to say that we make a mockery of the selfless contributions of those like Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri and many of our leaders, whose activism, commitment and sheer hard work, paved the way for the positions that we all occupy today.

I can also tell you that as a distance education institution, we are faced with quite critical challenges around issues of ICT provision and in

particular access to broadband and the internet for our students. The impact of these lacks and barriers for my institution are manifold, and quite glaring in regard to optimal service delivery. At the most fundamental level, it is those who we have been tasked to educate who are being prejudiced the most – and that of course, is our students.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen it is occasions such as this, where we pause and celebrate a life well lived in the true spirit of Ubuntu/botho, that we should revisit our own contributions and commit anew to the same ethos and values that brought us here today. How many of us will be able to emulate these accomplishments? Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri was, amongst others, the first woman to be appointed to the board of the CSIR, the first black person and woman to become chairperson of Sentech, the first woman and black chairperson of the board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation from 1993 to 1997. She served as a Premier of the Free State and thereafter she became a Member of Parliament and Minister of Communications. Her achievements validate South Africa's Constitution and its Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Agenda and provide a shining example of what can be achieved where there is clarity of purpose, will and determination.

Allow me to conclude this welcome in the words of Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri herself, also taken from her acceptance speech for the Premiership of the Free State province:

This is for me the beginning of a long and arduous road into formal politics, but I am willing to travel under the banner of an organization that led our people to liberation from apartheid. An organization that has taken responsibility for reconciling South Africa, building diversity, an organization that has overcome great odds to see its vision and mission accomplished..... This organisation has been blessed with leadership that has given selflessly of itself and with humility...(Then translated from Afrikaans)...This is an organisation whose older leadership's humility taught us that we must serve all of our people with respect and with honesty. That all of our people, white and black, young or old, rich or poor, man or woman, capable or not capable, needy or not, learned, must be treated equally.

*Let us fold up our sleeves and get down to work.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statement by ANC Premier - Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, 5 December 1996,  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=9061>

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as we remember the life and work of the late Minister Matsepe-Casaburri, let us honour her memory by following her example – let us stop “*fold up our sleeves*” and do the work necessary to realise our country and our people’s potential.

Welcome once more - I thank you.