



The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor

PROF MS MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

**WELCOME: SUPPORTING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY
ACTIVISM TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND FOR PEACE, PROSPERITY AND**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RECEPTION HALL, KGORONG BUILDING

15 August 2018

- Programme Director
- His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa
- The Honourable Chief Justice Mogoeng, Mogoeng, Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa
- Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, *Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Government of South Africa*
- Minister Bathabile Dlamini, *Minister of Women, Government of South Africa*

- Ms Phumzile Mlambo – Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women
- Ms Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Dr Tawand Mutasah, Amnesty International
- Mr Sello Hatang, *CEO, Nelson Mandela Foundation*
- Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, *South African Law Reform Commission and member of the Johannesburg Society of Advocates*
- Advocate Thuli Madonsela, *Advocate and Professor of Law*
- Ms Yasmin Sookah, Executive Director, Foundation for Human Rights
- Dr Martin Semalulu Nsibirwa, *Head of Commissioners Program, South African Human Rights Commission*
- Ms Lop Banerjee, *Director: Civil Society Division, UN Women*
- Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas: *Resident Co-ordinator of the United Nations in South Africa*
- Ms Lulama Nare, *Chairperson, Commission for Gender Equality of South Africa*
- Mr Edward Ndopu, *Founder, Global Strategies on Inclusive Education*
- Ms Nompumelelo Melaphi, *Rethink Africa Youth Group*
- Ms Lindiwe Khoza, *UN Women/LO/UNFPA Young women Executive Leadership Programme*
- Ms Scholastica Kimaryo, *Kilimanjaro Conscious Leadership Institute*

- Ms Lynette Maart, *National Director, Black Sash*
- (University of South Africa students as recommended by the university)
- Mr Jay Naidoo, *Trustee, Earthrise*
- Mr Mavuso Msimang, *Chairperson, Corruption Watch*
- Ms Lebogang Ramafoko, *Executive Director, Soul City*
- *CIVICUS*
- Mr Marthe Muller, *South African Women in Dialogue*
- Ms Itumeleng Komanyane, *Deputy Regional Chair, Sonke Gender Justice Network*
- Ms Purity Soinato Oiyie, *youth representative*
- Mr Mark Heywood, *Executive Director, Section 27*
- *Survivor Network*
- Professor Frans Viljoen, *Director, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria*
- Mr Sipho Mtati, *Director, Oxfam South Africa*
- Professor Andries du Toit, *Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies*
- Ms Kim Windvogel, *OutRight International*
- Ms Shaeera Kalla, *Activist, #FeesMustFall*
- *National Rural Assembly*
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Warm greetings to you all! It is an honour and a pleasure to be hosting such an august gathering at our university, which I am sure you will know, is celebrating its 145th birthday this year! Of course we have the added lustre as South Africans of being able to claim that 2018 is also the centenary year of late President Nelson Mandela *and* our equally beloved Mama Albertina Sisulu.

I think that it would be fair to say, distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen, that the work that we will be doing here today is as much a continuation of the work that was done by these national and continental struggle stalwarts (and one must surely include *all* of those who have gone before us), as it is an acknowledgement that it is now the turn of “we the people,” to move forward as a collective in addressing the “grave challenges” facing our countries and our Continent. Of course this was the opening phrase uttered by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at the 72nd session of the General Assembly. We are indeed facing “grave challenges”, globally, continentally and nationally.

I must say that when I looked at the programme, and having perused the protocol list, I am both awed and amazed. Awed, because I have seldom seen such a diverse, yet comprehensive list of speakers and participants, representing such an array of organisations, institutions, structures, and formations: all of whom are gathered together to

advance prosperity and sustainable development. And amazed because one perceives in this list and in the audience, a deliberate intention to tap into the reservoirs of our intellectual knowledge, capacities and capabilities on the one hand, and a willingness to step up and say – Mr President - “*Thuma Mina*” on the other. It is truly gratifying, and I would like to thank and congratulate the organisers for putting together this important initiative. One senses that there is a growing appreciation of the urgency and gravitas of the task at hand, which can only bode well for the envisaged outcomes.

We have a very dense programme distinguished ladies and gentlemen, so let me keep it short and sweet, by reiterating our warm welcome and wishing you well with this important initiative.

I thank you.