



*The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor*

**PROF MANDLA MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

***THE STRATEGIC RISK LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS ON HIGHER***

***EDUCATION 2018***

**KGORONG FUNCTION HALL**

**05 DECEMBER 2018**

- Madame Programme Director, Ms Lynette Naidoo: Director Talent Management Directorate;
- Mrs Dolly Mokgathe, Chairperson of Audit, Enterprise and Risk Management Committee of Council (AERMCoC) and other members of Unisa's Council present;
- Prof Peter Goss, the first Keynote Speaker – Managing Director of Peter Goss (Pty) Ltd;
- Mr Chief Mabizela, the second Keynote Speaker - the Chief Director: Higher Education Policy in the DHET;

- Our Panelists for today:
  - Prof Themba Mosia, Chairperson: Council for Higher Education (CHE);
  - Prof Alwyn Louw, the President: Monash University, South Africa;
  - Mr Thabiso Ramasike, Chairperson of Finance, Investments and Estates Committee of Council (FIECoC) and also Executive Chairman of Tuleka Group (Pty) Ltd; and,
  - Dr Somadoda Fikeni, Director: Special Projects, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Unisa.
- Members of Unisa Executive and Extended Management Team;
- Governance practitioners from various organisations, sectors and industries;
- Unisa staff and students;
- Our entertainer this afternoon – Mr Angelo Vaaltyn; and,
- Invited and distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

A very warm welcome to you all!

It was just over two years ago, in September 2016, when we gathered under the auspices of Enterprise Risk Management. For that groundbreaking prelude event, our institution won an Award from the

Institute of Risk Management of South Africa (IRMSA) for our contribution towards strengthening risk management in higher education. Clearly, intent on continuing with our trend of pushing the frontiers, our event now has a name: **Strategic Risk Leadership Conversations on Higher Education** – it is no longer just a “risk event”.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our theme this year also dovetails neatly with the African Union ideals – doing so in the true spirit of our Vision as the *African University, Shaping Futures in the Service of Humanity*. In that spirit, this year’s theme reads as follows: ***The Governance Landscape in 2063 – a Peek from the Future***. One notes the alignment with the AU Agenda 2063. I am very pleased therefore, to welcome you to an event that is thoroughly African, in that:

- a. It is premised on storytelling, which is one of the basic tenets of our African origins and tradition;
- b. It is cloaked with an inspirational flair, in that speakers will be adopting a posture that seeks to depict the future as a ‘tangible reality’ rather than an elusive concept;

- c. Needless to state, the theme itself is deeply strategic – pointing also to the fluidity of the terrain that organisational leadership across sectors and industries have to navigate; and, lastly,
  
- d. It encapsulates the key issues undergirding the AU Agenda 2063’s seven- pillars, which revolve around good governance, unity in pursuit of sustainable growth, a humane approach that seeks to empower women and children, globally oriented partnerships, etc<sup>1</sup>.

To our speakers who are set to reflect from the future perspective of Year 2063), I welcome you whilst listening to some background conversation in my mind. For instance, I hear:

- a. Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple, predicting that by Year 2075 cities would be built on deserts<sup>2</sup>. Sure, this is still 12 years further down the line from where you are sitting; however, I am tempted to ask (perhaps in jest) if you already see pointers towards that direction – how are the deserts looking?

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<sup>1</sup> Ogo, N.C. 2018. African Union and the challenge of continuity in programme implementation: the way forward. *Journal of African Union Studies*. Vol. 7(2): 7-23.

<sup>2</sup> Reisinger, D. 2017. Here are Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak’s predictions for 2075. *Fortune*. Pp. 223-223.

**b.** Predictions about the African population that is expected to grow beyond 1.5bn people by 2050. Similarly, the (African) Continent's labour force in particular is predicted to exceed that of China and India by Year 2034<sup>3</sup>. Surely, from where you are sitting this picture is much clearer – I am tempted to ask, in welcoming you what it is that you see?

Amongst our audience are 'The Girls: Our Future Leaders' who have been assigned a role on our programme today. Colleagues and esteemed guests, I am referring to

- a.** Ms Joy Miketa, who comes from Lerato House, which is a home for women and children;
- b.** Ms Doobsie Joni, from Sefako Mapogo Makgatho Primary School;
- c.** Ms Mila Snyman, from Laerskool Garsfontein;
- d.** Ms Tusso Gurumani, who comes from Rainbow Education Centre;  
and,
- e.** Ms Didintle Mokgoko, who comes from Banareng Primary School.

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<sup>3</sup> Leke, A. & Yeboah-Amankwah, S. 2018. Africa: a crucible for creativity. *Harvard Business Review*. Vol. 96(6): 116-125.

Your presence here today, young ladies, adds significance and unique sentimental value for us as an institution that is deeply involved in Community Engagement part of our Teaching & Learning Portfolio (TLCESS). You represent a glimpse of Africa's leadership in Year 2063. We are thus deeply appreciative of your sense of initiative and the support that your schools has accorded to this event. You are all warmly welcomed to this event, together with your parents, guardians, and/or school teachers/principals!

An equally warm welcome goes to our sider audience, including various organisations across industries, who will, I am sure, be contributing via their comments and questions.

There is a thought-provoking quote which asserts:

*“Building an adaptive university capable of deep and pervasive change is not a matter of choice; rather, it is a necessity to survive and thrive in our ever-changing dynamic environment.” – Muluneh & Gedifew<sup>4</sup>;*

Colleagues and esteemed guests, your deep reflections and frank deliberations, will drive that “pervasive change” that the higher education sector can truly mitigate our country's socioeconomic

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<sup>4</sup> Muluneh, G.S. & Gedifew, M.T. 2018. Leading changes through adaptive design: change management practice in one of the universities in a developing nation. *Journal of Organizational Change Management*. Vol. ??(?): ??-??.

challenges. The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, has the higher education sector as the fifth pillar. This clearly points to its significance – as well as the critical importance of your being here? Moreover, your deliberations could not have taken place at a more befitting location than the Unisa, the *African University, Shaping Futures in the Service of Humanity*.

Let me conclude with a quote by one of the most distinctive, young and emerging Africans, Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu, who asserts:

*"I wanted to show that it is possible to be a local person in Ethiopia and in Africa, and to be globally successful...to deploy local resources while creating a market-leading global brand, and to do it all from scratch."*

That is surely, what we all desire! We believe that it is indeed within our reach to make an extraordinary impact. It begins with "me"– and "you". Collectively, we can heighten Africa's stature for the whole world to see and admire!

Thank You!