



The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor

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

**WELCOME AND OPENING: LAUNCH OF THE BA DEGREE IN HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES**

Dr Miriam Makeba Concert Hall, Muckleneuk Campus

19 February 2016

- Madame Programme Director, Professor Divya Singh, Vice-Principal: Assurance and Advisory Services at Unisa
- Ms LN Sisulu, MP: Minister of Human Settlements of the Republic of South Africa

- Mr M Tshangana, Acting Director-General: Department of Human Settlements
- Prof T Mogale, Executive Dean: College of Economic and Management Sciences at Unisa
- Mr R Nengwekhulu, Head: School of Governance at Unisa
- Ms C Clark, Deputy Director-General: research and Analysis, Department of Public Service and Administration
- Prof G Naidoo: Chair of Department: Department of Public Management and administration
- Unisa staff and students
- Distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to bid you all a warm welcome to this important launch of Unisa's *BAdmin degree in Human Settlements Management*.

I think that you will agree with me that this launch could not have come soon enough. I have just returned from Cape Town, whose flagship university, like many of our sister institutions around our country, is struggling to cope with strident protest actions and demands for accommodation on campus for their needy students. Urbanization, migration and the massification of higher education in South Africa – to name but a few – have contributed to a cycle of accretion, where

demands are simultaneously generated and compounded faster than the time that is needed for their resolution. And as much as Government has made very significant strides in providing housing and allied services to our people, we will never be in a position to meet the increasingly unrealistic – yet understandable – demands of those who feel that government must provide their every need. It just cannot be done, and more and more, one is hearing in the public domain that our sense of entitlement needs to be tempered with a sense of realism and a deeper commitment to work together as a *society* in addressing our problems. Our funding base is finite, no matter how much we baulk against that notion. What is required of us is to move from apathy into concerted action, harnessing our respective capacities and resources in the effective management and resolution of our challenges. You can just imagine how pleased and excited I was Minister Sisulu, at the sod – turning ceremony on Tuesday, that heralded the commencement of a R405m housing project in Marabastad, as well as the promise of student accommodation in the pipeline. It just goes to show what can be done when we work together.

Today's launch of the very exciting BAdmin degree in Human Settlements Management provides evidence of what can be done where there is a will to work together in addressing in a very concrete

and meaningful way, our collective challenges – because ladies and gentlemen, there can be no doubt whatsoever, that these are challenges that we are *all* dealing with – no one is exempt. No-one can afford an attitude that says: “That is not my problem.” At Unisa we acknowledge that we are very much a part of the socio-economic and political tapestry that is South Africa, and we have made it clear Minister Sisulu, that this is not an *Ivory Tower* university, and that in shaping a genuinely African identity and ethos we will immerse ourselves and serve, our students, our communities and our country.

I am therefore very pleased to note therefore, that Unisa has engaged with approximately 50 stakeholders: nationally, internationally, including academics and the World Bank. The Degree study programme was structured based on the inputs of all stakeholders, and following all approval processes. This of course lent the necessary legitimacy to the process and ensured its *gravitas* in regard to its quality. The new qualification was then submitted for approval, accreditation and registrations, and we were delighted when we were able to proclaim the degree as a fully Higher Education Qualifications Compliant qualification, in line with the National Qualifications Frameworks Levels, NQF credits, designators and qualifiers as prescribed by the Department of Higher Education and Training. This qualification will

expose students to a wide variety of management and public administration issues in human settlements management. Its formative multi-disciplinary nature will provide students with the requisite knowledge base across the various functional areas and enable them to demonstrate initiative and responsibility through the inculcation of skills and abilities such as critical thinking and problem solving competencies, in public and private sector and non-governmental organisations in the field of Human Settlements.

I cannot tell you how proud I am that this is the only degree of its kind to be via Open Distance Education, thus allowing a student to study while working - because it goes to the very heart of who we are as a university. Unisa offers hope where this is none and opportunities of excellence and growth for those who will seize the opportunity and work hard. We truly do *shape futures in the service of humanity*. I look forward with much anticipation to the day I cap the first cohort of BAdmin Human Settlements graduates. I know that along with everyone present today we will take collective pride, not only in the shared pleasure of having contributed to the development of professional graduates, but also in the collective contribution that we have made to a positive and proactive means of meeting our challenges

in the areas of Human Settlements. Education truly is a tried and tested vehicle for growth, development and transformation.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to welcome you once again, to congratulate you and to wish you every success as you start on this exciting journey towards the increasing professionalization of this seminal Ministry's practitioners. I thank you.