



The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor

**PROF MS MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA
WELCOMING ADDRESS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE FORMER DEPUTY
CHIEF JUSTICE, JUDGE DIKGANG MOSENEKE
BOOK LAUNCH OF ALL RISE: A JUDICIAL MEMOIR
11 NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank you, Programme Director: Prof Olaotse John Kole, Deputy
Executive Dean: College of Law, University of South Africa

- Justice Dikgang Moseneke, Former Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa
- Mr Nathi Mthethwa, Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture
- Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chancellor of the University of Pretoria
- Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners representing various countries in South Africa

- Prof Veronica McKay, Acting Vice Principal: Teaching, Learning, Community Engagement and Student Support
- Prof Basdeo: Executive Dean: College of Law
- Members of Unisa Executive and Extended Management present
- Representatives of various arms of legal fraternity joining us today
- Representaives from sister institutions of higher learning and research organisations
- Members of the Business Community
- Representatives from various student bodies in attendance
- Invited Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

A very warm good afternoon to you all.

It is my distinct pleasure, once again, to welcome and introduce to you Justice Dikgang Moseneke, Former Deputy Chief Justice of South Africa, who as you all know, is one of Unisa's most outstanding alumnus.

What many present here this afternoon will not remember, is that in 2008, Justice Moseneke was the keynote speaker at our academic opening assembly where he spoke most eloquently about this University, the University of South Africa, his *alma mater*, and the

important role that it has played in his life. This was by way of illustrating the important role of education, and Universities, in societal development and progress.

In that short moment, Justice Moseneke not only held his audience spellbound with his sheer gravitas and wisdom, but he also helped everyone to understand the value of, role played by, this University during the dark days of apartheid, nevertheless drawing attention to the fact that although it succeeded in providing education, it could not succeed in running integrated graduation ceremonies. These were divided along racial lines. As a result, some black South Africans had opted not to graduate under these circumstances, and obviously all those who were in prison could also not graduate. The new University of South Africa subsequently held special graduation ceremonies in Pretoria and Cape Town, to try to rectify those past injustices. This demonstrates his independence of mind. Justice Moseneke has never curried favour, or varnished the truth. He has acted with the utmost integrity in the exercise of his profession and in so doing he has earned the kind of genuine respect and liking that few can boast of.

Justice Moseneke's independence of mind has not always been well received and indeed, it may well have come at a cost on occasion. But

one suspects that – as is the case of people with genuine integrity, who are not willing to relinquish principle for expedience – he has always been prepared for, and willing to accept, such consequences. Indeed, we can only express our humility and gratitude that we still have in our country, principled men and women who are not afraid to air their views and engage in debate, no matter how contentious or unpopular the issues. Much has been said about the need for critical intellectual public debate and engagement. Indeed, it is this very ethos that we aim to inculcate at Unisa. Justice Moseneke, Sir, you have set a fine example in that regard.

What also shone through in that address ladies and gentlemen, is that Justice Moseneke not only firmly believes that hard work and education are important tools for a successful and rewarding life, he also demonstrates that in word and action. His is the view that diligence and industry are necessary to pursue social justice on every level. This is, I believe, a lesson which many would do well to learn at a time when the honesty and integrity in the exercise of one's profession seems to be more of a holy grail than the natural outcome of ethical, sheer hard work.

But where did the process of moulding begin?

Justice Dikgang Moseneke was born in the City of Tshwane in December 1947, which is where he attended primary and secondary school. At the age of 15, when in standard eight, Moseneke was arrested, detained and convicted of participating in anti-apartheid activity. He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, all of which he served on Robben Island. Moseneke studied for his matric as well as a BA in English and Political Science and a B Juris degree. He later completed an LLB. All three degrees were conferred by the University of South Africa.

Moseneke started his professional career as an attorney's clerk at Klagbruns Inc in Pretoria in 1976. In 1978 he was admitted and practised for five years as an attorney and partner at the law firm Maluleke, Seriti and Moseneke. In 1983 he was called to the Bar and practised as an advocate in Johannesburg and Pretoria. Ten years later, in 1993, he was elevated to the status of senior counsel, during which time he served on the technical committee that drafted the Interim Constitution of 1993. In 1994 he was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, which conducted the first democratic elections in South Africa.

In September 1994, while practicing as a silk, Moseneke accepted an acting appointment to the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court. Before his appointment as Justice of the Constitutional Court, in November 2001, Moseneke was appointed a Judge of the High Court in Pretoria. On 29 November 2002 he was appointed as Judge in the Constitutional Court and in June 2005, Moseneke was appointed Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa.

Moseneke is a founder member of the Black Lawyers' Association and of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers of South Africa.

In 1986 Moseneke was appointed visiting fellow and lecturer at Columbia Law School, University of Columbia, New York. He is the first Chancellor of Pretoria Technikon and he has also served as Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand. In the past 20 years, Moseneke has read numerous papers at law and business conferences, published several academic papers in law journals at home and abroad. He holds several honorary doctorates and is a recipient of numerous awards of honour, performance and excellence.

Moseneke is married to Mme Khabo Moseneke and they have a daughter and two sons.

Justice Moseneke we are very honoured to be hosting this launch of what has already been hailed as a “bird’s-eye view of the constitutional issues of the time”. Following on the equally acclaimed first book entitled *My Own Liberator*, this second volume makes a sober yet positive contribution to a number of issues with which we are grappling as a society most especially the state of governance in our country and by extension the health of our democratic project. In fact, Justice Moseneke, these books have received such acclaim one could be forgiven for thinking that you have missed your vocation!

Justice Moseneke, we are most honoured to host this launch, which in some small measure reciprocates the great honour that you have brought us as a university.

You are most welcome Sir. We look forward to the rest of the proceedings.

I thank you.