



4 May 2020

APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR SIBUSISO VIL-NKOMO TO LEAD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THABO MBEKI SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo as an interim Director to lead our newly established Thabo Mbeki School. The School is associated with the Thabo Mbeki Foundation and has been established with its collaboration. Prof Vil-Nkomo brings to the University of South Africa national and global knowledge of academia as well as expertise in leadership, management and new knowledge generation. Prof Vil-Nkomo is the co-founder and chairman of the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) a leading South African Think Tank. The MISTRA was ranked as having had a global impact - placed as one of the Top 10 Best New Think Tanks Globally, according to the 2013 Global Go-To Think Tanks Report produced by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania (TTCSP). MISTRA continues to attract leading national and global thinkers.

Upon acceptance of this appointment at Unisa he said: ***“This is a historic development to name the first trans-disciplinary School of significance after a living Former President. Thabo Mbeki is an economist, leader, diplomat, peacemaker, scholar as well as an intellectual of high regard. This has been long overdue. We must create the Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki School as a magnet of excellence that is nationally and globally competitive. The School must combine theory with experiential learning and research. It must take its rightful place to be globally ranked because of its outstanding academic and applied work that is driven by leading academics and experiential teaching experts. Unisa cannot compromise on this distinguished name that is second-to-none in the world. The Thabo Mbeki Foundation has made a laudable contribution to the advancement of usable knowledge by sharing the name of the Former President with Unisa and supporting its founding.”***

Prof Vil-Nkomo obtained his BA degree (Magna Cum Laude) in Public Affairs and Economics from Lincoln University, a Historically Black University in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. He was granted his MA and PhD (Thesis titled: “Migrant Labor Economic Theory and National Development Policy” receiving the Prof Mark Haskell Political Economy Award) by the University of Delaware. He taught and developed academic programmers at Lincoln University, Clarke University, and University of the Witwatersrand. He co-taught and researched with international scholars like Professors Ann Seidman, Robert Seidman, Dr Chronis Polychroniou and Dr Bethuel Setai to mention a few.

Professor Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo was a Research Professor at the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria and was previously granted the Fulbright Research Scholarship from 2011 to 2012 that affiliated him to Fordham University's Department of Economics. He was also appointed a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University. He is former Executive Director for internationalization and Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the University of Pretoria. He currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the Joseph R Biden, Jr School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware.

He has provided expert advice to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on the analyses of economic growth and inequality in Southern Africa. He continues to serve on boards, chair and advise on the development of major businesses and science councils like Subtropico Pty, LTD, Agricultural Research Council (ARC), and the Water Research Commission (WRC). He was among the founders of the successful Business Enterprises at the University of Pretoria and Continuing Education (now known as Enterprises at the University of Pretoria).

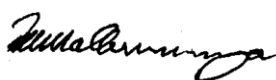
In 1994, Prof Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to serve in the first democratic government as the Public Service Commissioner. By then, he had already been part of the bi-laterals and the Multi- Party negotiations that ushered democracy into our country.

He has been bestowed awards, honours and achievements, the highlights of which follow hereunder:

- Founder's Day Award for Distinguished Leadership
- Presidential Citation for Outstanding Achievements from the University of Delaware
- Alpha Chi Honour Society Award for Academic Excellence from Lincoln University
- His name is inscribed in the Hall of Fame among notable alumni at Lincoln University like Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall, Kwame Nkrumah, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and others.
- The Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo Annual Lecture is delivered in his honour at the South African Association for Public Administration and Management
- In May 2020 he will be recognized by the Academy of Science of South Africa

It is my pleasure and honour to welcome Prof Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo on behalf of the University of South Africa, and to assure him that the University is committed to giving him all the support to establish this competitive School named after Former President Thabo Mbeki. The University of South Africa is highly appreciative of attracting a scholar of his caliber. We are also fortunate to have the partnership with the Thabo Mbeki Foundation that allows us to use the Patron's name and stature. The establishment of Thabo Mbeki School will contribute towards achieving Unisa's goal of being the African University of in the service of humanity for the present and the future.

Yours sincerely



Professor Mandla S Makhanya
Principal and Vice Chancellor