

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER: INTERNATIONAL ANTI- CORRUPTION DAY



DECEMBER 2008

“YOUR NO COUNTS! LIFTING THE LID ON CORRUPTION”



Prof MS Makhanya

International Anti-Corruption Day is celebrated annually on 9 December in honour of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which was signed in 2003 in Mexico. South Africa is one of the signatories. The Public Service Commission (PSC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNODC ROSAF) jointly commemorated the International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) at the University of South Africa on 9 December 2008. The event was celebrated in the form of a Roundtable discussion.

In his opening speech Prof M.S. Makhanya welcomed the guests and introduced the dignitaries attending the Roundtable. He outlined the importance of the celebration of International Anti-Corruption Day and further stated that UNISA has also established an Anti-Corruption Unit that encourages staff members to blow the whistle on unethical conduct.

SPEECH BY DR JONATHAN LUCAS, REPRESENTATIVE OF UNODC ROSAF: CORRUPTION – THE NEED TO TACKLE THE EPIDEMIC

Extracts from UN Representative: Dr Jonathan Lucas' speech

According to Dr Jonathan Lucas, corruption undermines development and Africa's abundance of wealth in the form of natural resources. Paradoxically, countries blessed with minerals, oil and other wealthy materials are particularly vulnerable to corruption.

Doctor Lucas added that corruption kills trust - in government, public institutions and companies; it undermines development by stealing public money needed for schools, hospitals, and roads and it stems financial prosperity by driving businesses into the "shadow economy". Corruption also robs governments and people in Africa of the means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A World Bank DRC Consultative Group on Mining convened in November 2007, in Paris, concluded that the Government was facing a serious problem with



Dr Jonathan Lucas addressing the Roundtable

