



**Ms. Senamile Masango, a PhD candidate in Nuclear Physics at UWC, Board Member at NECSA, Chairperson of the Research and Development Subcommittee at NECSA. She is the youngest Board Member to be appointed at a state-owned enterprise (SOE).**

She hails from KwaNongoma a deep rural area in KwaZulu-Natal, she has become one of South Africa's very few black female nuclear physicists. She Matriculated at Mlokothwa High School. Her formal qualifications include BSc (Physics and Electronics), and BSc Honours (Nuclear Physics) from the University of Zululand; a Diploma in Project Management from Varsity College; and MSc in Nuclear Physics (Cum Laude) from the University of Western Cape.

Driven by her passion in nuclear energy research, she has conducted several experiments locally and abroad; she is the first African woman to be part of an African led experiment at CERN. She is also South Africa's Research Leader at BRICS youth energy outlook and Senamile Masango Foundation was the winning team from South Africa at the BRICS youth energy outlook 2020, (Led by Senamile).

A firm believer in sharing knowledge and experiences, and in women empowerment; She is a Founder and Chairperson of Women in Science and Engineering in Africa (Wise Africa) and Senamile Masango Foundation, a foundation and an NGO that allows women to engage one another about social issues that affect them.

Ms. Masango is a Princess by birth, from the Zulu Royal household, who could have easily been satisfied with just her Royal status, but her ambition, hard work and remarkable contribution to the body of knowledge in nuclear physics has seen her being named a Global Goodwill Ambassador, Award winner and nominee

She is privileged to have been called:

- one of South Africa's successful Black woman scientist under 35 years of age;
- 2019 Mail and Guardian's list 200 of young South African in Science and Technology;
- Ranked 29 in 2019's 100 most influential young South Africans;

- A Golden Key Member and she also received a New member recognition award from Golden key society, a monetary acknowledgement for new members who excel academically, hold leadership positions, committed to community involvement and participate in extra - curricular activities alongside their scholarly commitments
- News24's 100 Young Mandelas of the future 2010,
- Inspiring Fifty South Africa Nominee

As an International speaker, she has had the honour of addressing the South African President, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa more than three times, ISilo Samabandla, His Majesty King Goodwill Zulu, and the former President Jacob Zuma. She has shared a platform with internationally renowned figures such Naomi Campbell; Dr Nkosazane Dhlamini Zuma: former AU Chairperson, currently Minister of COGTA; Former President of Ghana, John Maharnan and more. She has been invited in parliament (South Africa) to be part of the International woman conference 2017, she made a speech addressing issues that are faced by women in science especially women from the disadvantaged background, where her passion is at she wants to take science to the people. She was invited to be part of the Second Eurasian Women's Forum 2018 in Russia. The Eurasian Women's Forum is the world's biggest influential platform for discussing the role of women in-contemporary society. She was invited to FEMROOT hosted by United Nations 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the aim of the event was to highlight the importance of having females in STEM from an African perspective. Her video and presentation were featured in the event, showcasing amazing women in STEM from Africa

Senamile has been invited to talk shows on numerous Radio Stations and television such as SABC1 news, ANN7, Daily Thetha, uKhozi Fm, Gagasi FM, SAFM, Khaya-FM, First Lady Documentary, Afternoon Espresso, Vuma fm, Cape Talk radio, Nongoma FM, ENCA etc. and she has been also featured on numerous magazines such as Move Magazine, Destiny Magazine, women in energy magazine from the Department of Energy (August 2018), women in science magazine from the Department of Science and technology (August 2019), Reinvented Magazine from the USA, BRICS youth energy outlook Magazine and more.

Her past portfolios include among others: Executive Member of Project Management South Africa (KZN Region), Executive Member in Faculty of Science and Agriculture in UNIZULU, Deputy secretary of Peace Aid International, Chairperson of Young African Women in Leadership, NEC Member at Progressive Professional Forum (PPF), Chairperson of United African Youth

She is all about Women empowerment, she would like to see more South Africans including herself graduating in PhD, she is passionate about education, she wants to contribute in making RSA system a better one, contributing in RSA's technology and economic growth, changing lives of the youth especially from the disadvantaged background and Bringing science to people and encouraging more black researchers in scarce skills throughout Africa, Improving high school pass rate in Maths and Science, Being a good role model and a mentor; Making education fashionable in her lifetime

## **Motivational letter to serve at Council as convocation**

I Senamile Khethekile Ntombizothando Masango would like to express my interest in representing our Convocation at Council.

The experience I have had whilst at UWC initial studying my Masters and now doing my PHD, it has afforded me the opportunity to engage various stakeholders across our institution about our developments. It has led to a number of important topics such as transformation, exploring the viability of the university either opening an agriculture or engineering school or faculty being deliberated and discussed. It is also worth noting the recent developments in improving our infrastructures across the university with the BMC building in Bellville, the CAMS building and the upcoming education faculty building that will be built.

The recent announcement of a new student accommodation being build is extremely important and welcomed. It is long overdue as student accommodation remains critical aspect that we must continue to pursue. The work must continue in trying to tackle the student accommodation crisis as it is a significant impediment that impacts students' progress.

My own experiences serving on Nuclear Energy Corporation South Africa board has already provided me a wealth of knowledge which I hope to plough back into the university. It is worth also noting that since the university has taken an active decision to being research intensive moving forward, I believe my skillsets in being the current chairperson of the Subcommittee of Research and Development at NECSA. These are some of the key ingredients I believe that would bring to the table that would add value to the highest governance structure of our institution.

My own analysis of our convocation is that it has become a shadow of its former self and it's important to renew and reinvigorate our convocation. The lessons learnt on the level of influence and assistance other convocations have played during the pandemic at their respective institution has been an eye opener. It's important that convocation rebuilds its database in order to cultivate a vibrant convocation that is able to fundraise in order to tackle critical issues that speak to the growth of the institution.

The value I am looking to bring is seeking to strengthen the ties between convocation and the institution whilst maintain and enhancing the strong governance structures.