

Unisa to celebrate its sesquicentenary with the entire university community

Approved for public release

DATE: 22 June 2023

Monday, 26 June 2023, will go down the annals of history as one of the most historic days in the life of the University of South Africa (Unisa). On this day, the Unisa community across the length and breadth of South Africa, the continent and the world at large will pause to mark the anniversary of this great institution, aptly given its other moniker, the University of the Land.

Unisa will celebrate its 150th anniversary with the university community through a celebratory event to be held at its Muckleneuck campus in Pretoria; with other members of the university community able to join virtually/online from anywhere in the world. The Chancellor of Unisa, His Excellency Former President Thabo Mbeki, the Chairperson of the Unisa Council, Mr Mashukudu J Maboja as well as the Principal and Vice Chancellor, Professor Puleng LenkaBula will be part of the celebrations and deliver speeches during the proceedings.

Unisa will use this occasion to reflect and marvel with pride at the trailblazing footprints it has left the educational landscape here at home and globally since its inception in 1873. In that period, Unisa has played an incredibly significant role in the higher education milieu and was instrumental in spawning the university system in South Africa, including giving birth to some of the best universities in the country.

It has, amongst many other colossal contributions, provided hope and access to learning opportunities to many people from the margins of society, in particular many of our struggle stalwarts who were imprisoned on Robben Island and other prisons and who could not access such opportunities in any other way. To this day, it remains resolute and committed to fulfilling its social mandate of accessible study opportunities to all and sundry.

Unisa continues to produce quality graduates who go on to successfully lead society in politics, commerce, academia and other fields. It is the alma mater of many great leaders, amongst whom it proudly lists the founding father of our nation and our first democratic president, Isithwalandwe Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke as well as the current President of Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, to name but a few.



The details of the celebratory event are as follows:

Date: Monday, 26 June 2023

Time: 09:00

Venue: ZK Matthews Great Hall, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, Unisa
Muckleneuk Campus, Preller Street, Pretoria, 0001

or virtually on the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/MbZwArdO5Lk?feature=share>

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the event.

–Ends–

For enquiries and interview request, please contact Senior Media Officers: Media Relations Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981/ humatm@unisa.ac.za OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 6712/ ratheme@unisa.ac.za

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