

Unisa statement on the appointment of an Administrator by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

Date: 28 October 2023

The University of South Africa (Unisa) has taken note of the announcement by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr BE Nzimande, in the Government Gazette No. 49582, Vol.700, that he has placed the university under administration for a period of 24 months, with effect from 27 October 2023.

The university remains firm on the view that the Minister's announcement is premature and in contempt of the Court Order of 06 October 2023 by Justice Kooverjie, that interdicted him from placing the university under administration. The same Order reaffirms the earlier Order of Justice Adams of 24 August 2023, which ordered the Minister not to take any decision pending the finalisation of the interdict application by Unisa (Case Number 2023-082535) and the Minister's undertaking not to take any decision until the application to review and set aside the Independent Assessor's report would have been heard. This matter has not been finalised and is still before the court.

The university is also of the strong view that the announcement of the Minister's decision at the time when our students are in the middle of the examinations is ill-timed and insensitive. Indeed, an anti-climax to the fact that the University has just graduated more than 50 thousand graduates (with 6 ceremonies still to take place) in this year. It must be made clear that the University is not fighting the Minister and the responsibilities that he has, however, the university is also of the view that all citizens need to be guided by the precepts of the law of the country.

The university has now approached the court on an urgent basis to challenge the Minister's announcement of 27 October 2023.

The Unisa Management appeals to all stakeholders / epistemic communities, especially staff and students, to remain calm and continue working hard to ensure that the academic project remains intact and continues to thrive unabated.

Further communication will be shared with the university community following the court process.

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