



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Unisa and Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd to formalise groundbreaking and mutually beneficial partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

A groundbreaking partnership guaranteed to benefit employees of Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd as well as set an example to the mining industry in general will be formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of South Africa (Unisa)'s College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) and Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd, a subsidiary of the Palabora Mining Company Limited, based in Phalaborwa, Limpopo.

The signing of the MoU, which follows the successful showcasing of the partnership between the two entities at a media open day session held at the mining entity's premises in Phalaborwa last month, will take place at the Unisa Florida Science Campus on Tuesday, 12 April 2024.

The Principal and Vice Chancellor of Unisa, Professor Puleng LenkaBula will lead the delegation of the university, which will be comprised of, amongst others, Professor Thenjiwe Meyiwa, the Vice Principal: Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation and Professor Bhekie Mamba, the Executive Dean of the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CSET). The delegation from Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd will be led by Mr Aidan Schoonbee, the Senior Manager for Concentrator, Underground Construction and Vent Shaft.

The collaboration between the two entities marks the beginning of a strategic partnership aimed at achieving mutual goals in the fields of science, engineering and technology; and seeks to enhance efficiency, productivity and overall success through various initiatives, including but not limited to the following:

- **Research and Development** : Joint efforts in Science, Technology and Engineering research, particularly for postgraduate studies such as MSc and PhD programmes. This will enable Palabora Copper employees to engage in industry-based research, aligning with the company's strategy for competitiveness.
- **Work Integrated Learning Opportunities** : Providing Unisa students with practical work experience at Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd to supplement their academic learning and fulfil organisational social responsibility obligations. This

will further enable undergraduate students to graduate with Diplomas in Engineering and/or Mine Surveying.

- **Development of Short Learning Programmes (SLPs):** Creating programmes above NQF Level 4 to enhance the skills and knowledge of employees beyond the mandatory training or occupational qualifications.
- **Development of a Higher Certificate in Supervisory Development (NQF Level 5)** – Designing programmes aligned with Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd’s leadership development strategy to equip frontline and first-time leaders with essential skills for effective management.
- **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):** Offering alternative pathways for experienced employees without formal qualification to obtain recognition and relevant qualification, including partial exemption on government certificates such as the Competence for Mine Manager’s Certificate.
- **Research, Innovation and Technical Support:** Collaboration on research, innovation, commercialisation and technical support to drive business sustainability and develop a robust internal pool of experts.
- **Exchange Programmes** – Facilitating the exchange of educators, learners, administrators and advisors to participate in professional development opportunities such as conferences, symposia and seminars.

The signing ceremony will take place as follows:

Date : Friday, 12 April 2024

Time : 09: 00

Venue : Room 2-65, Council Chambers, Barney Pityana Building, Unisa Science Campus, Florida, Johannesburg.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the ceremony or to join via the following link: <https://ow.ly/8J9250RbYXF>

/Ends.

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