

MEDIA STATEMENT

UNISA experts available for commentary on the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SoNA)

Approved for Public Release

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The President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa will deliver the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on Thursday, 12 February 2026 at 19:00. The address will take place before a joint sitting of the two houses in Parliament.

During the sitting, the President will set out government's key policy objectives and deliverables for the year ahead, flag challenges and outline interventions to unlock our national potential. The President will also highlight what has been achieved since his last address in 2025.

As per standing practice, the University of South (Unisa) will avail several of its academics and expert commentators to provide thought leadership and expert opinion on a variety of topics related to the SoNA as well as the political and socio-economic landscape in general.

The following are the academics and experts who are available from Unisa.

NAME	FIELDS	CONTACT DETAILS
Prof Gezani Baloyi	Education (English and XiTsonga)	083 551 5211
Dr Eliphas Ndou	Economy (English and Tshivenda)	073 333 9644
Prof Jabob Mofokeng	Crime (English and Sesotho)	083 421 7110
Mr Mzwanele Ntshwanti	Economy (English and Nguni Languages)	012 433 4706 / 074 618 0834
Prof. Dirk Kotze	Politics (English and Afrikaans)	012 429 6512 / 082 789 7401
Adv. Sipho Mantula	Public and International Affairs (English and Setswana)	079 565 7799
Prof. Dumisani Mabunda	Forensic and Criminal Investigation Science (English and XiTsonga)	012 433 9467 / 083 521 1292
Dr Thabang Bogopa	Police Practice	012 433 9510 / 076 218 0939
Ms. Lefatshe Moagi	Gender Studies, Political Philosophy, International Relations (English and Setswana)	084 371 4787
Prof. Mlungisi Phakathi	Governance, Political Conflicts and Transformation (Isizulu and English)	072 037 9218
Prof. Everisto	International Diplomacy (English)	079 079 2434



Benyera		
Prof. Anja du Plessis	Water Crisis (Eng and Afrikaans)	073 113 1664
Prof Hunadi Nkwana	Water Sanitation (Sepedi/North Sotho)	012 352 4136 / 061 522 2374.
Prof. Ramodungoane Tabane	General Education issues	082 706 8568
Prof. Richard Meissner	Politics surrounding water management at national and local government. -Water security. -International river basin politics (English and Afrikaans)	012 444 8823 / 071 677 6262
Prof Angelo Dube	Law, Public and International Affairs (English and Nguni Languages)	012 429 8403 / 081 422 1383

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