

Media Statement

Unisa acknowledges and welcomes the Pretoria High Court's dismissal of the appeal by Mr Simamkele Xani

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The University of South Africa (Unisa) acknowledges and welcomes the decision of the Pretoria High Court to dismiss the application for leave to appeal filed by Mr Simamkele Xani; in which he sought to challenge an earlier judgment that found him in contempt of a court order.

On 20 January 2026, Unisa filed an application in the high court against Mr Xani, who was represented by Sebako Attorneys. The matter related to the enforcement of a previous court order granted in November 2024, in which the court found him in contempt.

In the proceedings of 20 January 2026, the court confirmed the validity of the earlier order and again interdicted Mr Xani from continuing to attack or make defamatory statements against the university, its management, the University Council and the Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

The court further ordered him to retract all defamatory publications and to issue an apology to the Principal and Vice-Chancellor and the university. Instead, he opted to file an application for leave to appeal the judgement. His appeal was subsequently heard on 03 March 2026, at which time the court dismissed his application with costs, thereby confirming that the order of November 2024 remains valid and that he was indeed in contempt of court.

It is noteworthy that all applications brought by the university against Mr Xani have been successful. Conversely, all the applications that he has brought against the university have been dismissed by the court.

It is also regrettable that, despite the court's clear directives, Mr Xani failed to comply with the order to retract his defamatory statements and to apologise to the Principal and Vice-Chancellor and the university. Despite the university's legal representatives formally writing to him to remind him of the court order and calling on him to comply, this has not happened.

Mr Xani has still not complied with the court order even after his leave to appeal was dismissed by the court. In view of this, the university is considering further legal steps to enforce the court order. If prosecuted successfully, Mr Xani is facing a prison term of six months or a fine of R50 000.

/Ends.

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