

Media Statement

Unisa demands unconditional apology from City Press for publishing unfounded and untested allegations

Approved for public release

Friday, 16 January 2026

The University of South Africa (Unisa) takes note of a clarification note published by the City Press newspaper on Sunday, 11 January 2026 pertaining to a previous news report by the same paper alleging that Mr Tebogo Letsie, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, had been irregularly awarded a security tender to the value of R82 million by Unisa.

It is noteworthy that one of the journalists from the same newspaper, who plays a major role in persistent attacks against Unisa, was mentioned in the Madlanga Commission as a “weaponised” journalist who runs with propaganda.

The university believes that the decision of the City Press to apologise only to Mr Letsie for failing to seek comment from him prior to publication of the story in question is both disingenuous and grossly deficient.

By its own admission, City Press removed the allegation from the article based on the fact that Mr Letsie publicly denied that he had ever benefitted from any tender issued by Unisa; whilst the university also denied the existence of any such tender.

If City Press's rationale for removing the allegation from the article is anything to go by, aspersions were not only cast on the good name and integrity of Mr Letsie, but also on the integrity of Unisa and its leadership.

The university therefore calls on the City Press editorial team to issue a proper apology to both itself and Mr Letsie for publishing unfounded and untested allegations of improper conduct and tender corruption against both.

To apologise only for not seeking comment from Mr Letsie and yet removing the allegation from the article appears to be an attempt to shirk accountability.

The university reserves its rights.

/Ends.

Spokesperson: Professor Boitumelo Senokoane (072 390 4724)

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

**ISSUED BY UNISA MEDIA AFFAIRS
Department of Institutional Advancement (DIA)**



University of South Africa
Preller Street, Muckleneuk Ridge, City of Tshwane
PO Box 392 UNISA 0003 South Africa
Telephone: +27 12 429 3111 Facsimile: +27 12 429 4150
www.unisa.ac.za