

MEDIA ADVISORY

Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi to Deliver Keynote Address at Women's Month Dialogue Hosted by Unisa and SAWID

Approved for Public Release

Date: Monday, 18 August 2025

The University of South Africa (Unisa), in partnership with the South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), will host a Women's Month Dialogue on Wednesday, 20 August 2025, at the Function Hall, Kgorong Building, Unisa Main Campus.

The event will feature a keynote address by Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi, Minister in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. Themed ***"Celebrating Women for their Strength and Resilience: Exploring the Role of Creative Arts, Technology and Mental Health Initiatives to Accelerate Change,"*** the dialogue forms part of the national Women's Month commemoration, rooted in the legacy of the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings, where over 20,000 women took a stand against apartheid pass laws.

Minister Kubayi's address will reflect on the enduring struggle and triumphs of South African women, while also spotlighting innovative solutions from creative expression and digital technology to mental health initiatives that empower women, families, and communities to drive meaningful change.

The event will also feature distinguished speakers, including Professor Puleng LenkaBula, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Unisa, Dr Hazel Gooding, UN Women Deputy Representative, and Ms Riah Phiyega, Women's Development Bank (WDB). It will also feature a panel discussion with Dr Lebohang Liepollo Pheko, National Planning Commissioner; Dr Charity Mkone, Clinical Psychologist; Ms Nonkululeko Mbalu, Programme Manager at Wakamoso; and Rikopele Belebesi, a renowned professional in the Arts.

The Dialogue aims to convene 225 diverse women representing various constituencies, including academia, civil society, faith communities, business, and government, to reflect on lessons from the past and chart a more inclusive, equitable, and resilient future. Through these conversations, participants will explore partnerships for gender-specific interventions focused on equality, mental health, and human dignity. The Dialogue also seeks to affirm and honour the contributions of South African women in breaking societal barriers and leading transformation in all sectors. Technological innovation will be a key focus of the discussions. With the power to amplify marginalised voices, mobilise action, and increase access to

education, job markets, and financial services, technology can be a driving force for equity, provided the digital divide is addressed to ensure universal access.

As part of ongoing engagement, the Malibongwe Arts Festival Foundation will be launched on Friday, 15th August, in partnership with SAWID and the Women's Ministry, as an initiative dedicated to recognising and celebrating women who have achieved success despite challenges in their communities. Over the coming months, the Foundation will visit all nine provinces to spotlight these remarkable women.

Members of the media are herewith invited to cover and participate in this event:

Date : Wednesday, 20 August 2025

Time : 08:30 for 09:00

Venue: Function Hall, 4th floor, Kgorong Building, Unisa Main Campus, Preller Street, Muckleneuk Ridge, Tshwane

YouTube Link : [Click Here](#) to join the dialogue online

This Dialogue underscores the belief that women are not only the backbone of communities but also the architects of sustainable development, and that by investing in their empowerment, we build stronger families and a more just society.

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**ISSUED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA – MEDIA AFFAIRS AND
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