

UNISA



To: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS/PR WIRE SERVICES

DATE: 14 October 2020

Media statement: Unisa to host a webinar titled *Beating the odds: From university research to entrepreneurship/start-ups*

Unisa's College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) is proud to host a webinar geared towards exploring the entrepreneurial capacity that is not always tapped from research and academic activities. The aim is to unlock the potential of universities into becoming more entrepreneurial and limiting institutional dependency in terms of funding. This, in turn, will create jobs within our communities and empower our already struggling people. Africa, in particular, has had a slow movement in terms of job creation. Engagement within these spaces can create sustainable economic growth and also job creation.

The questions to be answered in the webinar are:

1. Are universities creating spaces for entrepreneurial activities?
2. Is the curriculum designed in such way as to change the mind-set of our students into becoming entrepreneurs or innovators?
3. What can we learn from other countries in terms of entrepreneurship and innovation?
4. How do we establish entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems?
5. Are there any policy directives in place to accelerate entrepreneurship?

"Policy makers and researchers agree that a thriving SMME sector is the key to job creation in this country. A webinar of this calibre is, therefore, a milestone in our research endeavours as we push our research agenda to directly benefit all citizens. We are pleased to have the calibre of such speakers as **Prof. PLO Lumumba**, Prof. Arnold Heinrich, Prof Esther T. Akinlabi, Mrs Poonam Veer Ramjeawon, and Prof. Fulufhelo Nelwamondo," says Professor Bhekie Mamba, Executive Dean in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Unisa.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the event.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDM1ZTdhNTAtNTVjMC00NzM4LTkzOWEtY2YxNWM1MjYyMjQ2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ca9a8b8c-3ea3-4799-a43e-5510398e7a3b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%223bba2cc5-5974-47a7-b827-dfc9d7c9d14f%22%7d

Date: Thursday, 15 October 2020

Time: 09h00 – 11h00

RSVP: Prof Mbuyu Sumbwanyambe Mbuyu

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About Unisa's College of Science, Engineering and Technology:

The College prides itself on being the leader in open distance e-learning in the country for Science and Engineering certificate, diploma and degree programmes through the use of advanced technologies for interactive teaching and learning. In particular, this College is the single largest provider of Science and Engineering undergraduates in South Africa and also has students from the rest of the African continent. With state-of-the-art laboratories and high-tech instrumentation, the College carries out front-end and cutting-edge research in collaboration with world-class universities across the globe.

END

For RSVP and interview requests, please contact tntuli@unisa.ac.za

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