

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **Mbeki to honour seven outstanding South Africans at the prestigious 2025 Chancellor's Calabash Awards**

#### **Approved for Public Release**

**Date: Tuesday, 11 November 2025**

The University of South Africa (Unisa)'s Chancellor and Former President Thabo Mbeki is set to honour eight outstanding South Africans and Unisa alumni at the prestigious annual Chancellor's Calabash Awards to be held on Friday, 14 November 2025, at the NH Sandton Hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg.

The Chancellor's Calabash Awards, which were conceptualised and introduced in 2007, will be in their 18<sup>th</sup> year. They aim to recognise excellence and exemplary achievements of Unisa alumni, organisations, as well as other South Africans who contributed significantly to positively shaping futures in the service of humanity. There are five categories to the awards.

The Chancellor will bestow the **Liberation Struggle Hero/heroine Awards** to **Samuel Shafiishuna Daniel Nujoma (Posthumously)** and **Christine Qunta**. Introduced in 2024, this award recognises persons who demonstrated exceptional courage, leadership and dedication in the fight against oppression and injustice. Samuel Shafiishuna Daniel Nujoma (Posthumously) is recognized for his role as a leader of the Namibian national liberation movement and for campaigning for Namibia's political independence from South African rule. Christine Qunta made significant contributions to South Africa's legal, corporate, media sectors and anti-apartheid activism, including the advancement of justice, equality and black empowerment.

The **Outstanding Educator Award** will be presented to the **Zenex Foundation** and **Professor Teboho Moja**. This award acknowledges the contribution of an outstanding educator who has excelled in or advanced teaching and learning, skills development and/or research in his/or her area of expertise. The Zenex Foundation is a leading independent education grant-maker dedicated to improving language and mathematics outcomes in South Africa's basic education system. Professor Teboho Moja is recognised for her role in shaping South Africa's higher education policy; and has earned numerous international awards for her leadership and scholarship.

The **Outstanding Alumna Award** will be presented to **Yvonne 'Chaka Chaka' Mhinga**. This award acknowledges an outstanding alumna who has excelled in his/her areas of expertise and who has made a significant contribution to our society. She will be recognized for her role as an advocate for global health and social justice. She has partnered with the UN, the Global Fund, and the Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund, and is the founder of the Princess of Africa Foundation.

The **Unisa Robben Island Alumnus Award** will be presented to **Mr Peter-Paul Ngwenya**. This award recognizes the role of political prisoners/activists (men and women) who sacrificed



immensely towards the liberation of South Africa. Following his release from Robben Island in 1991, Peter-Paul has distinguished himself as a business leader, entrepreneur and trustee, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to leadership, empowerment and economic transformation.

The **Outstanding Public Service Award** will be presented to **Dr Johan van Zyl**. The award recognizes South Africans who are making exceptional contributions to government structures and business. Trained as an agricultural economist, he has extensive management experience spanning insurance, finance, investments, business strategy, HR, marketing and international trade.

The awards ceremony will take place as follows:

Date : Friday, 14 November 2025

Time : 18:00

Venue : NH Hotel, 138 Rivonia Road, Sandown, Sandton, Johannesburg

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the awards ceremony.

**/Ends.**

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