



MEDIA ADVISORY

Ministers Chikunga and Manamela to deliver keynote addresses at the 2025 ATUPA International Conference and the 7th Pan African Youth Forum respectively, hosted by Unisa in Durban, South Africa.

Approved for Public Release

Date: Wednesday, 20 August 2025

The African continent faces both remarkable opportunities and significant challenges in its quest for socio-economic transformation and sustainable development, to address this, the University of South Africa (Unisa) will host the 2025 Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) International Conference from 25 - 29 August 2025 at the Southern Sun - Maharani Hotel, Durban, South Africa.

This 5-day conference is anticipated to attract over 500 delegates inclusive of Youth from across the continent and beyond to share insights, innovative strategies, and actionable frameworks that can advance Africa's TVET agenda and transform lives under the theme, ***"Empowering Africa through TVET: Driving Sustainable Development, Youth Empowerment, and Economic Integration in the Era of Industry 4.0"***

The conference is designed to support the African Union's TVET Development Framework by exploring innovative practices in TVET that support sustainable development and inclusive growth in African economies, by empowering African youth with the skills, resilience, and entrepreneurial competencies needed to lead Africa's transformation, by advancing economic integration through harmonized TVET standards, facilitating mobility and employment across Africa, and by preparing TVET institutions to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of Industry 4.0, including digitalization, automation, and green technology.

The following dignitaries will attend and/or speak at the conference:

- **The Honourable Sindisiwe Chikunga**, the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, to deliver the keynote address at the official opening of ATUPA 7th Pan African Youth Forum on Monday, 25 August 2025.



- **The Honourable Buti Manamela**, the Minister of Higher Education and Training, to deliver the keynote address at the official opening of ATUPA International Conference on Tuesday, 26 August 2025.
- **Reverend Keith Muntuwenkosi Zondi**, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, to deliver message of support on Thursday, 28 August 2025.
- **Professor Puleng LenkaBula**, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Africa (Unisa)
- **Dr. Eng. Tafadzwa Mudondo** - ATUPA Executive Board Chairperson & Secretary of the Association, Tertiary Education Service Council, Zimbabwe
- **Dr (Hc.) Jahou Samba Faal** - ATUPA Secretary General
- **Dr Felling Yende** - FP & M SETA Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Nombulelo Nxesi** - ETDP SETA Chief Executive Officer
- **Dr Sunshine Myende** - Executive Chairperson of National Youth Development Agency
- **Mr Sthembiso Khanyile** – President of TVET Colleges Governors' Council

Members of the media are invited to attend or cover the conference as follows:

Date: 25 - 29 August 2025

Time: 09h00 – 16h00 (CAT)

Venue: Southern Sun - Maharani Hotel, 63 Snell Parade, North Beach, Durban, South Africa.

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

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