
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inhlanyelo Hub Celebrates Certification of Drone Diva Cohort 3 (Gauteng) and Advanced Drone Divas

Pretoria – The Inhlanyelo Hub is hosting a certificate award ceremony celebrating the graduation of Drone Diva Cohort 3 (Gauteng) at the Unisa Sunnyside Campus, Pretoria, on Friday, 6 March 2026.

The ceremony will recognise the achievements of Cohort 3 women drone pilots and honour Advanced Drone Divas who have reached the next milestone in their aviation careers, highlighting Inhlanyelo Hub's commitment to empowering women in technology. On the same day, women pilots who have completed the advanced training and earned the Beyond Visual Line of Sight certification will also be celebrated. Since its launch in September 2023, the Inhlanyelo Hub Drone Industry Start-Up Business Programme has empowered 50 young women by equipping them with cutting-edge skills in drone piloting, radio communication, and drone technology development (coding).

The third cohort has not only mastered these technical competencies but has also received entrepreneurship and business training, ensuring they are well-prepared to lead and innovate within the drone economy and aviation industry. Additionally, this cohort has successfully completed the RPL (Remote Pilot License) course approved by the South African Civil Aviation Authority, officially certifying them as drone pilots and authorising them to operate commercial drones within South Africa's regulated airspace.

This programme fosters meaningful innovation in emerging technologies and aligns with the university's Catalytic Research Niche Areas. The programme supports African-led innovation and increases the university's global competitiveness in the Fourth Industrial Revolution through investment in women in drone technology. Among the standout success stories is Happiness Godora, a Unisa graduate and qualified teacher who is transforming STEM education in South Africa. Through her company, Edu Drones and STEM Events, she integrates drone technology into classrooms to make learning interactive and inspiring — opening pathways to future careers in aviation and technology for young learners.

"The certification ceremony is a testament to the strides made by Inhlanyelo Hub in responding to South Africa's urgent need for inclusive skills development and technology-driven economic participation, aligned with the university's Catalytic Research Niche Areas. As we advance our mission to empower women, the Drone Divas programme stands out as a practical solution for bridging the gender gap in aviation and emerging technology," said Prof Raphael Mpfu, Interim Chief Executive Officer.

Date: Friday, 6 March 2026

Time: 10:30 AM for 11:00 AM

Venue: Enoch Sontonga Hall, Unisa Sunnyside Campus, corner of Steve Biko Road and Justice Mahomed Street

We invite members of the media and ecosystem partners to attend and witness this exciting milestone as we celebrate the achievements of these pioneering women in drone aviation.

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

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