

Media Advisory

Unisa Symposium brings together AI Experts, Language Scholars, and Academics for collaboration

Approved for Public Release

Tuesday, 24 June 2025

The University of South Africa (Unisa)'s Directorate for Language Services (DLS) will host an important symposium on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Language teaching, learning, and research. The event will take place at the Unisa Senate Hall, Muckleneuck Campus, Pretoria on Wednesday, 25 June 2025.

The symposium aims to explore the transformative and sometimes complex effects of AI on multilingualism, with a focus on higher education institutions. Under the theme, "**Multilingual Language Practice and Artificial Intelligence: Lost in Translation or Found in Meaning**," the event will serve as an essential platform for leading AI experts, language scholars, academics, and language professionals to exchange ideas and explore collaborative opportunities. The discussions will emphasise the intersection of AI and South Africa's national multilingual agenda, with special attention to indigenous languages in higher education.

The keynote speaker is Professor Vukosi Marivate, an eminent scholar, Professor of Computer Science and Chair of Data Science at the University of Pretoria (UP). Respondents include two distinguished scholars: Professor Langa Khumalo, Executive Director of the South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR) at North-West University (NWU) and Professor Leketi Makalela, Deputy Head of the School of Education and founding Director of the Hub for Multilingual Education and Literacies (HuMEL) at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the symposium as follows:

Date: 25 June 2025

Time: 08:00 for 08:30

Venue: Senate Hall, 2nd Floor, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, Muckleneuck Campus, Pretoria.

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For RSVP's and interviews 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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