

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### The 2025 Water Imbizo

#### Approved for Public Release

Date: Thursday, 20 March 2025

As part of the National Water Week celebrations, the University of South Africa (Unisa), the Water Research Commission of South Africa (WRCSA) and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) will hold the 2025 Water Imbizo on Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at the Protea Hotel (Fire & Ice) in Menlyn Pretoria, under the theme “**Forging collective solutions towards the South African Water crisis.**”

The purpose of the Imbizo, is to provide a platform for critical conversations and collective thinking on the provision of tangible solutions towards existing water issues in South Africa. The platform will also provide an opportunity to present institutions of higher learning in South Africa as think-tanks in providing trial and tested, research-based water solutions, working together with consumers, government, industries and municipalities. This will ensure that government does not only rely on external consultants in the provision of solutions but works closely with universities as first points of contact, as they are already in possession of necessary skills and expertise for addressing current and existing water challenges.

The 2025 Water Imbizo coincides with the South African National Water Week 2025 celebrations, which are aimed at educating the public about their responsibility in water conservation initiatives, raising awareness around the need to protect and conserve the country’s water resources. As such, representatives from the public, in the form of consumers will also for part of the imbizo.

The main speakers at the Water Imbizo will include:

- Hon. Mr. David Mahlobo, Deputy minister: Department of Water and Sanitation
- Prof. Puleng LenkaBula, Unisa Principal and Vice-Chancellor
- Prof. Thenjiwe Meyiwa, Unisa VP: Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation
- Prof Thabo TI Nkambule, Head: Institute for Nanotechnology and Water Sustainability (iNanoWS), Unisa
- Dr Zakhele Khuzwayo, Manager of Innovation and Technology - Johannesburg Water
- Dr Valerie Naidoo, Senior Manager for Water Advisory Services - Water Research Commission
- Dr Esper Ncube, Water Quality Specialist and Manager: Process Technology - Rand Water



- Mr James Topkin, Research Manager – Ekurhuleni Water Care Company
- Mr William Moraka - South African Local Government Association
- Prof Anja du Plessis, Associate Professor and Water Management Expert, Unisa

The Unisa Water Imbizo 2025 will take place as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 March 2025

**Time:** 09h00 – 15h00

**Venue:** Protea Hotel: Fire & Ice Menlyn, Pretoria

Member of the invited to attend and cover the imbizo.

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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](mailto:humartm@unisa.ac.za) OR Mr Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / [ratheme@unisa.ac.za](mailto:ratheme@unisa.ac.za)

**ISSUED BY UNISA MEDIA AFFAIRS - Department of Institutional Advancement (DIA)**

