

Media Advisory

Unisa to commemorate World safety and health day 2025

Approved for public release.

Date: Wednesday, 23 April 2025

The University of South Africa (Unisa) will join the nation and the world in commemorating World Safety and Health Day 2025 at its Muckleneuk Campus on Friday, 25 April 2025. Senior Specialist at the International Labour Organization (ILO), Mr. Gamelihle Sibanda, will deliver the keynote address on the theme: ***“The Impacts of Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Workers’ Safety and Health.”*** The national holiday, observed every year on 28 April, aims to promote and strengthen the need for a continuous commitment to creating a safe and healthy culture in the workplace, with a focus on reducing work-related injuries, accidents, illnesses, and fatalities for all workers and employees.

About the Keynote Speaker

Mr. Sibanda holds an MSc in Biomimicry (innovation inspired by nature and nature-based solutions), an MBA in Finance, a BSc Honours in Civil Engineering, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. He is a strong advocate for integrating humans into AI-driven work environments.

With over 31 years of international professional experience, primarily in Public Works and Public Employment and Investment Programmes, Mr. Sibanda serves as the Senior Specialist for Employment-Intensive Investment Programmes at the ILO. He provides technical support for programmes in 18 countries covered by the Decent Work Team for Eastern and Southern Africa. Over 27 of these years have been spent working with the ILO in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the remaining years spent in Government, Consulting, and Applied Research.

Other Speakers Include:

- Professor Puleng LenkaBula, UNISA Principal and Vice Chancellor



- Mr. Lehlohonolo Mokhohlouloane, President of the Health & Safety, Environment Campus Association of South Africa (SHECASA)
- Mr. Herold Gaze, Vice President of the South African Institute of Occupational Health & Safety (SAIOSH)
- Dr. Mary Kgole, Mbebe Wellness Centre
- Ms. Leonie Louw, Research Ethics Officer: Directorate of Research and Support

Every day, approximately 6,500 people die due to workplace accidents and work-related diseases, amounting to 2.3 million deaths annually. World Day for Safety and Health at Work provides an opportunity to delve into topics like participation and social dialogue. It encourages collaboration among participants and social partners to ensure the effectiveness of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) processes, frameworks, and reforms.

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

Date: 25 April 2025

Time: 09:00 – 15:00

Venue: ZK Matthews, 2nd Floor, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building Unisa Muckleneuck Campus, Pretoria

You can also attend virtually by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/sGhFyFwz18Y?feature=share>

/Ends.

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