

MEDIA STATEMENT

Update on the process to appoint a new Principal and Vice Chancellor for the University of South Africa (UNISA)

Approved for Public Release

DATE: 15 October 2020

Following its meeting on 21 November 2019, the Council of the University of South Africa (UNISA) announced to the university community that, since the term of office of the incumbent, Professor Mandla Makhanya was coming to an end and he was also retiring at the end of December 2020, Council had approved a process for the recruitment and selection of a new Principal and Vice Chancellor for UNISA to take over from Professor Makhanya.

Subsequently, Council initiated this process, and appointed an independent external company to facilitate the recruitment process.

Accordingly, the Selection Committee of the UNISA Council met on Wednesday, 14 October 2020 to interview the shortlisted candidates to fill the position.

Following a rigorous interview process, two candidates have been shortlisted/recommended to proceed to the next phase of the process, which entails providing the Executive Committee of the UNISA Institutional Forum (IF) and the Executive Committee of the UNISA Senate (SENEX) the opportunity to consider the shortlisted candidates for the purposes of advising Council on their candidature.

The following are the candidates that have been shortlisted/recommended to the IF and SENEX by the Selection Committee of the UNISA Council:

- **Professor Puleng LenkaBula**
- **Professor Sandile P Songca**

“Council will consider the recommendation by the Selection Committee and the advice proffered by the Executive Committees of the Institutional Forum and Senate when making a final determination on the new Principal and Vice Chancellor”, said the Chairperson of the UNISA Council, Mr Sakhi Simelane.

In the meantime, Council resolved at its last meeting in September 2020 to extend the term of office of Professor Makhanya to the end of April 2021 for purposes of a proper handover to the incoming Principal and Vice Chancellor.

-Ends-

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