



## Media Advisory

### Deputy Minister Buti Manamela to address International Conference on TVET hosted by Unisa in partnership with SAPCO

**Approved for Public Release**

**Date: Monday, 23 September 2024**

Global disruptions such as climate change, digitalization, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), demographic change, and migration are changing the way we live, work, and learn. New technologies are emerging, remote forms of working and learning are becoming commonplace, and workers need new skills such as problem-solving, ICT, entrepreneurship, and STEM, while continuing to require traditional skills and knowledge. TVET systems must therefore rise to the challenge of supporting learners to prepare them for the workplace of the future. Improving the future-readiness of TVET systems is crucial for assuring their relevance and, ultimately, their survival. To prepare learners for future competencies and industry requirements, TVET teaching staff /trainers must possess these essential competencies and qualities themselves.

It is against the above background that the University of South Africa (UNISA) will be hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> hybrid international conference on technical and vocational education and training (ICTVET2024), in close partnership with the South African Public Colleges Organisation, (SAPCO), supported by the Education Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP SETA), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The conference will be held at Protea Hotel, Marriott Stellenbosch Conference Centre, Western Cape Province, South Africa is scheduled to run from 25 – 27 September 2024. The theme of the conference is: ***Advancing TVET for Digitalized World, Youth Skilling, Employability and Sustainable Development (National, Regional, Continental, and International)***”.

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Mr Buti Manamela will deliver an opening address, emphasizing the government's commitment to advancing ICT in vocational education. Key messages will include the importance of lifelong learning, collaboration with educational institutions, and ensuring inclusive access to ICT resources for all learners. Keynote addresses will be delivered by Professor Puleng LenkaBula (Unisa Principal and Vice Chancellor), Mr Janaka Jayalath (Deputy Director General: Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC)), Ms Nomso Faith Kana (Chief Executive SimSciex Technologies) and Dr Olivier Calice PIEUME (Chief of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Technical Cooperation Unit) just to mention but few.

This hybrid conference sought to collect input from the wider technical and vocational training (TVET) community on how TVET systems can be better organized to deliver the skills demanded in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex labour market. The conference seeks to promote the exchange of ideas, good practices, and knowledge sharing among participants from various African countries and beyond.

The broader objectives of conferences are to: gather knowledge, experiences and practices on the steps that TVET systems should take at policy, institutional and practitioner levels to prepare teachers and trainers to deliver the skills needed in the 21st century and beyond, gather insights and evidence from TVET community about where TVET systems stand when it comes to ensuring inclusiveness, with special focus on particularly vulnerable groups; share practical ideas to empower youth and adults with relevant TVET skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship; gain insights from private sector, and employer stakeholders about the changes in job profiles and skills that TVET should provide to support sustainable development. Many countries have made tremendous strides in several areas to shape the future of TVET systems.

The organisers are delighted that the conference will bridge the gap between academicians, scholars, TVET practitioners, policy-makers, international organisations, industry, business people, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders of the TVET to discuss and explore innovative approaches and good practices to enhance TVET systems for sustainable development.

The conference will also address pressing issues such as the digital divide, the quality of training programs, funding challenges, and the effective implementation of supportive policies. This event promises to be a vital platform for sharing best practices and fostering discussions that will shape the future of vocational education in our increasingly digital world.

The media is invited to attend cover the conference as follows:

**Date:** 25 – 27 September 2024

**Time:** 09:00-15:30

**Venue:** Protea Hotel, Marriott Stellenbosch Conference Centre

or virtually on the following link:

**–Ends–**

For enquiries and interview request, please contact Senior Media Officers: Media Relations Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981/ [humatm@unisa.ac.za](mailto:humatm@unisa.ac.za) OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 6712/ [ratheme@unisa.ac.za](mailto:ratheme@unisa.ac.za)

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