

**UNISA STATEMENT ON THE ARTICLE BY CITY PRESS INSINUATING THAT IT WASTED
R20 MILLION ON TOILETS**

Approved for public release

Date: 23 October 2023

The University of South Africa (Unisa) has noted with concern an article published in the City Press edition of Sunday, 22 October 2023 with the headline “Unisa blows R20m on toilets”.

The university is appalled at the posture of the article’s headline, which seeks to engender a narrative that the university spent large amounts of money to build mere toilets, when in fact the project in question entailed the conducting of major structural work on the ablution facilities at three of its campuses to ensure that they adhere to health standards and regulations.

Sadly, the reporter based his article on a leaked report that he ascribes to the Unisa Internal Audit Directorate, when in fact there is no confirmation from the university that this is indeed a Unisa report. The report in his possession, a copy of which was attached to his media enquiry, is not even signed. It is a known fact that reports of the university have to be signed by officials who have been mandated and authorised to do so. In the absence of such, any reporting or sharing of information from an unverifiable source is just spurious.

It is even difficult to fathom why a report of an alleged investigation commissioned and concluded three years ago, and under the previous administration, is becoming news now, almost three years after the fact.

To make matters worse, the reporter continued to ascribe the report in his possession to Unisa in spite of the university advising him that it is neither its policy nor practice to confirm the veracity of reports that have not officially been shared or released by itself.

The university further advised him that it has in place formal, lawful and institutionally approved processes of handling reports that it has commissioned, which strictly remain internal processes of the institution.

On the matter of Mr Matsiababa Motebele, the current Vice Principal: Operations and Facilities, it should be emphasised that he left the university in 2019 to pursue a career elsewhere and his resignation was above board and duly accepted by the university simply because there were no outstanding or pending disciplinary issues against him.

Similarly, his re-employment by the university in 2022 was possible because there were no outstanding disciplinary issues against him, nor any investigation outcome that implicated him. Had this been the case, his re-employment would simply not have been possible.

The insinuation in the article that he left the university in 2019 to escape an investigation into the project to upgrade the ablution facilities is incorrect, slanderous and a desperate attempt to label him as corrupt.



For the record, the procurement and finance policies and procedures at Unisa have the necessary checks and balances to ensure that all procurement is above board, especially procurement involving big projects, which are overseen by a tender committee made up of officials from across several functions in the university. It is simply impossible for any one individual to appoint a service provider and/or facilitate their payment single-handedly.

The article by the City Press is dismissed with contempt.

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ISSUED BY UNISA MEDIA AFFAIRS

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