

MEDIA RELEASE

UNISA STATEMENT ON THE ALLEGED NON-PAYMENT OF CONTRACT WORKERS

Approved for public release
17 December 2019

The University of South Africa (Unisa) can confirm that Ms Jeevanthri Pillay is indeed an independent contractor rendering services to Unisa. Her services have been utilised by the university's Department of Social Work in the roles of mentor-supervisor, facilitator, e-tutor and marker.

Concerning the allegations that Ms Pillay has not received any payment for the years 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019, Unisa would like to place on record that after an internal investigation and consultation with the stakeholders concerned, it has been found that she has been paid. To this end the university is in possession of evidence in the form of proof of payments and email communication between Ms Pillay and the relevant administrators. An invoice for the only outstanding payment for 2019 was received by our administrators on 6 December 2019. It has been processed, awaiting payment in January 2020.

Ms Pillay also indicated that there are 35 independent contractors who are affected by non-payment. Our records show that the actual number is 21, and that all issues experienced are at different stages of being resolved. The university has consistently communicated with individual independent contractors to explain the new payroll changes. Due to the POPI Act, the Department is addressing each individual matter directly and individually with the parties concerned.

It has become evident that sometimes incomplete documents from the side of the contractors and verification processes on the side of the university may cause delays in payment. Therefore, the university urges all contractors to submit the relevant documents in full and on time.

We would like to encourage anyone with a similar experience to contact the university so that their matter can be resolved.

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