

MEDIA ADVISORY

THE 9TH ANNUAL SPRING LAW CONFERENCE (ASLC) TO TAKE PLACE AT UNISA

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The 9th Annual Spring Law Conference (ASLC) takes place on 27th and 28th October 2022 at the Muckleneuk, Pretoria Campus of the University of South Africa.

Organised by Unisa's College of Law, the conference is expected to have an open, robust, and cross-disciplinary reflection under the theme *"Marikana Massacre as the spiderweb of colonialism and imperialism in post-independence Afrika and post-1994 South Afrika"*.

Programme participants comprise representatives of political parties, media, trade unions, institutions of higher learning, etc. Amongst the national leaders are Mr Nelvis Qekema of AZAPO and Mr. Zwelinzima Vavi of SAFTU.

Participants are expected to share their perspectives and experiences in assessing the post-independence Africa through the bloodied lens of the Marikana massacre which happened 10 years ago. Proceedings start at 08:30 on both dates in the Senate Hall, Winnie Madikizela Mandela Building.

The year 2022 cements 28 years of freedom in South Africa, after the landmark inclusive elections of 27 April 1994. In his inauguration speech on 10 May 1994, former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela said, *"Out of the experience of and extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud"*.

A full decade since Marikana Massacre happened in 2012 generates and raises critical questions today from a multiplicity of philosophical perspectives, including criminal justice, history, constitutionalism, human rights, politics, spirituality, law and human rights, economics, land ownership, sociology, conflict studies, intelligence and security studies, policing, labour relations, governance and ethics.



The Marikana Massacre, further, serves as a spiderweb reflecting the complexity of the age-old question of white supremacy and domination, which consistently manifests itself in various ways, including slavery, neo-colonialism, racism, and imperialism. All these thrive in the conducive season of the runaway system of (global) capitalism.

Despite the promise of freedoms in the Constitution of South Africa (1996), Marikana has glaringly exposed and unmasked issues of inequality in labour and remuneration, elusive liberty, and skewed wealth and ownership patterns under the neo-apartheid capitalist system, 28 years after Mandela's inaugural speech. What role can the law play in this crisis?

Members of the media are invited to attend.

- Ends -

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

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