

MEDIA RELEASE

Approved for public release

Date: 23 April 2021

UNISA STATEMENT ON MEDIA REPORTS ABOUT THE SUSPENSION OF ITS HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

The University of South Africa (Unisa) has taken note of a story that has appeared on a few media platforms pertaining to the recent suspension by Unisa, of its Executive Director for Legal Services, Advocate Modidima Manny. This follows a media statement issued by Advocate Manny himself, which brought the matter to the public's attention.

Unisa confirms that Advocate Manny has been suspended and reiterates that (i) it followed all the requisite internal processes before arriving at the decision to suspend Advocate Manny and (ii) it communicated this decision to him through CONFIDENTIAL correspondence, in which the reasons for the suspension were provided. Unisa however, informed ONLY internal stakeholders of this decision due to the potential prejudice the suspension may have on University operations, whilst of course also wanting to safeguard the integrity of its disciplinary process and Adv Manny's Constitutional Right to Privacy.

The assertion by Advocate Manny that Unisa is out to tarnish his image is therefore, denied as he himself elected to place this matter in the public domain, and not Unisa.

Adv Manny has elected to pursue the matter in Court and the matter will be vigorously defended by Unisa. It is however, recorded that Unisa intends to maintain its long-standing practice of not dealing with matters between itself and its employees via the media. Unisa will hence, refrain from engaging in any discussion on the merits of its dispute with Advocate Manny, which dispute is sub judice.

Finally, Unisa finds it regrettable that, in his media statement, Advocate Manny has chosen to make unfounded and vexatious allegations against some individuals and structures of the University, including some individuals who are no longer with the University. Any allegations of malfeasance, maladministration and/or corruption are denied and Adv Manny is well-aware of the appropriate legal entities where such allegations may be reported as opposed to merely raising these in the media without providing any substance, therefore. Should he wish to pursue these allegations in the appropriate forum, Unisa's rights to defend these allegations are reserved.

-Ends-

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