

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Unisa, NMU and UoB Collaborate on inaugural InsideOut Engagements Festival

#### For Immediate Release - Sunday, 26 November 2023

The University of South Africa (Unisa) is elated to form part of the inaugural InsideOut Engagement Festival 2023, a festival for Collaborative Social Change by Nelson Mandela University (NMU), in collaboration with the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the University of Bath (UoB). This transformative event seeks to celebrate engagement as a fundamental institutional mission for universities, emphasizing the vital role of collaborative and purpose-driven engagement in nurturing equal, symbiotic relationships between universities and diverse stakeholder communities.

The festival is a two-day event, where Mandela University, UoB, and UNISA will shine a spotlight on collaborative and purpose-driven engagement, where stakeholders unite with a shared goal in mind. This gathering also serves as an exploration of the concept of 'convergence' – a groundbreaking approach to 'seeing' and 'doing' engagement. This concept was initially proposed by NMU's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sibongile Muthwa, in 2018 and has since gained momentum through dynamic partnerships.

Engaged Scholarship and this festival in particular is about reimagining universities as integral components of society, working together to co-create a more socially just world, while championing learning, teaching, and research. "The InsideOut Engagement Festival is a direct result of Mandela University's Vision 2030, where universities stand side by side with communities to champion equal, purpose-driven engagement. It's a paradigm shift, fostering collaborations that transcend the confines of traditional academic spaces and extend into the very heart of the community. By placing universities alongside communities, we aim to facilitate the co-creation of a socially just world through activities that encompass learning, teaching, and research"- NMU VC, Prof. Sibongile Muthwa.

The InsideOut Engagement Festival is more than just an event; it's a declaration of a new era. It's an annual international showcase of our unwavering commitment to converged engagement, innovation, and transformation. "As universities, we are no longer institutions confined to campuses but active participants in societal transformation. We are breaking down the barriers that separate us from our communities and working together towards a more equitable, socially just world. We invite you to be a part of this groundbreaking movement, to explore new horizons in engagement, and to be inspired by collaborative initiatives that are shaping the future of education"- Prof Puleng Segalo Chief Albert Luthuli Research Chair at Unisa.

The festival represents a new beginning, a commitment to a world where universities and communities collaborate, create, and innovate together.



The details of the festival are as follows:

Date: 27-28 November 2023

Time: See the attached programme

Venue: Nelson Mandela University, Missionvale Campus Sports Centre

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the summit physically or via the links below:

**Day one**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXBSNkY0R7w>

**Day two**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOhtyjSzk8I>

**ENDS.**

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