

MEDIA RELEASE

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Dr Mahlogonolo Thobane is appointed president for the Criminological Society of Africa (CRIMSA)

University of South Africa (Unisa) senior lecturer in the College of Law, Dr Mahlogonolo has been elected president of the Criminological Society of South Africa (CRIMSA). CRIMSA is a locally and internationally recognised, inter-disciplinary professional society, promoting theoretical and applied criminology and related disciplines in Africa and further afield. Dr Thobane will serve a three-year term as the president of the Society. Dr Thobane is the first black woman to hold this position.

The aims of CRIMSA are:

- To promote, coordinate and apply the criminological sciences (criminology, victimology and applied criminal justice studies in particular, but also any academic discipline focusing on crime and victimisation, conflict, deviance, abuse of power and reaction to crime and other crime-related phenomena in the broad criminological sciences and applied criminal justice fields) through study and academic interaction, research and community service
- To co-operate with interested local, regional and international institutions
- To seek affiliated and/or associate membership of regional, continental and international societies/associations serving the broad criminological sciences
- To create mediums for the publishing of, among other things, research results
- To promote and stimulate the academic interests of its members
- To inform the community about crime-related phenomena, criminal victimisation and reaction to crime
- To contribute to the broader transformation of society through equity and to endorse those values enshrined in the South African Constitution and the Bill of Rights

In her acceptance speech Dr Thobane indicated that she viewed her appointment as an opportunity to shape and shift mainstream criminology ideologies that have pushed the African voice, and 'ways of knowing', to the periphery while centering voices and knowledge from the Global North.

She said that during her three-years tenure, she would ensure that the Society transforms in its most authentic sense. She expressed her gratitude to the CRIMSA members for the confidence they have placed in her to lead them on the journey towards attaining transformation.

She emphasized that, as the president of a diverse and interdisciplinary society, she will continue to grow African leadership and African scholarship that works towards a common goal.



“The appointment of Dr Thobane as CRIMSA president is the historical milestones that illustrates transformation and contributes towards building an inclusive society where every member enjoys equal participation within the discipline”, said Prof Puleng LenkaBula, Unisa Principal and Vice Chanellor.

Dr. Thobane holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences: Psychology degree from the University of Pretoria (UP); BA (Honours) degrees in Criminology and Psychology from UP and UNISA respectively. She also holds a Master’s degree in Criminology as well as a Doctor of Literature and Philosophy (DLitt et Phil) in Criminology.

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For inquiries, please contact Senior Media Officers: Mr. Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / humatm@unisa.ac.za OR Mr Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za

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