

STATEMENT BY COUNCIL ON THE PURPORTED MINISTERIAL TASK TEAM REPORT CIRCULATING IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

The Council of the University of South Africa (Unisa) is aware of a document circulating in the public domain purporting to be the official report of the Ministerial Task Team (“MTT”) on the Independent Review of Unisa, set up by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande. This document has resulted in coverage by certain media houses as well as speculative discussion by stakeholders on social media platforms.

Council has also noted and welcomed the confirmation by Minister Nzimande that he is in possession of the official report from the MTT, which he is still studying. This affirms the position articulated by the Council that it has not received the report of the MTT.

Council and the university are aware of the MTT and have collaborated with its engagement processes. Our expectation is that when the Minister has finished studying the report, he will formally engage with Council and the university through formal communication channels. Council will then consider the report and respond directly to the Minister through appropriate channels.

Like the Minister, Council would like to caution stakeholders about the dangers of exploiting a leaked report in a manner that is misleading, out of context, thus causing unnecessary panic across the university community and our alumni. This may also condone dealing with official matters outside the framework of the law and the terms of reference of the MTT.

Unisa has hundreds of self-less academics, non-academic staff and a vibrant student community that work hard to achieve results. Their efforts should be protected against those who profit from damaging the reputation of the institution.

Therefore, Council calls on all stakeholders, especially staff and students, to allow the Minister the necessary space to process the report and thereafter engage with the university and other relevant stakeholders formally.

Council undertakes to communicate its position on the MTT report once it has formally received it from the Ministry.

By order of the Council

Prof MS Mothata, Registrar