

Media Statement

Unisa notes and welcomes court interdict issued against its former Registrar

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The University of South Africa (Unisa) notes and welcomes the interdict issued by the High Court in Pretoria on Tuesday, 17 March 2026, interdicting and restraining the former Registrar of the university, Professor Steward Mothata from continuing with actions and communication that attack, harass or otherwise undermine the university, its leadership as well as its governance structures.

The court heard the matter through an urgent application brought by the university against Professor Mothata, who has been making persistent attacks against itself, its leadership and governance structures.

The court heard the matter in absentia as Professor Mothata, despite being duly informed of the proceedings, failed to appear before it. The court was satisfied that proper notice of the application was served on him and he elected not to participate in the proceedings.

After considering the application and the evidence placed before it, the Court granted an order in favour of the University. The purpose of the order is to stop and prevent further harmful conduct and to protect the integrity, reputation and functioning of the University and its leadership.

The university holds the firm view that the court's decision underscores the seriousness with which the judiciary treats conduct that may harm institutional governance and reputation. It also reiterates its position that it will take legal action against anyone who acts in a way that damages the institution's reputation.

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