Media Advisory

Unisa and Swahili Afrika to Celebrate the 5th World Kiswahili Language Day

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Wednesday, 29 July 2026

The University of South Africa (Unisa)'s College of Human Sciences (CHS) , in collaboration with Swahili Afrika, will commemorate the 5th World Kiswahili Language Day on Friday, 31 July 2025, at the Function Hall, Kgorong Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, from 09:00 to 15:00.

Held under the theme, ***"Kiswahili: The Language of Diplomacy, Trade, Culture and African Unity,"*** the event will bring together academics, students, language practitioners, cultural organisations and members of the public to celebrate the growing significance of Kiswahili as a language of education, diplomacy, trade, innovation and African unity.

Proclaimed by UNESCO, World Kiswahili Language Day is observed annually in recognition of Kiswahili as the first African language to be accorded global recognition by the United Nations. Spoken by more than 200 million people across Africa and the diaspora, Kiswahili continues to strengthen its position as one of the continent's most widely spoken and influential languages.

The 2025 commemoration will highlight the important role of Kiswahili in advancing the decolonisation of African education through the promotion of indigenous knowledge systems, multilingual scholarship and African-centred research. The programme will feature keynote addresses, academic discussions and cultural performances that demonstrate the transformative power of language in promoting social cohesion, preserving cultural heritage and strengthening Africa's identity.

Through this partnership, Unisa and Swahili Afrika reaffirm their shared commitment to advancing African languages, promoting cultural diversity and supporting knowledge production that contributes to the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the vision of a multilingual, integrated and prosperous Africa.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the event as follows:

Date: Friday, 31 July 2025
Time: 09:00 – 15:00
Venue: Kgorong Building Function Hall, University of South Africa (Unisa), Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria
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For RSVP's and interviews requests, please contact Unisa Senior Media Officers: Mr Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / humartm@unisa.ac.za OR Mr Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za

University of South Africa
Preller Street, Muckleneuk Ridge, City of Tshwane
PO Box 392 UNISA 0003 South Africa
Telephone: +27 12 429 3111 Facsimile: +27 12 429 4150
www.unisa.ac.za

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Department of Institutional Advancement (DIA)

University of South Africa
Preller Street, Muckleneuk Ridge, City of Tshwane
PO Box 392 UNISA 0003 South Africa
Telephone: +27 12 429 3111 Facsimile: +27 12 429 4150
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