MEDIA ADVISORY

UNISA to host 26th Feroza Adam Memorial Lecture and Women of the Year Awards

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This year marks the 69th anniversary of the historic 1956 Women's March, when 20,000 courageous women marched to the Union Buildings in protest against the oppressive pass laws. To honour this defining moment in South African history and in celebration of Women's Month 2025, the University of South Africa (Unisa), through the Unisa Women's Forum (UWF) and in partnership with the South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), will host the 2025 Feroza Adam Memorial Lecture and the Unisa Women of the Year Awards.

This year's memorial lecture will be delivered by **Ms Cheryl Carolus**, a distinguished leader, activist, and advocate for transformation and equity under the theme ,***"HerStory: Navigating and Resisting Entrenched Change".*** Unisa Principal and Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Puleng LenkaBula**, will also address the gathering.

Ms Carolus is the Executive Chair of Peotona Group Holdings, a women-owned company with investments in resource and infrastructure-related sectors. A former anti-apartheid activist, Carolus served as South Africa's High Commissioner to the UK in 1998 and later as CEO of South African Tourism (2001–2004). She chaired SANParks and South African Airways, and currently holds several non-executive directorships, including with De Beers Consolidated Mines, Investec, Macsteel Service Centres SA, and the British Museum, among others. She also serves on multiple charitable foundations and is a member of the executive committee of the International Crisis Group.

The 2025 event marks the 26th Feroza Adam Memorial Lecture, commemorating the life and legacy of Feroza Adam, a formidable political activist, publicist for the African National Congress and advocate for gender justice. Born in August 1961, Feroza was elected to South Africa's first democratic Parliament in 1994, tragically passing away in a car accident that same year.

The Unisa Women's Forum (UWF), a recognised institutional body, champions the rights and advancement of women across the university. Each year, the UWF celebrates the contributions of women within Unisa through the Unisa Women of the Year Awards, highlighting excellence, leadership, and service.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the Feroza Adams Memorial as follows:

Date : Friday, 08 August 2025
Time : 08:30 for 09:00
Venue: Kgorong Building, Function Hall, 4th Floor, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus

Join us as we honour the legacy of those who marched for freedom, remember the voice and vision of Feroza Adam and celebrate the ongoing contributions of women at Unisa and beyond.

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