

NATIONAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

NSRC RESPONSE TO THE SOCIAL MEDIA ASSERTIONS ABOUT UNISA QUALIFICATIONS.

For immediate release

Thursday, 30 March 2023

The NSRC takes great concern to the negative social media assertions about UNISA qualifications which are unfounded. This comes after Mandisa Mashego, a former political leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters and Abantu Batho Congress said that the University's qualifications are fake and insinuating that UNISA is not a legitimate university. We reject these utterances with the highest contempt and disgust.

These utterances are damnatory and have possible pernicious effects to the futures of UNISA graduates. Studying through UNISA requires the highest forms of hard work, discipline and digital resources for both learning and for final assessments which are mostly invigilated. The University is currently conducting graduation ceremonies that commenced on 22nd March ending on 09 May which will see the highest graduate output compared to all Universities in the country. These graduates have earned their qualifications through their own determination and commitment to their studies. It is nonsensical to simply cast qualifications of UNISA as fake considering the hard work that UNISA students put in to obtain their qualifications which include defying systematic odds and challenges that they face daily.

Majority of students who will be affected by these negative assertions about UNISA qualifications are black students who inherently come from poor backgrounds and are dependable on qualifications to open doors of economic opportunities for them. Moreover, the university's student demographics now closely approximate those of the society where more than 73% of Unisa students are black. Additionally, most of these students especially at undergraduate level are over 65% female and considering the social realities of our society, women are already structurally excluded from many economic opportunities or under remunerated. The assertions here mentioned therefore have the potential to further disadvantage Black & Women graduates.

As SRC, our primary duty is to ensure that our students are not systematically unserved and ensure that they get to graduate and make meaningful contributions to society, hence, we also call on the University to provide a clear position on the matter and take graduates, students, the labour sector and society entirely into confidence on the quality of UNISA qualifications. We will not allow individuals whose intentions are unknown, to tarnish the reputation of the qualifications of students who attained them through hard work and perseverance.

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The SRC further urge all students to carry on with working hard towards their studies and will continue ensuring that no student is left behind!

~END~

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