

## Communiqué 3 of 2023

**To:** All higher education stakeholders and interested persons

**Subject:** Correcting inaccurate information about the Council on Higher Education aired on the Black Pen podcast

The Black Pen is a YouTube podcast hosted by Mr Penuel Mlotshwa. An interview was conducted with Ms Mandisa Mashigo on 27 March 2023 in which the Council on Higher Education was portrayed inaccurately. These inaccuracies are corrected below:

The correct name for the organisation is the Council on Higher Education (CHE) rather than the Council for Higher Education.

The correct Acts which govern Higher Education in South Africa are: The Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997, as amended) and the National Qualifications Act (Act 67 of 2008, as amended).

The CHE is an independent statutory body.

The Council on Higher Education is not investigating the University of South Africa (UNISA). Rather, UNISA is participating in an institutional audit process that is a national process, in which all higher education institutions, both public and private, are involved. The institutional audits are being undertaken as part of the CHE's mandate as the Quality Council for Higher Education in the country.

The board of the CHE does not consist of the Vice-Chancellors of universities. Rather, it consists of a range of people who are experienced in, and have knowledgeable about, higher education specifically, and education more generally. Whilst it is possible for a Vice-Chancellor to be appointed to the Council, there are currently no Vice-Chancellors who are

members of the Council on Higher Education. The appointment of the board of the CHE is stipulated by the Higher Education Act and the public have the right to participate in the nomination process, as it was carried out, for example, in 2022 resulting in a new Council taking up their positions on 15 December 2022.



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Dr Whitfield Green  
Chief Executive Officer  
Date: 04 April 2023