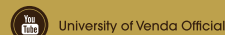


Nendila

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA



University of Venda
Creating future leaders

Commissioner Advocate Thando Gumede of the Commission for Gender Equality reflects on the significance of lyrics of resistance and their meaning to women in the modern day



On photo: Commissioner Advocate Thando Sibongiseni Gumede from the Commission for Gender Equality, South Africa

The Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights in the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, University of Venda (UNIVEN) recently convened a National Women's Day Celebration. The guest speaker of this event was Commissioner Advocate Thando Sibongiseni Gumede from the Commission for Gender Equality, South Africa. The event attended by about 130 participants, was aimed at celebrating National Women's Day with the UNIVEN community at large. This celebration offered an opportunity to reflect on venerable lyrics of resistance and their relevance in the modern day, with a special focus on the "wathintha abafazi wathintha imbokodo" slogan. In commemoration of Women's Day, Commissioner Gumede discussed the significance of the lyric "wathintha abafazi wathintha imbokodo" which emanated from the Women's Anti-Pass March of 1956. She described it as a historical lyric that has become a symbol of women's courage, brilliance, and power in South Africa. She questioned whether this lyric is still significant today and urged young black women to reflect on its relevance in modern society. The significance of this lyric, she advised, must be viewed against the backdrop of South African women's history. She said that the apartheid and colonial oppression systems were not just systems of racial discrimination, but also misogyny and economic exclusion.

Advocate Gumede further highlighted how most of the

oppressive laws, even though long abolished, have left Africans with a distorted definition of what it means to be African, and argued that racial history as the origin of the misconception that women are subordinate to men and are more suited for domestic rather than leadership roles. The keynote speaker demonstrated the effects of colonisation and apartheid on Africans and how decolonisation and dismantling the consequences of apartheid are going to take more than just a mere amendment and abolishment of a few legislation to address. This is because how Africans live and treat their women today is the residue of the impact of colonisation and apartheid on Africans. Drawing from her expertise as a Commissioner for the Commission of Gender Equality, Advocate Gumede highlighted challenges, proposed potential interventions, and helped formulate approaches to effectively promote and advance the human rights of the women of this country. She further noted that it would be a grave injustice if we do not reflect on the definition and significance of the 'wathintha abafazi wathintha imbokodo' slogan and whether it is how women today still want to identify.

Additionally, Advocate Gumede reflected on the impact of the native question, which arguably led to the dismemberment of African families for economic gain. This involved redefining work for natives and forcing

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Commissioner Advocate Thando Gumede of the Commission for Gender Equality reflects on the significance of lyrics of resistance and their meaning to women in the modern day cont...



On photo: Group photo of attendees with Commissioner Advocate Thando Sibongiseni Gumede

them to relocate for work and pay taxes, thus contributing to the fragmentation of families. The resistance against oppression led to African men being imprisoned, instilling fear in the communities. This historical impact is still seen today, with African families with men struggling to provide economically. She advised that now that the National elections have passed, there is need for everyone to reflect on fundamental questions post-apartheid such as: who gets to eat when there is a global pandemic, and who gets to starve? Who gets to be driven to school, and who gets to swim with crocodiles to get to the other side of a filthy river? Who gets to successfully lead organisations, institutions, and narratives, and who gets to have their intellectual property stolen from them? Lastly who lives to thrive and prosper and who merely strives to survive? She emphasised the importance of piercing the veil of the institutions that are put in place to lead us post-apartheid and dive deeper into who we are as Africans to find all the answers that we seek. In conclusion, Commissioner Advocate Gumede encouraged the participants, and indeed the nation to reflect more critically on legislation and legal system. In her view, we should continue to question the extent to which old and new statutes and practices have purposefully and successfully failed to address women issues, especially the issues of black women and girls today.

abafazi wathitha imbokodo” slogan. He reminded participants about the significance of the event which is that women are important agents of change. Quoting from Maya Angelou, he described being born a woman as phenomenal. In closing his remarks, Professor Jegede affirmed that the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples’ Rights, an organisation with social justice as one of its focuses, will continue to lead interventions that challenge patriarchy and injustices towards women. He reiterated that the Center is open to collaboration and stands in solidarity with women and their struggles for equality and justice, not only in South Africa but beyond. He ended with a powerful statement: “No society is truly free until it overcomes the hierarchies that subordinate its women”.

Commerce and Law introduced the esteemed guest speaker. Dr Simbo noted that the guest speaker is the youngest serving National Commissioner at the Commission of Gender Equality. “She is the founder of multiple impactful organisations and an award-winning technology start-up that focuses on preventing School-Related Gender-Based Violence using law and technology.” She described Commissioner Gumede as one of Africa’s top 100 young minds by Barclays Africa. She has represented South Africa on international platforms and presented on women’s leadership at the United Nations.



To demonstrate why it is important to address women issues, another highlight of the event is that an LLM Human Rights student and the Deputy Chairperson of the Faculty of Management Commerce and Law Student Council, Mr Londani Magau, was offered the platform to share with the audience a tragic experience that he and his family recently faced earlier in the year. A woman in his family died at the hands of her husband. With the surging cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in South Africa, he stressed the need not to take advocacy lightly. He emphasised that abuse doesn’t start in marriage but in the relationship before the marriage and stressed that men have a role to play in addressing the problem of GBV and changing the narrative positively.



On photo: Ms Noluthando Sindane, final year LLB student

Ms Noluthando Sindane, a final year LLB student at the University of Venda and WIL Programme Candidate at the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Peoples’ and Human Rights recited a poem by Maya Angelou titled ‘Phenomenal Women’, to remind women that they are wonderfully and phenomenally made.



Dr Mantwa Madiba gave the vote of thanks, acknowledging the informative and provocative presentation made by Advocate Gumede who she referred to as a powerhouse of knowledge. She praised the audience for being engaging and participatory, and more importantly, for honouring the invite to celebrate National Women’s Day, and thereby making it a success.



On photo: Professor Ademola Oluborode Jegede, Interim Director of the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Peoples and Human Rights

In his welcome address, Professor Ademola Oluborode Jegede, Interim Director of the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Peoples and Human Rights opened the celebration with a welcome address. Prof Jegede explained the significance of Women’s Day, and the rationale for inviting Commissioner Gumede for the significant event. He highlighted that the national celebration of women day all started with the 1956 March, a campaign by South African women to stop the pass laws that the government enforced at that time. It was that movement that started the “wathitha



On photo: Dr Chiedza Simbo, a Senior Lecturer of the Department of Private Law, Faculty of Management Commerce and Law

Dr Chiedza Simbo, a Senior Lecturer of the Department of Private Law, Faculty of Management



On photo: Dr Crystal Mokoena, the interim Head of the Department of Public Law was the director of the programme

The University of Venda Hosts Registrars' Imbizo for the first time



On photo: Some of the delegates pose for a photo with the University Registrar, Dr Joel Baloyi (middle)

For the first time since its inception the University of Venda hosted the Registrars' Imbizo, a platform designed to foster collaboration and exchange among university Registrars across South Africa. The Registrars' Imbizo is an annual event bringing together Registrars across South African universities to share best practices, deliberate on common challenges confronting institutions of higher learning, as well as engaging on various issues impacting the higher education sector. The 2024 Imbizo was co-hosted by UNIVEN and Universities South Africa (USAf). This groundbreaking event was held at the University Research Conference Centre on **29 and 30 August 2024** under the theme **'Opportunities, Risks, and Challenges for the University of the Future'**.

In his keynote address, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Professor Bernard Nthambeleni pointed out that this kind of gathering provides a unique opportunity for universities to come together, share knowledge and explore ideas for the benefit of our National System of Innovation. It is through collaboration and gatherings such as these that we can make significant contributions to the betterment of our higher education sector.



On photo: Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Professor Bernard Nthambeleni

Professor Nthambeleni observed, "Our university is honoured to host such a diverse group of esteemed university leaders, administrators, professionals, educators and representatives from various institutions gathered here today in a quest for knowledge sharing." He further noted, "Your gathering here is not just an intellectual endeavour; rather it is testament to our shared commitment to enhancing our country's commitment to education for all, as espoused in the Constitution of our Republic."

He further gave a brief background of the UNIVEN and Limpopo Province. Prof Nthambeleni shared that UNIVEN has long been a beacon of hope, a place where dreams take flight and futures are shaped. "The University stands tall as a testament

to the power of education to transform lives and empower individuals to make a positive impact in society", added Prof Nthambeleni.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal highlighted that the University is proud to be part of the beautiful Province of Limpopo. He reminded attendees that "this Province is the fruit and breadbasket of South Africa, producing up to 60% of the country's fresh produce and grains. In addition, the Limpopo Province is the country's leading tourist destination due to its rich biodiversity and wildlife."

As he continued with his address, he talked about the role of a University Registrar which is multifaceted and crucial to the smooth operation of any institution. The Registrar forms an integral part of the Executive Management Committee to most universities here and elsewhere.

In terms of the South African context, the Registrar is the Secretary of Council and other governance structures of the university. In the UNIVEN context, Prof Nthambeleni mentioned that the Registrar is also the Chief Administrative and Compliance Officer of the University. Amongst others, the Registrar ensures that the university complies with academic policies and accreditation standards as well as managing the enrolment processes. The Registrar also ensures that all student records are accurate and up to date. The Registrar plays a vital role in ensuring the integrity of academic records and the efficient operation of the university's administrative functions, and in our context, the Registrar also looks after Ethics and Compliance, Campus Health and Records and Archives Management. In highlighting the importance of this role, he noted that in some universities in our Continent, the Registrar is referred to as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Administration.

In his welcome remarks, the University Registrar, Dr Joel Baloyi expressed the fact that the University of Venda was honoured to receive the delegates in this part of the world, noting that this is truly a gateway to Africa. Dr Baloyi also took the opportunity to share with the delegates the rich attraction areas of the Vhavenda, such as "Dzata" which is a reference to the ancient abode of the Vhavenda people - the capital of an old kingdom constructed with dark blue stone, deeply reminiscent of the architectural style of Great Zimbabwe. He encouraged delegates to visit one of those places when they found time.

Dr Baloyi stated that the Imbizo affords Registrars the opportunity to engage on various issues impacting on higher education institutions, whether it is governance risks, Artificial Intelligence bots in meetings or navigating the increasingly complex terrain of the modern university. He observed that

this is to be expected, seeing that universities are a central location for research, ideation, innovation and the creation of new knowledge, as we navigate the impacts and opportunities presented by new digital and related technologies.



On photo: University Registrar, Dr Joel Baloyi

Dr Baloyi emphasised the importance of the Registrar's Imbizo, observing that it is through this gathering that the role of Registrars at universities is unpacked, demystified and concretised in order to forge long-lasting solutions and to make sense of the evolving nature of this role. He highlighted the fact that today, the Registrar has become a key, pivotal strategic official within the academia and a close confidant and support for the Vice-Chancellor and the Council, whose role must adapt to the ever-evolving higher education context. He noted that, without any doubt, the Registrar is the glue that binds the University system together towards the achievement of the common goal of academic excellence and achievement. In addition, he portrayed the Registrar as the driving force towards the achievement of the collective vision and mission of the University and must lead the governance dialogue in promoting adherence to good governance, while being able to lead in crises.

The delegates also received a message from the Director Operations and Sector Support, Mr Muhlubi Chief Mabizela from USAf, who addressed delegates virtually. On day two, Mr Mabizela presented on Ethical Clearance for National Research Projects.

The two-day Registrars' Imbizo continued with discussions on various topics such as Digitalisation of Universities: Lessons Learned; Practice Standards in the Registrar's Office; Governance Risk for the Registrar; Practice Standards in the Registrar's Office; Governance Risk for the Registrar; Digitalisation of the University - challenges and opportunities - with specific presentations from representatives of the Department of Home Affairs; CHE; NSFAS; POPIA; Department of Higher Education; Department of Basic Education; Independent Examinations Board; Department of Social Development and others.

On day one of the Registrars' Imbizo, the Registrar hosted delegates at a social gathering dinner held at the Kalahari Waterfront, Nandoni Dam. After all the delegates agreed that the event had been successful and that the objectives were met. Delegates further appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality that they received from the University.



On photo: The Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof Lekalaka briefly addressed the delegates at the social gathering dinner.

UNIVEN celebrates Women's Months in style, a Day of fun and vintage



Members of the Human Resource Department at UNIVEN Celebrated women's day in style. The University of Venda's Human Resource Director, Mrs Uanda Ndou led the fun event to be a success with all women from the University community and external guests from all spheres of the world. The event occurred on the 22 August 2024 at the UNIVEN Auditorium.

The month of August holds a special significance in South Africa's history. On August 9, 1956, approximately 20,000 women marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest discriminatory legislation that restricted the movement of Black women in urban areas. This historic event, a cornerstone of the anti-apartheid movement, commemorates the courageous efforts of women like Amina Cachalia, Lillian Ngoyi, Ray Simons, and Helen Joseph, who championed equality for all women, regardless of race, colour, or creed.

The celebration of women is a global endeavor. While March 8 is internationally recognized as Women's Day, marking achievements and advocating for gender parity, significant activities occur worldwide throughout the year. Throughout history, women have fought tirelessly to assert their rights and contributions, often facing obstacles that men have not. From groundbreaking designers and space explorers to political activists and monarchs, these inspirational women have paved the way for future generation.



Prof. Thizwilondi Josephine Mudau on "Behind a Successful Women" Speech said Life is an exam where the syllabus is unknown, and the question paper is not set where it only means that we need to think out of the box. She said and emphasised this by this can be by exploring ideas that are creative and unusual and that are not limited or controlled by rules or tradition. She said its time women move out of the kitchen and gender stereotype, start believing in themselves and have confidence. Also stating out some few hindrances she said women have several roles to play in the family, helping children with school work, cooking, washing and making sure everyone is ready for whatever action. Too much work makes women not to have a desire to progress in the careers due to mental load. This is one of the consequences that make wom-

en not to progress in life or advancing their careers through education.



Dr. Mantwa Madiba Department: Public Law – Women's Relationship & the Law

Dr. Mantwa Madiba, a Lecture from the Department of Public Law - Women's Relationship & the Law said our difference is what makes us shine and urged all women to leave the Auditorium stress free. She covered few important aspect on her speech which include customary marriage, marriage contract, lobola and cohabiting. She said marriage can either be in community of property where the spouses property are joined together and they share what they bring together and outside community with accrual or without accrual where accrual properties brought into marriage stay separate. She said customary marriage are even more common nowadays where it involves the integration of the families of the spouses and it is private in its nature, it is not officiated by external parties but by the family groups involved. Once, the families reach an agreement in the negotiations, then a marriage may be entered and it is polygamous in its nature - it allows a man to marry more than one wife



Dr. Ndinannyi Ernest Nangammbi – A General Practitioner delivering his Speech.

Dr Ndinannyi Nangammbi who is a Medical Doctor and General Practitioner gave a presentation on Cervical cancer to women.

Prof. Angie Maphula spoke about mental health of women on what it should mean and what it should not mean after 30 years of Democracy. Women die a slow death in silence as they face

emotional, physical or financial wellness challenges. This is entailed with bills, work, and also being a mother and some common signs faced by women is they are always in a depressed mood most of the day, nearly every day, and have a markedly diminished interest or pleasure in all, or almost all, activities most of the day, nearly every day including Significant weight loss when not dieting or weight gain or decrease or increase in appetite nearly every day. She encouraged women to set up their mindset to start being positive and find a reason to smile and be different and that for them to overcome they



UNIVEN Convocation hosts Fundraising Dinner to support unfunded and indebted students



On Photo: UNIVEN Chancellor, Adv Mojanku Gumbi

On Friday, 23 August 2024, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) hosted the Convocation Fundraising Gala Dinner to support the University's unfunded and indebted students. The Convocation Fundraising Gala Dinner took place at Protea Hotel, Fire and Ice in Menlyn, Pretoria.

The gala dinner was graced by the presence of various companies, provincial and national government departments, SETAs, convocation members, alumni, parastatals and other compassionate individuals who are keen on making a lasting impact on the lives of needy students. Through this initiative, the University aims to raise funds that will pave the way for deserving students to continue their educational pursuits without the weight of financial uncertainty.

UNIVEN Chancellor, Adv Mojanku Gumbi said there are things that help us to wake up every morning and one of them is to wake up and fight to make our lives a better living. "We fight to make our lives better and for our future including fighting for our children's future. We are all fighting to create a better life for our country and the world." Adv Gumbi said education is at the core of nation-building. She said education has a string coronation for human development. "Education fosters the ability to adjust to new technology and promotes understanding. It also reduces poverty. It is a key factor in poverty reduction. We need to invest in education if we are serious about solving many challenges with which we are faced. We need to solve these challenges ourselves. We should not expect other people to come and solve our challenges. We need to take primary measures to solve our challenges." She continued to express that the best volunteers in the world have invested in education. We must also take primary responsibility of educating our own children. She said the support from our government is always there, but it will never be enough.

When addressing attendees on challenges of student funding in historically disadvantaged universities, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni opened his talk by expressing his heartfelt appreciation to all attendees for sparing their time and spending their money to support the ideals and vision of this University. He told them that their support is a testament to their unwavering support and commitment to UNIVEN. Prof Nthambeleni paid tribute to the late Professor Gessler Muxe Nkondo, whom he described as a giant who has made immense con-

tributions to the making of UNIVEN. Prof Nkondo is the first UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal since the advent of democracy in 1994.

When talking about the role of alumni and convocation in shaping the future of the university, Prof Nthambeleni mentioned that events such as Convocation Fundraising Gala Dinner are crucial. He said they are not just important in so far as fundraising is concerned. "They are crucial because they give us a platform to reconnect with each other. We use these gatherings to reflect on the progress we are making in pursuit of our strategic objectives. These occasions also provide us with an opportunity to listen to the views of alumni and convocation on how best we can move our university forward."

As he was talking about student funding challenges for historically disadvantaged universities, Prof Nthambeleni pointed out that a historically disadvantaged university does not enjoy the privilege of large endowments and wealth funds characteristic of historically advantaged institutions. "Our University largely depends on government subsidy and student fees to support and sustain its academic project. Meanwhile, the cost of teaching, learning, and research has been on the rise, increasing the burden of tuition on students and management."

He continued to indicate that the responsibility to find alternative streams of income is now imperative; no university can survive without it. "That responsibility weighs even more heavily for a university such as ours."

Prof Nthambeleni said that the higher education sector is faced with a crisis. This crisis is characterised by a decline in higher education funding, rising student debt, and the challenge of missing middle students.

"Government funding for higher education has been in decline for years now. A report by PricewaterhouseCoopers revealed that state contributions to university education declined from 49% at the beginning of the century to 40% by 2012. This trend has not been reversed since," he said. When talking about the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, Prof Nthambeleni mentioned that NSFAS has produced more beneficiaries than can be counted and this changed the fortunes of many black students. "Since the advent of democracy, our Post School Education and Training sec-

tor has seen an increase in access to higher education. The sector has grown from 750 000 students in 2005, to 1 109 000 students in 2022. What is more encouraging is the growth of Black (African, Coloured, and Indian) students, which grew from 75% in 2005 to 89% in 2022."



On photo: Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni

Prof Nthambeleni further told the audience that the governance challenges that have plagued NSFAS must not be allowed to ruin an institution that has delivered hope to most of our students since the dawn of democracy than any other institution.



On photo: President of Convocation, Mr Sylvester Motadi

In his opening remarks, the President of Convocation, Mr Sylvester Motadi revealed that there are over 560 000 students who owe universities today. He said this challenge keeps surging despite pronouncements for free higher education. Mr Motadi said while there is increased access to education, about which we must be happy, funding from the government cannot keep up with the demand for higher education and the increasing costs of education. "It goes without saying that the challenge of student debt is huge and requires a bold effort. It also requires action and contextual levels, such as fundraising gala dinners. Each student in debt is an individual. He or she is not simply part of over 500 000 students who are currently in debt. That student is a child of his or her parents and comes from a community which has the social responsibility to nurture." Motadi said he is happy because the number of alumni, sponsors and donors that were in attendance affirmed his views that we need collective efforts to find solutions for this challenge.



On photo: Secretary to Gauteng Alumni Chapter, Dr Fhatuwani Mutuvhi

UNIVEN Convocation hosts Fundraising Dinner to support unfunded and indebted students cont...

When welcoming attendees, the Secretary to Gauteng Alumni Chapter, Dr Fhatuwani Mutuvhi said they were in attendance carrying a slogan- failure is not an option to them. He told attendees that their commitment and choice to be part of this fundraising gala dinner are rooted in their desire to change the lives of young needy students who represent the future generation.



Prof Sylvester Mpandeli, Executive Manager at the Water Research Commission

In a call to donate, Prof Sylvester Mpandeli, who is the Executive Manager at the Water Research Commission, said his first degree is from UNIVEN and if it was not because of UNIVEN, he would not be where he is today. He said he has made a commitment that he will sponsor three final-year students for the next ten years. "Today, I am regarded as one of the global experts because of UNIVEN." He encouraged attendees and other alumni of this university to also donate whatever will assist students, including gadgets such as laptops, calculators and so on.

"Use your strategic positions to channel resources to where you come from. This is our university, and no one will come from outside and rescue our university. Let us appreciate what we have and take care of what we have. Let us help our brothers and sisters to be where we are today. With whatever little resources we have, let us share because sharing is caring. Let us give without expecting anything in return. Use your networks to mobilise resources."



On photo: Deputy President of Convocation, Mr Rudzani Mushweu

In his vote of thanks message, the Deputy President of Convocation, Mr Rudzani Mushweu told attendees that it is not how much they give, but about how much that donation makes a difference in someone's life.



4th year BA Language Practice students embark on a three months Work Integrated Learning



On photo: Group photo of attendees

On Monday, 29 July 2024 the University's African Languages and Language Practice in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education hosted the Limpopo Department of Justice, Mpumalanga Department of Justice, Mpumalanga Legislature and Limpopo Home Cinema during the Induction and Orientation Workshop that was organised for 4th year BA Language Practice students.

These students shall be commencing with their Work Integrated Learning (WIL) at the above-mentioned government departments and agencies. This Work Integrated Learning Induction and Orientation Workshop took place at the University's Maths and Science Building Seminar Room.

The purpose of this induction and Orientation Workshop was multifaceted as they will be going to different organisations that are offering diverse work exposures. These students were advised to prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead, and to be reminded about their vital role that they play in bridging communication gaps in the varied and interconnected world.

Their commitment to the study of languages, literature, and communication has equipped them with a unique set of skills that are increasingly valuable in the globalised society. These students have not only mastered the art of language but also developed a deep understanding of cultural distinctions, which is essential in fostering empathy and mutual respect in various communities.

Practicals are a crucial component of their BA Language Practice programme because they offer students an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings to experience the dynamics of professional environments, and to refine their skills through hands-on practice. This experience is invaluable as it will help them gain insights into various fields such as translation, interpretation, editing, content creation, and more.

As these students prepare to step into these roles, they were urged to remember that this is the time for learning and growth. They will face challenges, and they may encounter situations that push them out of their comfort zone. But it is precisely in these moments that they will learn the most about the profession, about others, and most importantly, about themselves. They were advised that, as language practitioners, they have a unique responsibility. They are not just translators of words, but also translators of cultures and ideas. They play a crucial role in facilitating understanding and communication in an increasingly interconnected world. Whether they are working in media, education, corporate communication, or community outreach, their work will have a profound impact on the people and organisations they serve.

As these students embark on this next phase of their journey, they should embrace the opportunities that come their way with enthusiasm and an open mind. They should seek to learn not only from their successes but also from their mistakes. They were advised to build relationships with their mentors, peers, and professionals in the field.

Tip Offs

If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus

Contact the University Hotline

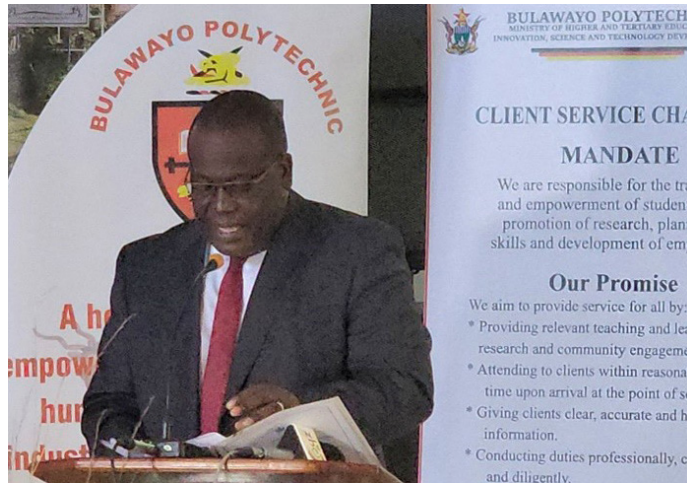
Toll free number 0800 212 755
or email: univenhotline@tip-offs.com

Improper conduct includes the following:

1. Financial misconduct,
2. Misuse or misappropriation of University assets,
3. Health and safety risks,
4. Plagiarism,
5. Fraud and corruption.

Director Community Engagement Entrepreneurship Inclusive Innovation and Commercialization led the UNIVEN delegation to Bulawayo Polytechnic Research and Innovation Week

From 10-12 July 2024, the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Community Engagement Entrepreneurship Inclusive Innovation and Commercialization Department participated in the Bulawayo Polytechnic Research and Innovation Week that took place in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.



In picture: Mr Paul Nyoni officially opening the Research and Innovation (R&I) week

The Bulawayo Polytechnic Research and Innovation Week is a significant event that was held under the theme: Collaborate, Innovate, Industrialise: Practical Solutions for Sustainable Development. This theme, which underscores the crucial role of collaboration and innovation in industrialisation for sustainable development, was a key point of discussion throughout the research and innovation week. It also attracted local universities and learners from local primary and secondary schools. South Africa's Mangosuthu University of Technology, University of Zululand, and Namibia's Ongenga Technical College also participated in the Research and Innovation Week. The UNIVEN delegation's visit helped to enhance the operationalisation of the MoU that the University of Venda signed with the Bulawayo Polytechnic in September 2023. The Bulawayo Polytechnic Research and Innovation started with the breakfast briefing hosted by the college and the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Bernard Nthambeleni and the University of Venda, Professor Netshandama said that UNIVEN had to be part of the Research and Innovation Week because the theme resonates with the strategy of positioning UNIVEN for relevance and impact. She emphasised the importance of involving the communities our universities serve in measuring and defining the impact. Prof Netshandama appreciated recognising the Indigenous Knowledge System through the Heritage Based Education 5.0 adopted by the Zimbabwean Institutions of Higher Learning. Professor Netshandama urged Institutions to push for inclusive industrialisation that benefits society so that Industries do not oppress the people. She added that the University of Venda had two deliberate niche areas, Indigenous Knowledge System and Heritage and Biodiversity One Health, aimed to redress and show the connection between man and the biosphere.

Professor Netshandama also had the opportunity to speak to Yolanda from the Zimbabwean Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) on the second day of the Bulawayo Polytechnic Research and Innovation Week. In an interview

with ZBC, Prof Netshandama said that we need an integrated approach between disciplines and faculties, communities, and industry for innovation to thrive and ensure that it is sustainable to develop the country and region.



In picture: Prof Vhonani Netshandama giving remarks from UNIVEN

She expressed her excitement about being part of the event, highlighting the challenges experienced by Zimbabwe and South Africa and all institutions present at the Research Innovation Week. There is a need for regional collaboration in innovation and bringing Indigenous knowledge heritage and ways to the creative enabling environment and innovative spaces in colleges and universities, Prof said.

Mr. Rudzani Mamphweli, Community Engagement Officer in the Directorate of Community Engagement Entrepreneurship Inclusive Innovation, was part of the UNIVEN delegation to Bulawayo Polytechnic Research and Innovation Week. He presented various academic programmes offered by the University of Venda to high school learners who were part of the Research and Innovation Week. He urged students to consider UNIVEN, the international university of choice, a student centered university that produces locally relevant and globally competitive graduates.



In picture: Prof Vhonani Netshandama in conversation with Yolanda from ZBC news

Prof LO Amusa's Public Lecture dissects Leisure and Recreation Spaces including Gaps and Opportunities in South Africa

The University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Department of Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science under the Faculty of Health Sciences recently held a Memorial Lecture to honor Prof. LO Amusa. This Memorial Lecture took place at the University's Research Conference Centre and streamed at the Faculty of Health Sciences lecture halls. Renowned for his groundbreaking impact, Professor Amusa was the founding Head of the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sports Science at UNIVEN's School of Health Sciences.

Before his last appointment at UNIVEN, Prof Amusa was the founding Head of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Botswana, Gaborone. He served as the Africa Regional Representative of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) based in Berlin, Germany. The ICSSPE is the umbrella professional body in Physical Education and Sport Science that is officially recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), United Nations, and the International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS). Amusa's legacy as a scholar and mentor was celebrated as staff, students and external guest commemorate his life and work.



Above picture: Dr Makhaya Malema delivering a Public Lecture

The lecture was delivered by Dr Makhaya Malema and the focus was on Leisure and Recreation Spaces in South Africa - Gaps and Opportunities. Dr Makhaya highlighted that most people engage in recreation activities during their leisure time and that there are so many benefits of leisure. He said there are positive and negative leisure activities that may harm our bodies. He said negative leisure activities include smoking and excessive alcohol consumption. Disabled people are sidelined on leisure as there are no adequate leisure spaces specifically for them.

"Recreational activities and accessibility should be specific to meet the needs of everyone and accommodate them according to their abilities. There are still many gaps that need to be closed in the leisure space."

"South African policies and legislations involving people with disabilities do not offer much in terms of implementation to uplift, empower and develop beneficiaries. The youth appear to be victims of policies and social ills and an example, is lack of feasible implementation of the policies to effect change for people with disabilities. There are policies for youth in South Africa, such as the National Youth Policy and National Disability Rights Policy."

Dr Makhaya Malema, a UNIVEN alumnus is an early career researcher and teacher in the field of Leisure and Recreation delivered this lecture. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sport, Recreation and Exercise Sciences at the University of the Western Cape. He holds a PhD in Sports, Recreation and Exercise Sciences, with background teachings and qualifications in Sports, Leisure and Recreation management. His current research focuses on youth with disability leadership development and leisure education. His secondary research interest is student wellness and their academic success through leisure and recreational programmes. Makhaya is involved in community recreation programmes with NGOs from disadvantaged backgrounds and health institutions for special populations.

When officially opening the Memorial Lecture, the Executive Dean of the

Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi highlighted that recreation is about people's health and well-being. She encouraged attendees to engage in recreation and leisure activities to improve the health and well-being.



On photo: Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences



On photo: Mr Phumudzo Mulibana gave a vote of thanks

Prof Eric Maluta has received the first SAIP Physics Education Award



Professor Eric Maluta has received the first South Africa Institute of Physics (SAIP) Award during SAIP's 68th Annual Conference that was hosted by Rhodes University at Grahams Town from 01 - 05 July 2024. The prize was awarded for his sustainable commitment and excellence in Physics education through selflessly supporting and contributing to the efforts of the SAIP to improve, support, pioneer and entrench best practices and suitable methods of teaching and learning physics in South Africa. The South Africa Institute of Physics aims to improve literacy, numeracy and mathematics and science

outcomes, including to increase the number of students who can study mathematics and science-based degrees at universities.

Professor Maluta has been a pioneer of the SAIP teacher development programme in different provinces of South Africa. As the Chair of the Local Organising Committee of the SAIP annual conference in 2019, his leadership roles assisted him to be nominated as a member of the SAIP council with the portfolio of Teachers Development Programme. He was able to engage different stakeholders and promote the teacher's development programme to different districts and provinces in South Africa, through funding from Allan Gray Foundation.

The SAIP teacher's development started at the University of Johannesburg, Soweto Science Centre and was brought to Vhembe East and Vhembe West Education districts as they were targeted areas, due to the districts' dedications of producing excellent science learners in Grade 12. The SAIP programme has been running in these two districts for many years and it has been improving the learners' results. Professor Maluta's dedication of reaching as many rural and urban areas has been archived as the programme was rolled out in different districts in parts of the nine provinces of South Africa. The SAIP Physics Teacher Development Programme is South African Council of Educators (SACE) accredited and has attracted more educators.

Professor Maluta is currently the newly appointed Director of the Green Technology Confucius Institute and as a physicist and science communicator, he is a member of the South Africa Institute of Physics Council as President-Elect and will resume the presidential duties of the SAIP in July 2025 after the annual conference. He is currently a member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), Commission 14 on Teachers Education and the South African Association of Science and Technology Centres Board of Directors.

UNIVEN Body Building team of students compete in the IFBBSA National Championships



On photo: UNIVEN Body Building Team at the results centre

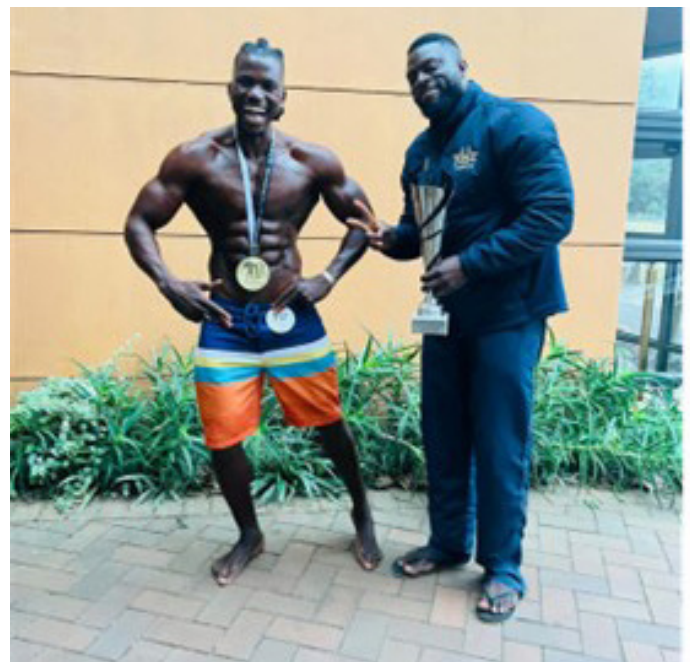
UNIVEN Body Building honoured an invitation to compete with other universities and teams nationally at the Body Building South Africa National Championship, a competition sanctioned by the International Federation of Body Building (IFBB). The Championship was hosted in KwaZulu-Natal from 31 July - 04 August 2024. A total of five (05) students who represented UNIVEN during the championships were crowned as winners and results of the competition were as follows:

- Full Names Qualifying Category and Position
- Mr. Honyini Gideon 1st on Men's muscular Physique under 177cm
 - Mr. Patrick Maweto 1st on Senior Men Bodybuilding under 100kg
 - Mr. Joseph Mabulele 3rd Men's muscular Physique over 178cm
 - Mr. Ntokozo Khoza 3rd Men's muscular Physique under 178cm
 - Mr. Lennon Moguru 6th on Junior's Under 23 Bodybuilding

In total, UNIVEN Body Building team obtained 2 Gold Medals, 1 Silver Medal

and 2 Bronze Medals. The team is currently waiting for the Body Building South Africa to officially announce the team that will proceed to represent the country at the World Body Building Championships to be held in Israel during the month of September 2024.

The Body Building championships started with the Provincial Qualifiers wherein UNIVEN Body Building team was well represented with over eight students selected to proceed to the National Championships.



On photo: Mr Gideon Honyini and Patrick Maweto displaying medal and trophy

UNIVEN and SABS MoU signifies dedication to advancing excellence in innovation and standards for higher education and industry



L-R: UNIVEN Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni and SABS Acting CEO, Mr Lizo Makele

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) signifies a collaborative partnership aimed at fostering cooperation in research, development, and knowledge exchange. Through this MoU, both institutions intend to leverage their respective expertise and resources to drive innovation, enhance standards, and contribute to the advancement of various fields. The MoU outlines the framework for joint projects, sharing of facilities, and capacity building initiatives that will benefit both institutions and the broader community. This partnership is poised to bring about meaningful advancements in education, research, and industrial practices. This five-year renewable MoU was signed on Tuesday, 13 August 2024 at SABS in Pretoria.

The University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni led a delegation of Executive and Senior Leadership to the signing ceremony. On behalf of the University, Prof Nthambeleni expressed that this signing ceremony is a demonstration of our agility, responsiveness and determination towards creating a brighter future for our nation, hence, the gathering was to strengthen collaborations and explore opportunities for the development of our country and institutions.

Prof Nthambeleni expressed that the signing ceremony is taking place at a challenging time when our country is faced with growing numbers of unemployment, widening inequality and persistent pockets of poverty, yet Stats SA reports that the number of unemployed people in South Africa continues to increase. He shared that the University aims to produce graduates that would drive the change we wish to see in our country. In his remarks he indicated that UNIVEN is pursuing a strategic plan that would enable its graduates to thrive in the most challenging environments.

The Strategic Plan 2021-2025 has set a new tra-

jectory which has rejuvenated and positioned the University of Venda for impact and relevance. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal underscored that this strategy continues to provide the basis for efficient and effective implementation of the University's academic project with a primary focus on enhancing students' learning experiences, engaged scholarship (which is characterised by high-impact research output), promotion of entrepreneurial development as well as the establishment of partnerships with various strategic partners within the borders of our country, the African continent, and the world at large. He said that any great achievement, any significant milestone, any sustainable progress cannot be achieved alone. "We have placed partnerships at the centre of what we do. It is through partnerships and collaboration that we can foster greater understanding between our institutions."

In conclusion, Prof Nthambeleni, highlighted that this collaboration will also be of great value to our technology development efforts, indicating that the University has recently launched the Green Technology Confucius Institute (GTCI) that seeks to develop green technologies to support our country's energy mix.

He maintained that the SABS role as the local content verification body will be of strategic importance in this regard. The two CEOs remarks were followed by overview presentations from each institution where the COO of SABS, Mr Lungelo Ntobongwana and UNIVEN's Director Strategy and Risk, Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo presented, respectively.

During his opening remarks, Mr Lizo Makele, the Acting CEO of SABS, expressed his deep respect for the new collaboration with the University of Venda, noting their dedication in creating future leaders through their commitment to transformation. Mr Makele thanked the UNIVEN leadership for their dedication and eagerness to collaborate with the South African Bureau of Standards. He stated that this partnership represents the initial commitment to promoting excellence, innovation, and standards in both education and industry. He also mentioned that "today, we mark an important milestone in building a strong partnership between SABS and UNIVEN. Our goal is to align our efforts to enhance quality safety and sustainability in various sectors, and through the process, both SABS and UNIVEN united by the common feeling of planning progress and achieving excellence in our respective fields. In partnership, we can harness our collective expertise to address challenges and find new opportunities and set higher standards for future generations."

Mr Makele explained that the two institutions will focus on collaborative research initiatives aimed at developing innovation that meets high standards of quality and safety. "Our joint efforts will contribute to creating cutting edge talents and practices that benefit various industry centres and communities," he added. He further said that "with this MoU, we tend to implement programmes that enhance skills and knowledge among students, professionals and industries. Mr Makele committed to working together to promote the importance of standardisation and

quality assurance in education and industry. He mentioned that this MoU marks the beginning of a new chapter in their partnership, built on mutual respect, shared goals, and a commitment to excellence. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to a fruitful and impactful collaboration.

Mr Ntobongwana gave a brief overview of SABS highlighting that it was established in 1945 and is a leading organisation in standardisation and quality assurance in South Africa. By setting and upholding standards, the SABS plays a crucial role in facilitating trade, ensuring consumer protection, and driving economic development in South Africa.

Dr Ratombo highlighted that UNIVEN strives to be an institution of impact in whatever they do and the programmes offered make our students impactful to the society. He also informed delegates that UNIVEN is in the process of establishing two satellite campuses where in Makhado the focus will be on Executive Business School, while in Nkuzana the focus will be in Agriculture.

The signing ceremony was facilitated by Adv Simphiwe Lubisi from (UNIVEN legal Services Department and SABS Senior Legal Advisor, Mr Maloza Mkhubela. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza expressed vote of thanks on behalf of UNIVEN while SABS was represented by Ms Tami Mashau.



On photo: UNIVEN Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni (2nd from left), SABS Acting CEO, Mr Lizo Makele (2nd from right) and UNIVEN and SABS delegates witnessing the signing of MoU



On photo: UNIVEN and SABS delegates pose for a photo after the signing of the MoU

Experimental Farm under the Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Agriculture hosted a Livestock farmers workshop to prepare for Farmers Day 2024



The Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture's mandate to strengthen the collaboration between the University and local farmers in addressing food security and to contribute to the sustainable development goals of ending hunger, was enhanced when more than 160 livestock farmers from Collins Chabane, Musina, Makhado, and Thulamela municipalities within the Vhembe District Municipality gathered for a full day workshop organised by Ms. Thifheli Kutama, the Experimental Farm Manager in collaboration with Professor Maluta, the Director of Green Technology Confucius Institute at the University of Venda.

The workshop was divided in two sessions. The first session included presentations from faculty experts and external speakers who discussed climate change, smart agriculture, and sustainable energy in the agricultural sector. The workshop aimed to provide farmers with the knowledge and tools to address and overcome industry challenges. Speakers included Dr. Pulane Sebothomo from the Agricultural Research Council, who presented on enhancing pig production and nutrition.

She also discussed alternative feed sources of non-conventional feed sources that farmers could explore to supplement pig feed; Dr. Livhuwani Masevhe from the Department of Science and Innovation discussed the connection between climate change, energy, and food security. He stressed the significance of shifting to precision farming through the adoption of advanced technologies to enhance production efficiency and farm productivity; Professor David Tinarwo from the Physics Department in the Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Agriculture spoke about sustainable energy in farming practices. He demonstrated how farmers could generate biogas energy from farm waste and utilise the by-product as a liquid fertiliser for their crops; Mr. Makhado Nengovhela from Paulus April Consulting discussed environmental compliance requirements in detail.

This included topics such as water rights and licensing, as well as compliance with the National Environmental Management Act of 1998 and its amendments, particularly the Environmental Impact Regulations Listing no. 1 of 2014; Dr. Rodney Managa from the Human Sciences Research Council [HSRC] emphasised the importance of supporting local livestock farmers in adopting climate-smart innovations.

He highlighted successful programmes the government had already committed to through the Department of Science and Innovation; Mr. Donald Hlongwane from SEDA explained the funding options available to support farmers financially and how they assist farmers by helping them develop and draft business plans. He also emphasised that farming is not just about food production but also a business; Mr. Emmanuel Mudau from Mathuba Genetics shared his practical experience and offered valuable guidance to the farmers who were in attendance, helping them improve their farming practices.

In the second session, a panel discussion was moderated by Professor Eric Maluta and Ms. Thifheli Kutama. In this session, farmers had the opportunity to interact with the experts and ask questions about their daily challenges and experiences in farming. The panel of experts included all speakers and Dr. Masiza Mikasi from the Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Agriculture. Each of these experts provided a unique perspective and expertise to the discussion.

The faculty is planning to have more workshops such as this to engage with the local farmers that would include very specific and detailed topics such as poultry production, pig farming, cattle farming, and small stock farming. These workshops would allow farmers to engage in more specialised learning and discussions tailored to their farming practices.



L-R: Prof Eric Maluta, the Director of Green Technology Confucius Institute at the University of Venda moderated the panel discussion and Experimental farm Manager Ms. Thifheli Kutama explaining the purpose of the livestock workshop



On photo: Prof Natasha Potgieter, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, officially opening the Livestock workshop



L-R: The panel members and experts interacting with farmers during the discussion and Livestock farmers who attended the workshop

UNIVEN Experimental Farm supports the welfare of Thoho ya Nzie initiative



The image above shows Experimental Farm Manager Ms. Thifheli Kutama and her team members, Mr. Khangwelo Selapyane and Mr. Rendani Lepaka handing over farm produce to Dr. Gloria Dama and Dr. Morongoa Takalani from Thoho ya Nzie welfare group

On July 31, 2024, the Farm Manager, Ms Thifheli Kutama, and her team, partnered with the UNIVEN Advancement Unit to donate fresh produce from the Experimental farm to the Thoho ya Nzie welfare programme. Thoho ya Nzie is a welfare programme established by the University to support unfunded indigent students with food and other necessities. The partnership has the full support of Prof Natasha Potgieter, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Agriculture. The management of the indigents database falls under the Student Counselling Unit.

Currently, over 55 certified indigent students receive food parcels every month, however, the number of students seeking assistance exceeds 100. The programme relies on donations to maintain a food bank and sometimes needs more resources to replenish. This prompted the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture to donate farm produce from the experimental farm in response to the call for support. The donation consisted of 80 trays of eggs, vegetables, and freshly harvested tomatoes from the hydroponic tunnel at the Experimental farm. This Faculty is committed to contributing to food security in response to the global mandate of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG) from the United Nations for 2030 to end hunger. The aim is to achieve zero hunger, eliminate malnutrition, and address food insecurity. Student centeredness is central to the University's commitment and not only includes teaching students to equipping them with skills, fostering collaboration, and co-creating solutions for our communities, but also to reach out to all needs within the student community. The experimental farm provides academic and research support to undergraduate and postgraduate students and various staff members of the University of Venda (UNIVEN), the communities in the Limpopo province as well as researchers and academics from other institutions.

The farm consists of different livestock units, including pig production, poultry production, small stock production, and beef production. UNIVEN students learn to produce eggs, broiler chickens, porkers, and fattening beef cattle for meat production. The crop science units include orchards where students grow various seasonal vegetable crops, a nursery, hydroponic tunnels, and a greenhouse where crops are produced in a controlled environment. Students who are studying agriculture get the opportunity to practice on the farm after completing theory lessons. Research is also conducted on the experimental farm. Entrepreneurial skills are transferred to students through practical and research activities, teaching them about the complete food value chain and food security. The farm produce is sold to the university community to support these educational initiatives..



The image above shows fresh tomatoes growing in the hydroponic tunnel at the experimental farm



The image above shows the Experimental Farm Manager, Ms Thifheli Kutama, at the Piggery unit

University of Venda and the Beihang University establish collaboration in research, teaching, and scholarship for a Joint African-China Lab



On picture: Group photo of the delegates at the Natural Science building



On picture: Delegates at the GIS Laboratory

The University of Venda hosted the Beihang University delegation from China on Joint Africa-China Lab on research, Staff and Student Exchange, Student Scholarship and Research partnership discussions.

On July 25, 2024, the University of Venda, under the leadership of Prof. Eric Maluta, the Director of the Green Technology Confucius Institute (GTCI), together with the Faculty of Science Engineering and Agriculture, International Relations and Partnerships, hosted a two-day workshop with delegates from Beihang University. Among the delegates were Prof. Jin Tian (Deputy Registrar of Beihang University), Prof. Yang Donkai, from the School of Electronics and Information Engineering at the International Innovation Institute of Beihang University, and Mr. Zou Yunchao who is a PhD candidate for Satellite Navigation at the same university. The primary purpose of the visit was to establish collaboration in research, teaching, and scholarship for a Joint African-China Lab.

The collaboration will involve the exchange of students and staff. The colleagues from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning led by Dr. Ingwani, presented the progress report on issues related to co- Africa-China Joint Lab, which is a Consortium between the University of Venda, the University of Pretoria, and the South African National Space Agency in collaboration with Beihang University. Prof. Lutendo Murulana (Deputy Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture) is one of the coordinators of this collaboration representing the University of Venda.

The delegates engaged in discussion with colleagues from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Manager of the Experimental Farm at the University of Venda. The discussions led to the development of a new research topics and the group is currently writing the proposal for the co-Africa-China Joint Lab. One of the students from URP will be joining the Beihang University research for her master's studies in Space Technology Application.

The delegates visited different university facilities, including the experimental farm and laboratories of the Department of Earth Sciences and the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences. During the visit, Prof. Yang Donkai discussed the potential use of technology to analyse data through satellite remote sensors and transform the University of Venda experimental farm from manual to precision farming. We can use satellites and remote sensors to gather data and improve efficiency and sustainability.

In a discussion, Prof. Yang Donkai, Prof. Maluta, and the Farm Manager agreed to come up with a research project on monitoring and managing crops and animals. We can monitor crops growing on the hydroponic tunnels to identify when crops need water, fertilizers, and pest control. Remote sensing can provide valuable insights into crop performance, nutrient levels, and plant health. This can contribute to reducing waste and increasing yield while protecting the environment by minimising the use of chemicals.



UNIVEN recognises whistleblowers as role-players in exposing fraud, corruption and unethical behaviour within the University



On photo above: Mrs Diana Makwarela

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) prides itself as an institution that promotes governance for outstanding scholarship through its management system value chain. This University is also committed to good corporate governance.

On Wednesday, 10 July 2024, the University, through the Risk Management Unit, organised an online seminar to commemorate International Whistleblowers' Day. This Webinar took place on Microsoft Teams, and it was overwhelmingly attended by more than 144 participants.

The guest speakers for the webinar were the University's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni and Executive Dean for the Faculty of Management, Commerce, and Law, Prof Barwa Kanyane.

The aim of the webinar was to commemorate World Whistleblowers Day which is observed annually on 23rd June. Through this webinar, the Risk Management Unit intended to raise awareness about the importance of responsible whistleblowing and protection of whistleblowers.

The awareness was important in promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical behaviour within the University community while recognising whistleblowers as the role-players in exposing corruption and unethical behaviour.

The webinar further reassured the potential whistleblowers and university community about the protection that the university would provide to whistleblowers against possible victimisation. The bravery and determination of the whistleblowers who speak up and report fraud, corruption and wrongdoing will be recognised as a positive impact that strengthens the integrity of the University.

The University is determined to treat every day as a day of empathy for whistleblowers and to promote the culture of reporting fraud, corruption and any illegal activities taking place within the University.

University Management encourages the university community and stakeholders to play a meaningful role in rooting out any identified form of fraud, corruption and wrongdoing.

As the programme director, Mrs Diana Makwarela conveyed a message of appreciation to staff members who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the World Whistleblowers Day webinar.

If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus, Contact the University Hotline Toll free number 0800 212 755 or email: univenhotline@tip-offs.com.



On photo above: Prof Bernard Nthambeleni



On photo above: Prof Barwa Kanyane

UNIVEN Debate Fraternity reaches the finals of the Southern African Universities Debating Championships (SAUDC)



On photo: UNIVEN Debate Fraternity

UNIVEN Debate Fraternity honoured an invitation to compete with other universities nationally and regionally at the Southern African Debating Championship (SAUDC). The 2024 Debating Championship was hosted by the University of Botswana from 07 – 14 July and had over 11 participating universities from South Africa including the University of Fort Hare, Tshwane University of Technology, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Walter Sisulu University, University of Johannesburg, Wits University and Central University of Technology amongst others. From the SADC region, over 15 universities took part in the tournament including National University of Science and Technology (NUST) from Namibia and Zimbabwe, respectively. The event was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Botswana, Prof David Norris.

UNIVEN Debate Fraternity sent a delegation of five (05) teams (two students per team) and 4 adjudicators making it a total of 14 students. Dr Percy Mugwedi (Sports Administrator) and Ms Thelma Mashola (Debate Coach) traveled with the team and facilitated the logistics and technical aspects of the competition.

The National tournament runs for seven (7) days with 9 preliminary rounds and 6 out rounds. The out rounds are put into two categories, first category is on English First Language (normally called “open” where only those who have participated in nationals are eligible to compete after preliminary rounds); the second category is called English Second Language (where only those who are attending nationals for the first time are eligible to compete after the out rounds). At the end of the tournament, 2 UNIVEN teams had advanced to the ESL Quarter Finals and one (01) student advanced to the semifinals of public speaking. Two of the adjudicators broke for judging both semifinals and Grand Finals of public speaking while the other two adjudicators broke to adjudicate debate quarterfinals and semifinals.

From the teams that qualified for the out rounds, one team was knocked out at quarter finals and the other team advanced all the way to the Grand Finals of the English Second Language category and finished in position two (2) as the overall English Second Language Category. One student obtained number nine (9) in the top 10 of the best ESL speakers and was awarded a Merit Certificate. Three (3) students further obtained 4th , 5th and 6th positions as the Best Public Speakers while one student got the award of Best Public Speaking Adjudicators and were both awarded with medals and Merit Certificates.

The overall institutional rankings qualify UNIVEN Debate Fraternity to proceed and compete at the Pan African Universities Debating Championships (PAUDC) to be hosted by Kyambogo University in Uganda in September and October 2024.

Ms Mokgadi Millicent Shongwe a second-year student studying BSc in Biochemistry and Microbiology from UNIVEN was elected to serve on the SAUDC (Southern African Universities Debating Championships) Council as an Equity Officer for the year 2024/25 and she will preside over fairness, accountability and student discipline portfolio.



On the above picture: Ms. Mokgadi Millicent Shongwe, SAUDC Equity Officer

Young PhD Candidate Sweeps Research Awards for three Consecutive Years Shaping Future of Public Health



On photo: Muimeleli Munyadziwa

"Meet Muimeleli Munyadziwa, the trailblazing young woman who has scooped Research Awards in three consecutive years in the field of Public Health. As we commemorate Women's Month, her remarkable achievements stand as a testament to female excellence in academia. Driven by passion and dedication, she continues to push the boundaries of knowledge and inspire others with her groundbreaking work. Let's celebrate her contributions and the countless other women making waves in the world of Public Health this month and beyond."

Ms Munyadziwa, a 28-year-old, 2nd year PhD candidate in Public Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Venda, has once again proven her excellence.

She was awarded with the First Prize for the Best Poster and Experimental setup during the UNIVEN 2024 Research Open Day Awards, held on 19 July 2024, marking her third win in three years in a row. In 2022, Ms Munyadziwa earned her first prize for her Master's degree poster presentation.

The following year (2023), she started her PhD in Public Health focusing on childhood trauma. Her goal is to develop a Trauma informed curriculum that helps primary school teachers support children dealing with trauma in Limpopo Province. "Children are very close to my heart," she said. "It's important to make sure they are protected and helped as they also hold the future for tomorrow."

In 2023, her research experimental setup won her another top award (1st prize). This year (2024), she presented one of the phases of her PhD study, again impressing judges. As a woman, this achievement

is meaningful, especially as we celebrate Women's Month. Munyadziwa's journey shows the power and potential of women. She encourages all women to work hard and not give up. "It's not easy, but it's doable," she highlighted. She balances being a mother of three, a wife, and a nurse at a Correctional Centre. She encourages women to take on business roles, contribute financially, engage in community work, and succeed in education.

She expressed deep gratitude for the support and supervision from her PhD mentors, Prof Lufuno Makhado and Prof. Angelina Maphula both from UNIVEN.

Muimeleli acknowledges their important role in her research and career development. She mentioned that their guidance has been instrumental in shaping her journey towards becoming an academic researcher. As August Women's Month continues, Muimeleli Munyadziwa's story stands as a beacon of inspiration. Her achievements not only celebrate her personal victories but also serve as a powerful reminder to women everywhere of their potential to excel and inspire others.

The University congratulates Ms Muimeleli Munyadziwa on her hard work, dedication, and innovative that have truly made a significant impact in the field of Public Health. "Your achievements are an inspiration to us all. Well done and best wishes for your future research endeavours", said the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi.

We would like to hear from you!

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