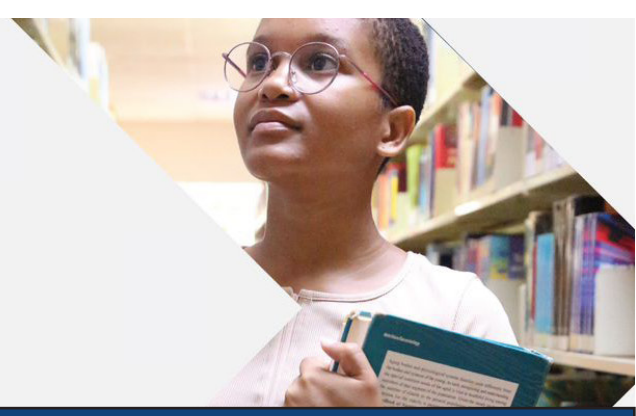




University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

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The University of Venda equips Staff and Students with an informative Intellectual Property Training

The University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Directorate of Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation (DCEIIC) through its Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) has on 09 October 2024 hosted a training workshop session on Intellectual Property (IP) at UNIVEN Research Conference Centre. This workshop was aimed at equipping UNIVEN staff members and students with the essential knowledge and understanding about the importance of Intellectual Property. The training covered topics such as the Introduction to IP and different kinds of IP; Legislation Governing IP Emanating from Higher Education Institutions; Protection, Ownership and Commercialisation of IP.

In her welcoming and opening remarks, Prof Vhonani Netshandama, Director of Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation expressed deep gratitude to guest speakers from Tshaya Mashabela Attorneys Inc, Ms Bontle Chokoe who is the Associate IP Attorney and Mrs Tumelo Mashabela, Managing Director and Patent Attorney for their valued presence. Prof Netshandama highlighted the University's commitment as a publicly funded institution, emphasising its social responsibility and the importance of collaboration. She mentioned the critical role of Intellectual Property (IP) in fostering creativity and innovation, stressing that the institution's approach to research involves academics, students and the community. She concluded by highlighting the importance of widely sharing knowledge gained from the workshop discussions.



Some of the workshop attendees



Ms. Bontle Chokoe, Associate IP Attorney at Tshaya Mashabela Attorneys Inc.

Ms Chokoe covered the introduction to IP and different kinds of IP, highlighting the following important aspects: identifying and defining various IP rights; the process of obtaining and identifying IP protection; identifying and recording the IP; and IP audit.



Mrs Tumelo Mashabela, Managing Director and Patent Attorney: Tshaya Mashabela Inc.

Mrs Mashabela covered the legislation governing IP emanating from Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and protection, ownership and commercialisation of IP. In particular, she focused on the importance of the Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development ACT 51 of 2008 (IPR Act) and the IPR Act guidelines. She further explained the process of obtaining protection for various IP rights, the standard operating procedures, as well as when and how to decide suitable protection strategy. The standard operating procedures are very important for the OTT as they help with risk mitigation, compliance with legislation and university policies, enhanced IP protection, improved decision making, as well as knowledge transfer and commercialisation.

In her closing remarks, Ms Makole Magoro underscored the importance of intellectual property (IP) protection and commercialisation. She supported the speakers' points on prioritising the long-term benefits of safeguarding inventions over immediate publication gains, using Kentucky Fried Chicken's (KFC) trade secrets as an example.

2024 Justice Moseneke Annual Lecture by Judge Lebogang Modiba discusses the scourge of corruption as a threat to South Africa's democracy

The Third Justice Moseneke Annual Public Lecture, delivered by Judge Lebogang Modiba who is the Chair of the Special Tribunal of the Republic of South Africa drew some lessons from the Special Tribunal. The Special Tribunal has a statutory mandate to recover public funds syphoned from the fiscus through corruption, fraud and illicit money flows. Judge Modiba has served on the Special Tribunal, which was established to investigate and adjudicate corruption and maladministration in state procurement.

She briefly spoke of the Tribunal's innovative origins but also highlighted challenges, including the lack of independence and political interference, which hamper its effectiveness in combating corruption.

This public lecture recently took place at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Sports Hall.

Judge Modiba expressed deep honour in delivering the 2024 Justice Moseneke Annual Lecture, acknowledging the immense legacy of Justice Moseneke, who was a pivotal figure in South Africa's constitutional development.



She also acknowledged the initial invitation to Judge Mlambo, who passed it on to her, and paid tribute to the opportunity to address this prestigious lecture series.

Justice Moseneke, an iconic jurist, is renowned not only for his legal acumen but also for his resilience, having been imprisoned at age 15 on Robben Island, where he earned his law degree. He was instrumental in shaping South Africa's constitutional democracy, with his independent-minded, fair, and imaginative legal approach earning him widespread respect. Judge Modiba recalled a formative experience of meeting Moseneke during a Judicial Service Commission interviews in 2015, where the latter's probing yet reassuring questions left a lasting impression.

Justice Moseneke made monumental contributions to South Africa's constitutional jurisprudence, especially during his time on the Constitutional Court. His decisions were key in guiding the country through its legal transformation, including his role in the 'Glenister v The President of the Republic of South Africa' case, which addressed the constitutionality of the Directorate for Priority Crimes Investigation (DPCI), particularly in terms of its independence from political influence.

The 'Glenister' case, in which Justice Moseneke played a central role, found that the DPCI was constitutionally required to be independent but was vulnerable to political interference due to the structure of its enabling legislation. This ruling provided critical lessons on the need for independent bodies to combat corruption, which resonate with the challenges faced by the Special Tribunal today.

Judge Modiba emphasised that the Special Tribunal faces similar issues of dependency and potential political interference. The President's role in initiating investigations and appointing the head of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) poses risks to its independence. This undermines efforts to tackle corruption and maladministration effectively, echoing concerns raised in the 'Glenister' case.

Judge Modiba called for reforms to protect the independence of institutions like the Special Tribunal. She urged academic institutions, civil society, and citizens to hold the state accountable for failing to meet its constitutional obligations to fight corruption. She drew inspiration from Justice Moseneke's legacy, advocating that corruption is not just an administrative issue but a constitutional and human rights matter.

In concluding, Judge Modiba paid tribute to Justice Moseneke's enduring legacy, calling on judges, legal practitioners, civil society, and academics to build on his work to strengthen South Africa's rule of law, justice, and accountability. The lecture underscored the need for collective action to ensure the promise of the country's constitutional democracy is realised for future generations.

This lecture is a powerful reflection on the ongoing struggle for a just and accountable South Africa, honouring a jurist whose legacy continues to influence the legal landscape today.

Judge Lebogang Modiba (nee Malepe) holds three positions in the South African Judiciary. She has been a judge of the High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Local Division, since 1996, a Judge of the Electoral Court since 2021 and President of the Special Tribunal since May 2022. In his thematic remarks, the Director of the School of Law, Prof Lonias Ndlovu, said as we celebrate the progress made over the past three decades, we cannot overlook the pressing challenges that continue to confront us. He said among these, is the scourge of corruption which threatens the fabric of our democracy. Prof Ndlovu continued to express that corruption undermines public trust, it erodes the rule of law and disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable in our society.



He called on all legal scholars, legal practitioners and custodians of Justice to renew their commitment to combating this cancer.

Left photo: A group photo of some of School of Law staff members posing with Judge Modiba and Judge Matsaro Violet Semenya (DJP, Limpopo Division) at the Premier Hotel

University of Venda Hosts Career Expo for Grade 11 Learners

The University of Venda, in collaboration with Mukonazwothe Career Support Group and the Department of Education, successfully hosted a transformative career expo from 23 – 27 September 2024 at the University of Venda Sports Hall. This impactful event brought together over 2,000 Grade 11 learners from 32 schools across 18 circuits in the Vhembe region, along with 70 teachers. The expo aimed to equip students with crucial information about tertiary education, application processes, and admission requirements well in advance of their high school graduation, while fostering a positive social mindset for future success.

The event was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, the Acting Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, and the Vhembe East District Director, among others. These leaders highlighted the importance of career guidance, particularly for learners in rural areas, and emphasised how such initiatives can shape the future of these young learners.

For many Grade 11 learners in rural regions like Vhembe, access to information and resources about higher education can be limited, making the transition from high school to university daunting.



On photo: Mr Aubrey Matsila, Director of Mukonazwothe Career Support Group, during his keynote address to learners and presenters during the career expo at the University of Venda

The career expo was designed to address these challenges by offering learners a comprehensive understanding of the academic and social expectations of tertiary education. By providing guidance at this crucial stage, the University of Venda and its partners are empowering learners to make informed decisions about their educational and career paths.

Mr Aubrey Matsila, Director of Mukonazwothe Career Development, delivered a stirring keynote address in which he expressed, "This initiative is about more than just informing learners about available programmes. It is about inspiring them to take control of their futures and showing them that despite the challenges, they have the potential to thrive in any field they choose.

Mr Mphinyana Nemasitoni, the Schools Liaison Officer for the University of Venda, also shared his insights during the event. He emphasised the importance of early engagement, particularly for learners in rural communities, stating, "We believe that by engaging learners early, particularly those in rural communities, we are giving them a chance to plan their educational journey with clarity. It is about ensuring they are equipped with the right tools and knowledge before they step into the world of higher education. This event is a testament to the University of Venda's commitment to the community and the future of its young people. We are here to guide, support, and inspire. We believe in the potential of each learner and will continue to create platforms that help them succeed," said Mr Mphinyana.

The five-day expo featured a series of interactive presentations where learners had the opportunity to engage with representatives from various fields of study. These sessions provided valuable insights into what it takes to succeed in different professions, helping learners visualise their potential futures and make well-informed decisions.

The expo also emphasised the significance of fostering a positive mindset toward education and career planning. By showcasing the broad spectrum of opportunities available, the event aimed to break down the barriers that may

prevent rural learners from pursuing their dreams. The University of Venda, as a beacon of hope and opportunities, is dedicated to supporting the youth of the Vhembe region and providing them with the tools to reach their full potential.



Learners during the exhibition period as they engage with various exhibitors from different institutions and organisations

For many of the learners attending the expo, the experience was eye-opening. They left with a clearer sense of direction and a renewed sense of purpose.

The University of Venda's commitment to education and career guidance for rural learners is not just about providing academic information, but about empowering these young individuals to dream big and pursue those dreams with confidence.

By helping learners prepare early, the University of Venda and its partners are playing a critical role in shaping the future of the Vhembe region and ensuring that learners from all backgrounds could excel in higher education and beyond.

The career expo has set the stage for a future where more learners from the region will be able to enter tertiary institutions with the knowledge, preparation, and mindset needed to succeed in their chosen fields.

As these learners take their first steps toward higher education, the support they received during this event will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in helping them achieve their academic and career aspirations.

Empowering Nurses Worldwide: Advanced Nursing Sciences Department Explores Cutting-Edge Techniques in China

In a remarkable opportunity to advance healthcare knowledge and foster international collaboration, two dedicated members of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ms. Aluwani Mudzweda and Mr. Tshepo Mohale from the Department of Advanced Nursing Sciences, recently attended an innovative training programme in China. The event, focused on Nursing Techniques for Developing Countries, was hosted in Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province. It welcomed participants from six developing countries—South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Zanzibar, Nepal, and Afghanistan—with 22 attendees in total.



L-R: Ms Mudzweda Aluwani, Ms ZHAO Lijun, Mr YANG Youshuai, Ms ZHU Lihua, Mr Yao Zhiqiang and Mr Mohale Tshepo

This programme provided an immersive learning experience designed to equip healthcare professionals from across the globe with advanced knowledge and practical skills essential for improving healthcare systems in underdeveloped countries. During their stay in China, Ms Mudzweda and Mr Mohale had the opportunity to explore not only state-of-the-art healthcare practices but also the rich culture and history of the host nation.

The core of the training programme focused on crucial topics that addressed both clinical care and hospital management in developing countries, including: Hospital Management and the Evolution of Shanxi Medical University,

Development of the Nursing Profession in China, Patient Safety and Quality Management in Hospitals, Infection Control and Occupational Health in Healthcare Settings, Career Planning and Professional Growth for Nurses, Management of Acute Trauma and Critically ill Patients, Nutritional Care for Hospitalised Patients, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Setup and Management, Stroke Patient Care Strategies, International Collaboration and Nursing Research.

The programme offered participants the opportunity to engage with experts and peers from around the world, discussing the challenges and possibilities of enhancing healthcare systems, particularly in regions with limited resources. For Ms Mudzweda, the chance to deepen her understanding of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) was a highlight. “Having learnt more about China’s past, we can better appreciate the significance of TCM in their healthcare system. Observing techniques like acupuncture, cupping, scrubbing, and pulse diagnosis in practice was eye-opening,” she said.

A key takeaway from the experience was China’s advanced use of technology in healthcare. Mr Mohale noted that China’s health system is highly modernised compared to many developing nations, especially through multidisciplinary rehabilitation teams. “Hospital stays in China are notably shorter due to their cutting-edge therapeutic systems, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in diagnosis and treatment, particularly in psychiatry, stands as a global leader,” he commented.

Both participants also observed that, while China is a developing nation, its hospitals are equipped with sophisticated technologies and a highly trained workforce, which has contributed to improved patient outcomes.

Yet, despite these advances, Ms Mudzweda and Mr Mohale highlighted that differences remain in the nursing curriculum and organisational structures between China and their home country.

The programme also included visits to several medical institutions in Taiyuan and Beijing, which provided further hands-on exposure. Among the sites visited were the Balingqiao Community Hospital, Health Service Centres, and Shanxi Medical University's First Hospital, where Ms Mudzweda and Mr Mohale explored departments such as: Cardiology Rehabilitation, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), Intensive Care Units (ICU), Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Geriatrics and Neurology.



22 attendees and nursing managers during the First Hospital Shanxi Medical University visit

Their clinical visits offered an inside look at how these institutions operate, allowing them to better understand the integration of technology, patient care protocols, and multidisciplinary collaboration in China's healthcare system.

Both colleagues were deeply impacted by the discussions around common healthcare challenges in both China and their home countries, such as malnutrition, trauma, and stroke. The elderly population in China, like in many countries, is particularly vulnerable to malnutrition, noted Ms Mudzweda.

Additionally, they learned that road accidents, mining accidents, industrial injuries, and violence are the leading causes of trauma in China, while stroke has become the leading cause of death from illness.

For Mr Mohale, the experience underscored the importance of shared learning.

"Our time in China has deepened our understanding of the healthcare challenges we face in our country and has opened up conversations about new approaches and solutions," he reflected.

In addition to their professional growth, Ms Mudzweda and Mr Mohale expressed a deep appreciation for the cultural exchange that took place during their time in China. "We are grateful for the opportunity to establish enduring friendships and to explore potential collaborations for research and publications with China and other countries," Ms Mudzweda stated. Both participants are eager to translate their new knowledge into real-world improvements in South Africa and beyond.

The programme's success was made possible through the support of numerous stakeholders. Both Ms Mudzweda and Mr Mohale extended their heartfelt gratitude to the Chinese government, especially Mr Yuchen Wang and Ms Susie Yang, for their hospitality and invaluable contributions to the programme. Appreciation was also directed towards the University of Venda, including Dr Robert Martin, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi, and Dr Thivhulawi Malwela, as well as other key individuals who supported the journey.

Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, also offered her thanks, emphasising the importance of international exposure for staff. "Investing in staff development through global experiences ensures that they stay abreast of global advancements, challenges, and opportunities within their professions," she remarked.

This transformative experience in China not only equipped Ms Mudzweda and Mr Mohale with advanced knowledge and techniques but also laid the groundwork for future collaboration and research between China, South Africa, and other developing nations. Their journey highlights the critical importance of cross-cultural learning and the global exchange of healthcare knowledge in improving healthcare systems worldwide.

For both nurses, this experience represents a pivotal moment in their careers, one that will undoubtedly contribute to their continued professional growth and to the broader development of nursing practices in their home country and beyond.