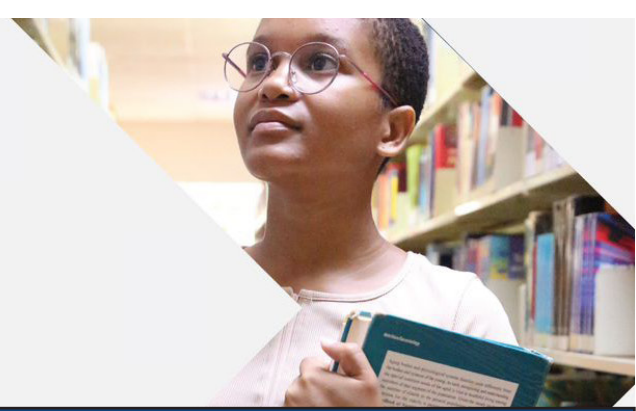




University of Venda  
Creating Future Leaders

# UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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## Empowering the Future Leaders: UNIVEN and PSETA Join Forces to Award 25 Postgraduate Students with a bursary worth R1.5 million

In a groundbreaking initiative to advance skills development in the public sector, the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Department of Public and Development Administration has partnered with the Public Service Education and Training Authority (PSETA) to provide postgraduate bursaries to 25 deserving UNIVEN students. This collaboration marks a significant investment of R1.5 million into higher education, reinforcing the commitment to fostering excellence and accessibility in academia. The official signing ceremony for this milestone event took place on Tuesday, 18 February 2025, at UNIVEN's Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning (CHETL) Boardroom.

The ceremony was attended by key stakeholders, the UNIVEN Department of Public and Development Administration staff, representatives from PSETA, as well as postgraduate students who witnessed the formalisation of this impactful agreement.

In his welcome remarks, Prof Harry Munzhedzi, Head of the Department of Public and Development Administration welcomed students for the remarkable opportunity as postgraduate students in Public and Development Administration. "You are part of a select group receiving this rare privilege—funding that no other department in the faculty has secured". He asserted students that the bursary is designed to support their Honours and Masters studies and comes with an essential responsibility of completing their programme within one year. Prof Munzhedzi also assured students that their supervisors are there to guide them, and to provide the necessary support.

"Make use of their support, stay on track, and honour this investment in your education. I urge you to seize this chance, complete your studies on time, and pave the way for future students to benefit as well." said Prof Munzhedzi as he concluded.



On Photo: Prof Harry Munzhedzi, Head of the Department of Public and Development Administration



On Photo: Ms Sibongile Maqungo, Learning Programmes Specialist

Learning Programmes Specialist from PSETA, Ms Sibongile Maqungo’s presentation outlined what the Memorandum of Agreement between PSETA and the University of Venda entails, providing bursary funding of R1.5 million for 25 students for a 12-month period. Ms Maqungo emphasised that unspent funds would be reallocated, and students must complete their studies within the allocated timeframe. She expressed that “the funding is structured in tranches based on academic progress, with payments made directly to the university.” She also expressed that PSETA is committed to developing a skilled and innovative public sector workforce and stressed the importance of honesty, integrity, and accountability in financial aid distribution. She said students must not receive multiple government funding and must adhere to university and PSETA requirements to maintain the funding and ensure programme success.

There was a response from both Honours and Masters students regarding the programme, indicating their engagement and interest in the initiative. Students expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity, emphasising how worthwhile it is, especially given the high cost of university education, acknowledged the importance of education and pledged to meet the expectations set for them. They further promised to be accountable, dedicated, and receptive to their work. “We also commit to working hard and supporting one another to ensure that no one is left behind”.



*On Photo: Dr Ephraim Mahole, Lecturer*

A response by a Departmental representative, Dr Ephraim Mahole, a Lecturer encouraged

students to seize the funding opportunity with discipline and effective time management, committing to completing their research within the set timeframe. Dr Mahole also emphasised self-motivation, as he reminded students that education is a powerful tool for change.

This partnership underscores the vital role of education in driving socio-economic transformation. By equipping postgraduate students with the financial means to pursue advanced studies, UNIVEN and PSETA are ensuring that the public sector benefits from highly skilled graduates who are well-prepared to address pressing developmental challenges.

The bursary will not only alleviate the financial burden on students but also empower them to focus on their studies and research, contributing to knowledge production and policy development within the public sector.

The University of Venda remains committed to producing graduates who are locally relevant and globally competitive. This partnership with PSETA is yet another step towards fulfilling that mission, ensuring that postgraduate students have the necessary resources to excel and contribute meaningfully to the development of South Africa.



*Some of UNIVEN students signing the bursary agreement*



*Bursary beneficiaries posing with UNIVEN and PSETA staff members*

## UNIVEN Commemorates the World Radio Day: Discussing the role of radio on educating communities about climate change



*Attendees of the World Radio Day Commemoration and Phalaphala FM's Birthday Celebration at UNIVEN Sports Hall*

On Thursday, 13 February 2025, the University of Venda celebrated World Radio Day under the theme: "The Role of Radio in Educating Communities about Climate Change." The event drew students, staff members, including representatives from local radio stations such as Phalaphala FM, UNIVEN FM, Vhembe FM, Choice FM, and Makhado FM. This event was held at the University's Sports Hall.

As the guest speaker, Phalaphala FM's Programmes Manager, Mrs Sharon Ravele, opened her address by acknowledging the efforts of both the university and Phalaphala FM in tackling the issue of climate change. Mrs Ravele emphasised that climate change is a global issue that affects everyone,

not just local communities or specific radio stations. She likened the climate to a human being: if treated well, it thrives; if mistreated, it becomes hostile. Mrs Ravele further outlined the human activities contributing to climate change and discussed potential measures to mitigate its effects.



*Phalaphala FM's Programmes Manager, Mrs Sharon Ravele*

She urged the radio personalities to work together with scientists and researchers and raise awareness by educating communities on environmental sustainability.

Various radio personalities and students who attended this event also contributed to the discussion, focusing on the importance of sustainable practices, including reducing deforestation. Mrs Ravele called on Radio Stations Management to assess the way their radio stations are addressing climate change and to explore ways to incorporate climate education into their programming.



In his opening and welcome remarks, Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga highlighted the impact that radio has made in people’s lives and communities around the world. He emphasised the way radio bridges distance, bringing people together and providing a platform for communities in remote areas to be heard. Dr Dzaga underscored the role of radio in providing education, information, and entertainment within communities. He noted that radio is crucial in providing hope and emotional support, offering post-traumatic healing in difficult situations.

Dr Dzaga also appreciated the coincidence of the World Radio Day Commemoration with Phalaphala FM’s 60th birthday, marking a significant milestone. He encouraged attendees to reflect on radio’s positive influence and to continue to use the medium as a tool for sharing knowledge, building respect, and inspiring future generations.



Mr Makonde Mbedzi, representing the National Community Radio Forum (NCRF)

Mr Makonde Mbedzi reiterated the forum’s commitment to supporting community radio stations in educating and empowering audiences on environmental issues.



UNIVEN Media Studies Lecturer, Mrs Todani Nodoba

UNIVEN Media Studies Lecturer, Mrs Todani Nodoba shared her experience of working as a freelancer at Phalaphala FM many years ago and the time she was the SABC News reporter in 2005. Mrs Nodoba noted that much of her research has focused on radio and emphasised its critical role in fostering democracy globally. She described radio as a “friend, a companion, an informer, an entertainer, and an educator.” She further explained why World Radio Day is celebrated, noting that the observance was proposed by UNESCO around 2011, with February 13 being proclaimed as World Radio Day. Mrs Nodoba stressed the importance of celebrating the day under the 2025 theme of ‘Radio and Climate Change.’ She encouraged attendees to consider the way radio can address the challenge of global warming and climate change.

Mrs Nodoba expressed her commitment to working with Mrs Ravele and other partners in addressing climate change for the benefit of society and South Africa as a whole. As part of the Department of English, Media Studies, and Linguistics, she vowed to collaborate closely with radio stations to tackle these pressing issues.



Ms Ndzumbululo Mulaudzi

Ms Ndzumbululo Mulaudzi from Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights (on the left picture) spoke about human rights services offered by this Centre. She also encouraged stakeholders to collaborate on climate change projects.



The event concluded with closing remarks by UNIVEN FM Station Manager, Ms Tshilidzi Shirinda (On the right picture), who expressed gratitude to all the participants and speakers for their valuable contributions to the event. She commended the collaboration between the local radio stations and UNIVEN in raising awareness about climate change and promoting sustainable practices. Ms Shirinda emphasised the importance of radio in driving social change and urged attendees to continue working together to educate and

inspire communities in the fight against climate change.

The event marked a significant step in fostering collaboration between radio stations and the University of Venda, reinforcing the collective effort to combat climate change and promote sustainability.



*A group photo of stakeholders from various radio stations*



*Panelists*

## Driving Excellence as the University Hosts Successful Performance Management Training

From 5-7 February 2025, the Talent Hub, through the Human Resources Department at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) conducted an intensive Performance Management Training for Heads of Departments (HoDs) and Managers at the ICT 1 of the University. This transformative three-day workshop was designed to enhance leadership skills, refine performance evaluation techniques, and nurture a culture of continuous improvement across the institution.

The training sessions tackled a wide array of critical topics, including setting clear performance expectations, delivering constructive feedback to subordinates, and developing effective performance improvement plans.

The programme adopted a hands-on approach, engaging participants in interactive activities, thought-provoking discussions, and practical exercises based on real-life performance review challenges.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Participants praised the Talent Hub facilitators for their insightful strategies and actionable solutions, with many expressing appreciations for the workshop's relevance to their day-to-day responsibilities. The training offered invaluable tools to enhance team performance and drive positive changes within the departments.

The workshop was expected to have a far-reaching impact on the University's overall performance management practices. By equipping HoDs and Managers with advanced skills and practical frameworks, the training aims to boost staff engagement, streamline evaluation processes, and elevate productivity levels across all faculties.

The success of this Performance Management Training underscores the University's commitment to fostering leadership excellence and cultivating a high-performance culture. With empowered leaders at the helm, the institution is well-positioned to achieve its strategic goals

and maintain its reputation as a center of academic and administrative excellence.



*Attendees of Performance Management Training*

**If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus - contact the University Hotline by calling toll free number 0800 212 755 or email: [univenhotline@tip-offs.com](mailto: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.**