



# The University of Venda is a vaccination site for staff, students, and the surrounding communities

On Tuesday, 27 July 2021, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) together with the Department of Health Vhembe District led by the MEC of Health Limpopo, launched a vaccination site to fight the spread of COVID-19. The UNIVEN vaccination site will assist not only staff and students, but also people around Thulamela Local Municipality. This launch took place at UNIVEN Sports Hall where Limpopo MEC of Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba said Limpopo Provincial Department of Health has tried their level best to vaccinate as many people as possible since the beginning of this vaccination programme, but she is still not satisfied with the current number of people who have so far been vaccinated. She said in terms of percentage they are just around 8% whereas the target was at least 67% by this time.



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (in Black) signing the Higher Health poster during the launch while Dr Phophi Ramathuba (Right) is witnessing the signing of the poster



"I am very excited that old age people came in numbers to be vaccinated. In Limpopo we use this environment like the UNIVEN Sports Hall because they have enough space to allow social distancing.

The President of South Africa, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa, announced that the country will allow people between the ages of 18 and 34 to be vaccinated from the 1st of September 2021. We do not wait for that time before we start vaccinating, we are also here for our students and hopefully by 1st September we will be done with those who are 35 years and above so that we do not mix them with the youth or younger people who will be vaccinated at that time."

Dr Ramathuba thanked UNIVEN for working with government in this trying time. Most importantly, she commended UNIVEN final year Nursing students whom she has trained to assist in the vaccination process and those students will also vaccinate their peers, come the 1st of September.



Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni highlighted that being identified as a vaccination site, makes them feel proud because this responds to one of the University's institutional values, that is to accept our social responsibility and community engagement in serving and contributing to the intellectual, social, and economic well-being of our communities. "We believe that we cannot be safe from COVID-19 if the entire surrounding community is not safe. We want to be a University that makes impact in the surrounding communities. Surrounding communities should benefit from this University."

**We believe that we cannot be safe from COVID-19 if the entire surrounding community is not safe.**



Limpopo MEC of Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba vaccinating Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga



Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga during SABC interview outside the Vaccination centre (Sports Hall).



Portia Tshimauwu, a 4th level UNIVEN Nursing student who is one of the nurses who vaccinate people at the UNIVEN vaccination site, said she is thankful to be one of the vaccinators. "I feel proud and very happy for this rare opportunity because I do what I love most, that is to save people's lives.

## Read inside

The University of Venda is a vaccination site for staff, students, and the surrounding communities 1

Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane joins UNIVEN as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law 2

UNIVEN EMC Participates in a Workshop on Engaged Scholarship 3

University of Venda and the Department of Health Vhembe District Plan to Conduct a Vaccination Programme to Fight Against the Covid19 Pandemic 4

Institute for Rural Development launches a 4-day Postgraduate Student Orientation Workshop 5

Prof Joseph Baloyi is a recipient of USA Fulbright fellowship 6

COVID-19 pandemic has an impact on our mental state 6

Vuwani Science Resource Centre awarded Level 2 accreditation in the South African Network for a period of five (5) years 7

The Directorate of Research and Innovation Co-hosted the WRC101 Virtual Roadshow in partnership with Water Research Commission 8

2022 University of Venda ONLINE APPLICATIONS for Admission and Hostel Accommodation are NOW OPEN 9

## The University of Venda is a vaccination site continued...



Andani Makhani, level 4 UNIVEN Nursing student who is also part of the vaccinators, said she is proud to be part of people who assist communities where we all come from. "Seeing people's lives being saved, is my passion. I'm very happy to be part of those who are saving lives from COVID-19".



Thinavhudzulo Mulanduasini from Duthuni is one of the first community member to be vaccinated at UNIVEN Vaccination site.



Staff members and community members queuing to be vaccinated at UNIVEN Sports Hall

# Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane joins UNIVEN as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law

On Monday, 02 August 2021, the Interim Board of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, had a special Faculty Executive meeting to introduce the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management Commerce and Law to the members. During the meeting, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford welcomed the members present and he extended his special word of welcome to the new Executive Dean. Prof Crafford said, "I'm very happy today to welcome Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane to take his responsibility as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law with effect from 01 August 2021."



In his previous appointment at the University of Fort Hare, he led the designing of the Doctor of Public Administration programme which was accredited by the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) of the Council on Higher Education (CHE). The output has since grown through his involvement and leadership support informed by his experiences in graduate programme and supervision of master's dissertations and PhD theses to successful completion. Prof Kanyane has already supervised 68 theses (61 Masters Dissertations and 7 PhD theses) to date.

He participated in over 100 local and international activities (presented papers and keynote addresses, chaired sessions and facilitated training/capacity building workshops, led research projects) mostly culminated into outstanding publications in peer reviewed and accredited journals.

To date, Prof Kanyane has produced over 100 research outputs which include peer reviewed articles in accredited journals, peer reviewed book chapters, books, peer reviewed policy briefs, non-peer reviewed material and clients research reports.

He currently provides mentorship support to the post graduate students in African universities under the auspices of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) College of senior academic mentors.

Prof Kanyane is actively involved in BRICS activities as Chair of the Political and Economic Cluster of the BRICS Think Tank South Africa at the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS).

He was identified and participated in the review of 77 BRICSologists essays for the 2020 BRICS International School in conjunction with the Contest for BRICS Young Leaders organised within the framework of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship to identify the most promising projects and papers to enhance practical cooperation among youth from BRICS countries and beyond. Authors of the best projects and papers were awarded prizes and invited to take part in the BRICS International School courses. Contest nominations focused on three thematic thrusts: "Towards a Brighter Future" – original research/article/project that can make a real contribution to the development of the BRICS, "BRICS in the Changing World Order" – original research/article/project devoted to the development of a new strategy for BRICS to promote its role in global governance and "Digital BRICS" – original research/article/project on BRICS cooperation in the digital era.

At the HSRC, he fundraised with colleagues over twenty million Rands and provided

leadership of the funded cutting-edge research projects to successful completion among which are a study on State Owned Entities, Impact of the Constitutional Court and Supreme Court of Appeal on socio-economic transformation and the National Treasury study on governance and citizen engagement as well as BRICS, LGSETA and SALGA studies on Local Government, among others. Prof Kanyane was appointed by Dr Blade B Nzimande, MP, Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation to serve on the Council of the University of Mpumalanga as Ministerial Appointee (2020 –2024).

He is currently a volume editor of more than five manuscripts, and one published recently in 2021.

UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni welcomes Prof Kanyane to UNIVEN. He urged the University Community to give Prof Kanyane the necessary support in his new role as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law.

When proposing a vote of thanks, Prof Armstrong Kadyamatimba indicated that the Faculty has been waiting for Prof Kanyane so long, but they are happy he is finally at UNIVEN.



Prof Crafford also paid tribute to the former Deans, Professors Armstrong Kadyamatimba and Lonias Ndlovu who contributed so immensely to the University. He added that the leadership will support the Executive Dean in order to have smooth transition.

In his response Prof Kanyane said, "While I was at the HSRC, my life was to eat research, sleep research and wake up research".

Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane is bringing his extensive experience in research, local government, and public administration in general in South Africa for more than twenty years with an added outstanding analytic skill adapted to 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR). Prof Kanyane is a recipient of the two Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Senior Research Excellence Awards in 2015 and 2018 and has been with the HSRC for over a decade.



L-R: Prof Armstrong Kadyamatimba, Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane and Prof Jan Crafford



# UNIVEN EMC Participates in a Workshop on Engaged Scholarship

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Executive Management Committee and Executive Deans of Faculties held a Workshop titled, "Towards a University Leading in Engaged Scholarship: Operational Concept and Plan". The workshop was held via Microsoft Teams on Friday, 2 July 2021. Prof Jan Crafford, DVC Academic facilitated the workshop.



*The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford (above) facilitating the workshop*

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni opened the workshop and welcomed participants which comprised of all members of Executive Management, three Executive Deans, Directors of Research and Innovation, Community Engagement and Institute for Rural Development. He extended his special word of welcome to the new DVC Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Nellie Feza who joined the University on 1 July 2021. Dr Nthambeleni articulated the background of the University and the current strategic direction, which is anchored on four strategic thrusts, namely Student-centredness and engaged scholarship; Entrepreneurial University; Governance for Scholarship; and Linkages, Partnerships and Internationalisation. He underlined the fact that UNIVEN should not be regarded as a rural University but rather a University located in a rural area. It is the only University

that is found in the Vhembe Biosphere. Thus, it is crucial that as the University deliberates on and decides how to develop a culture of engaged scholarship, this context must take centre stage. "...For us to achieve our vision, it is important that we set aside resources for implementation. We cannot leave this aspect to external funders", the Vice-Chancellor and Principal argued. He concluded by revealing that the request he made to Professors Francis and Netshandama in October 2020 regarding how to infuse engaged scholarship into the fabric of both academic and non-academic work was starting to bear fruits. The engagement with the Executive Management and Executive Deans marked the first step in a series of deliberations that will shape the nature and character of how engaged scholarship would be practiced at UNIVEN.



*Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal delivering opening and welcome address*

Soon after the opening and welcome remarks, Prof Joseph Francis who is the Director of the Institute for Rural Development, delivered a comprehensive presentation of the working document that seeks to clarify what engaged scholarship is at UNIVEN. He jointly authored the document with Prof Vhonani Netshandama. In the working document, they argue that summoning and sharing international literature on

engaged scholarship with the rest of the University community will help inform decision making on how to operationalise this concept. Apart from this, Professors Francis and Netshandama contend that there are numerous opportunities through which the University should practise engaged scholarship. Among these are the District Development Model, the Musina-Makhado and Fetkagomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zones; localisation of the National Framework for Local Economic Development, 2018-2028 operationalising the science engagement strategy and the programmes of the EDHE -Entrepreneurial Development in Higher education; Vhembe Biosphere Reserve; grounding the new UNIVEN Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubation; Nwanedi Agrihub, emerging Mhinga-Xikundu Agri-hub and enhancement of the functionality of Communal Property Associations, among others. In all these, engaged scholarship makes it possible to work closely with grassroots communities and other stakeholders at local, provincial, continental and international levels to co-generate viable solutions to the numerous challenges faced in society.



*Prof Joseph Francis*



*Prof Vhonani Netshandama*

Participants endorsed the working document. It was resolved that all the Faculties, Directorates and support Departments would hold workshops to further engage and operationalise the concept. Undergraduate and postgraduate students, alumni, grassroots communities, external stakeholders such as government (local, provincial and national), business formations, as well as regional, continental and international stakeholders that are strategic to the university would be engaged as well.



*Senior Prof Georges Ekosse (above) delivering a vote of thanks*

## University of Venda and the Department of Health Vhembe District Plan to Conduct a Vaccination Programme to Fight Against the Covid19 Pandemic

The University of Venda together with the Department of Health Vhembe District, hosted a plenary meeting aimed at discussing the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement in which the two parties will work together in conducting a vaccination programme to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. During the discussion, it was noted that the University of Venda will be one of the vaccination sites. The meeting was held at the University of Venda Research Conference Centre chaired by the Head of Campus Health Clinic at the University of Venda, Ms Faith Mashau and the District Senior Manager of the Department of Health in Vhembe, Mr Robert Sirwali. In welcoming the delegation, Ms Mashau mentioned that the University of Venda is prepared to provide necessary health equipment and human resources to support the initiative.



*Ms Mashau and Mr Sirwali during the plenary meeting*



*Mr Phanuel Phampho the Director of Health Special Programmes in the Department of Health in Vhembe District*



# University of Venda and the Department of Health Vhembe District Plan to Conduct a Vaccination Programme continued...

Mr Phamphe said this collaboration will play a vital role in saving the lives of communities.

"We don't want to take chances in this initiative, we must provide quality service in protecting the health of the society. We need to start this vaccination programme as soon as possible because we are losing people every day due to this pandemic. I really plead with the University of Venda management to consider this partnership as it will be helpful to our community members in the district including students".



*Dr Edson Malwela, Director for Public Health in Vhembe District*

Dr Malwela said the Department of Health in Vhembe District is prepared to provide all necessary health equipment including human resources during the vaccination programme. "An open space such as a stadium is necessary when conducting this vaccination project, so it is advantageous to utilise the University stadium", suggested Dr Malwela.

**"We don't want to take chances in this initiative, we must provide quality service in protecting the health of the society. We need to start this vaccination programme as soon as possible because we are losing people every day due to this pandemic. I really plead with the University of Venda management to consider this partnership as it will be helpful to our community members in the district including students".**



*Head of UNIVEN Infrastructure Mr Takalani Phosiwa*

In responding to the call, Mr Takalani Phosiwa indicated that their section will provide facilities in support of the project.



*Mr Tshililo Tshikororo representing UNIVEN ICT Department*

To support efficiency for the initiative, Mr Tshikororo indicated that the Department will provide all necessary ICT resources during the vaccination project.



*Mr Maanda Nemaaxwi representing UNIVEN Protection Services*

In support of the initiative, Mr Nemaaxwi indicated that there is enough team of security personnel who will provide quality safety and security services during the vaccination programme. The team will ensure that there is no overcrowding and that people adhere to social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols, to avoid the spread of the virus.



*Mr Tshamunwe Ralaneba, Senior Administration Officer from UNIVEN Printing Section*

Mr Ralaneba mentioned that his office was ready to provide all necessary printing services in support of the vaccination programme.

Participants adhered to social distancing and other COVID-19 regulations during the meeting. A team of inspectors from the Department of Health would visit the University of Venda on Monday, 26 July 2021 to assess the venue, with the aim of commencing with the vaccination programme on 01 August 2021.



*Participants adhered to social distancing and other COVID-19 regulations*



# Institute for Rural Development launches a 4-day Postgraduate Student Orientation Workshop

The Institute for Rural Development (IRD) at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) recently hosted a Microsoft Teams-based workshop for students pursuing Masters and PhD degrees in rural development. Every year, the IRD organises such a workshop mainly to welcome new Masters and PhD students and orientate them on how postgraduate studies are managed and coordinated. With such soft landing, it is envisaged that high levels of performance would be sustained and ultimately lead to completion of degrees within stipulated time frames.



In her welcome address Prof Nosisi Feza, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Post Graduate Studies, thanked the students for choosing UNIVEN as an institution of their choice. She said the importance of the workshop should not be lost because "as students pursuing higher degrees you are coming together to assist each other and redefine, zoom in and share some of the things that others have done in their previous research projects". She further advised that when doing research at Masters and Doctoral levels it is crucial to be committed to the work - "take responsibility of your own projects. Be accountable to your project. Be eager to reach your goals by finishing what you have started. You need to finish your research projects on time, set yourself a target of when you plan to complete your research project". Prof Feza concluded her speech by advising the students to learn from each other.

**"take responsibility of your own projects. Be accountable to your project. Be eager to reach your goals by finishing what you have started."**



Executive Dean: Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann also addressed the students. She emphasised the need for demonstrating high levels of integrity, reinforcing Prof Feza's advice of being "accountable for what you do". She explained that failure to complete studies within set time frames means that they would require extra funding for tuition fees. In addition, she explained that "Taking longer time to complete your studies disadvantages those who also need space to enrol for the same programme that you are doing." She went on to present the University strategic thrusts, vision, mission and institutional values.



Soon after Prof Mokgalaka, Prof Joseph Francis who is the Director of Institute for Rural Development highlighted that generating scholarly outputs lies at the centre of what was expected from the students. "We are confident that this would enhance our profile in offering Masters and Doctoral studies in rural development, ultimately confirming that our vision, namely, to be a leading university-based player in combating rural poverty and underdevelopment, is not misplaced." Prof Francis continued to spell out that "This workshop is the first in a series of inter-related ones scheduled for this year as indicated in our Postgraduate Studies Action Plan for 2021."



The facilitator of the programme for the day, Dr Marizvikuru Manjoro, restated and reaffirmed that the IRD sought to produce locally relevant and internationally competitive graduates, in line with UNIVEN's topmost aspiration. She revealed that the workshop was one of many ways that the IRD has in place to make sure that graduates are equipped with relevant skills. "Thus, we strive to equip students with relevant skills that enable you to complete research proposals and theses/dissertations within set time frames", Dr Manjoro clarified.



Mr Dzivhuluwani Mugari, the Chairperson of the Postgraduate Studies Committee, in the Student Representative Council also addressed the students. He revealed that his office is always available to assist. Among other things, Mr Mugari spoke about available organisations and institutions that fund postgraduate studies. He advised those without funding to apply in time, seeking assistance all the time.

In the subsequent days of the workshop, students were addressed by various persons representing a range of departments both within and out of the UNIVEN campus. The following topics and practical sessions were covered during the workshop:

- The IRD Postgraduate Studies Action Plan, 2021 by Prof J. Francis;
- IT Services at your disposal by Mr N. Ratshitanga;
- UNIVEN Research and Innovation Directorate: policies and opportunities by Dr S. Sekhula, Research and Innovation Directorate;
- Nexus between Community Engagement and postgraduate studies by Prof V.O. Netshandama;
- Effective supervision, student-supervisor or promoter relationship by Prof J.R. Gumbo, Department of Hydrology and Water Resources;
- The student-supervisor contract (Prof J. Francis);
- Services offered by the International Relations Directorate by Dr O.S. Obadire, Acting Director of International Relations;
- The scientific research process by Dr J. Zuwarimwe, Senior Lecturer IRD;
- Securing ethical clearance for research at UNIVEN by Ms V. Khosa, Research and Innovation Directorate;
- Science engagement, encompassing communication, creating awareness, literacy and outreach by Dr M. Manjoro;
- Statistics and research support services from Statistics South Africa by Mr S. Nemauluma, Vhembe District Manager, Statistics South Africa;
- Citing Literature in scientific writing by Prof J. Francis;
- Purpose and overview of searching and use of library resources for scientific writing by Dr T.A. Matodzi, Head Reference Services, Library;
- Training in use of Library Resources by Dr T.A. Matodzi;
- Anti-plagiarism policy and use of Turn-it-in software by Mr A. Ndou, UNIVEN Library;
- Reviewing Literature: What, why & how? by Mr P. Munyanduki, PhD in Rural Development candidate; and
- Introduction and application of Atlas in literature review by Dr T.A. Matodzi and Mr R. Chidembo, PhD in Rural Development candidate.

# Prof Joseph Baloyi is a recipient of USA Fulbright fellowship



Prof Joseph Baloyi, HoD of Animal Science and former Vice Dean of the School of Agriculture, who is attached to the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) is currently in the USA as a recipient of Fulbright Fellowship hosted by the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, Georgia. He is in the USA for a short term and anticipated to return end of the year 2021.

Prof Baloyi said he applied for a Fulbright Fellowship to enable himself to interact

with fellow animal nutritionist in developed world, particularly at University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, Georgia. He said this will help improve his research skills and output in this field with his students at the University of Venda upon his return. "Our research approaches are not the same. Back at UNIVEN we are still doing more traditional and applied research. At UGA they are doing basic research that uncovers animal science".

Baloyi's main research interests with both the senior undergraduate and postgraduate students are in animal nutrition, particularly evaluating forages, browses and agricultural by-products as potential supplementary feeds in the dry season for livestock. During the dry season the natural pastures declines in both quantity and quality, and this is the main challenge of animal production in the tropics. Animal loss weight in the dry season and productivity drops significantly. To date, Prof Baloyi has successfully supervised 21 senior undergraduate, 16 MSc and promoted two PhD students who graduated.

So far, Prof Baloyi has published over 33 research papers and presented 46 papers at both national and international conferences.



Prof Baloyi was tenderly welcomed by his UGA host, Dr Todd Riley Callaway, a Ruminant nutritionist in the Department of Animal and Dairy Science. He has already been involved in some research projects. Baloyi joined in some of the research activities that Dr Callaway was doing with his students.

He explained that Dr Callaway has a well-equipped laboratory. "He is working mostly on microbiology in the animal gut as it is affected by feeds. His research approach is close to what I intended to do, but much more detailed than my proposal", added Prof Baloyi.

As per the Minister Counsellor for Public Affairs at the US Embassy, Frank Whitaker, the Fulbright South African Research Scholar Programme is a fully funded opportunity for South African university-faculty or research-institute professionals to conduct research and teach in their field of expertise at an academic or research institution in the United States for a period of three to nine months with the intention of strengthening academic programmes and expanding the US/SA higher-education network. This programme forms part of the range of Fulbright scholarship opportunities available for South African students and academics. Since 1953, more than 2 100 South African



students and scholars have pursued studies and research in the United States through the Fulbright programme.

"Small-scale and subsistence farming often supports the livelihood of communities, and we believe the results of Dr Baloyi's research may significantly contribute to the quality and health of livestock in Thohoyandou and beyond," Frank Whitaker said. "Dr Baloyi's experience and research will also broaden the exposure of his students at the University of Venda, which will certainly impact the depth of their academic and practical experience as future agricultural scientists."

The Fulbright programme currently operates in South Africa and in more than 150 other countries worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.za.usembassy.gov/fulbright](http://www.za.usembassy.gov/fulbright).

Prof Baloyi said when he returns to South Africa, he would have improved his research skills, knowledge and he hopes to also increase his research output and produce well grounded postgraduate students in animal science. He further said that, through the proposed MoU between the two universities, he looks forward to encouraging some of his students and colleagues to come and carry out some of their research at UGA and vice versa.



Prof Joseph Baloyi (centre), posed for a photo with Dr Todd Riley Callaway (2nd from left) and some staff members in the Department of Animal and Dairy Science. (Photo supplied)

## COVID-19 pandemic has an impact on our mental state

On Wednesday, 20 July 2021, the University's Employee Health and Wellness Section of the Human Resources Department organised an informative Psychosocial Wellness session: Trauma Management. This informative and educational Psychosocial Wellness Session took place on Microsoft Teams and was organised for all staff members.

As the facilitator of this Health Session, Mr Andre Viljoen from Careways highlighted that we have been living with COVID-19 for almost 18 months and its impact will be with us for many years to come. He said COVID-19 has an impact on our mental state and the way we bury our people who passes away due to COVID-19 complications also affects our psychological being. "Deaths caused by COVID-19 are unbelievable, you can talk to a person now and the next thing you hear that the same person has passed on."



Mr Viljoen further highlighted that there are many dimensions of wellness, and those dimensions include Social, environmental, financial, spiritual, vocational, emotional, physical, and mental health.

He mentioned that it is difficult to accept the situation but the sooner we manage to accept the situation, the better the results. He said if countless people were able to bounce back to live a normal life after trauma, then everyone could do it. Mr Viljoen also mentioned that most people managed to bounce back because they had accepted situations.

"Be resilient. We cannot change the situations that we all go through, but we can change our behaviour towards such situations." Mr Viljoen advised attendees not to worry about things that they cannot change, instead, they should worry about things that they have control of and that they should change their thinking and their reactions towards situations that they cannot change.

He advised attendees to be open with people they trust and talk about how they feel. "Look after your body; be active and eat healthy

food; help other people or contribute to things you believe in; learn new skills every day; express yourself creatively and spend time with people you care about," he said.

Advocate Rudzani Makhema, Head: Employee Relations thanked attendees and encouraged staff members to attend sessions like this because they are organised for them to improve their health and wellbeing. Adv Makhema further advised staff members to call Careways and use its services when they need help because these services are being paid for by the University. Services include Counselling (telephonic or face to face sessions), Legal (Legal advice not representation), Financial (Coaching, budgeting, and debt advice) and My Wellness Compass (Selection of interactive self-assessment tools). The above services could be accessed through the following telephone number: 0800 004 770.



# Vuwani Science Resource Centre awarded Level 2 accreditation in the South African Network for a period of five (5) years



Aerial photograph of Vuwani Science Resource Centre

The South African Department of Science and Innovation has awarded Vuwani Science Resource Centre Level 2 accreditation in the South African Network of Science Centres for the period of Five (5) years.

Vuwani Science Resource Centre is among the first 13 science centres accredited by the Department of Science and Innovation. There are about 36 science centres in South Africa and the accreditation process is continuing. The process is voluntarily, and Vuwani Science Resource Centre has undergone this voluntary process of accreditation on the South African Network of Science Centres (SANSC) Online Platform, which has been initiated by the Department of Science and

Innovation (DSI). The process is administered through the South Africa Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) which is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF). Its mandate is to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering, innovation, and technology in South Africa.

Vuwani Science Resource Centre successfully completed the three stages process of the Self-Evaluation, Peer Evaluation Stage and Accreditation Committee Evaluation Stage and finally the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) officially accredited the Science Centre a Level 2 status.

According to Dr Eric Maluta, Coordinator of the Vuwani Science Resource Centre, the journey started towards the end of the year 2018 when DSI invited all the science centres to voluntarily join the network. Vuwani Science Resource Centre then started its journey from November 2018 for the self-evaluation. The Vuwani Science Centre team comprising of Mr. Samphie Mathebe, Dr. Sophie Mulaudzi, SAASTA Volunteers and NRF interns led by Dr Maluta, started working on the documents needed and they managed to complete the self-evaluation process.

The peer evaluation team visited Vuwani Science Resource Centre from Monday 25, March until Wednesday 27 March 2019. The team was led by South African Agency of Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA).

The team was represented by Mr Jabulani Mathebula (SAASTA/NRF and DST, Committee Secretariat), Mr Thami Mpholeka (Chair of the Committee, Mr Bushy Moabelo (Committee Member) and Ms Tracy Singo (Committee Member). The team had a discussion with the then Dean of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Prof Natasha Potgieter and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford as the two senior/executive managers of Vuwani Science Resource Centre. There was a round table discussion about strategies of sustainability of the science centre.

The final accreditation stage was done by the accreditation committee which made recommendations to the DSI for final amendment and Vuwani Science Resource Centre was awarded level 2 on the Network of the Science Centres in South Africa. The centres are accredited from level one to three, where level zero comes only if the centre does not show any potential. As the centre, we hope that through our hard work, diligence, and several consultations with the other science centres, we will reach level 3 as soon as we deal with all recommendations from DSI.

The status currently gives Vuwani Science Resource Centre to be part of the National Network of Science Centres in South Africa. The centre is now allowed to apply for grant from DSI/ SAASTA support and participate in the DSI activities like National Science Week, Science Festival, etc.

The centre would like to extend its gratitude to UNIVEN management and to appreciate the support from different University departments, the department of Physics, the former School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences colleagues and the Dean.



SAASTA, NRF, DST and UNIVEN staff members during a round table discussion of peer evaluation process. (supplied photo taken in 2019 before COVID-19)



# The Directorate of Research and Innovation Co-hosted the WRC101 Virtual Roadshow in partnership with Water Research Commission

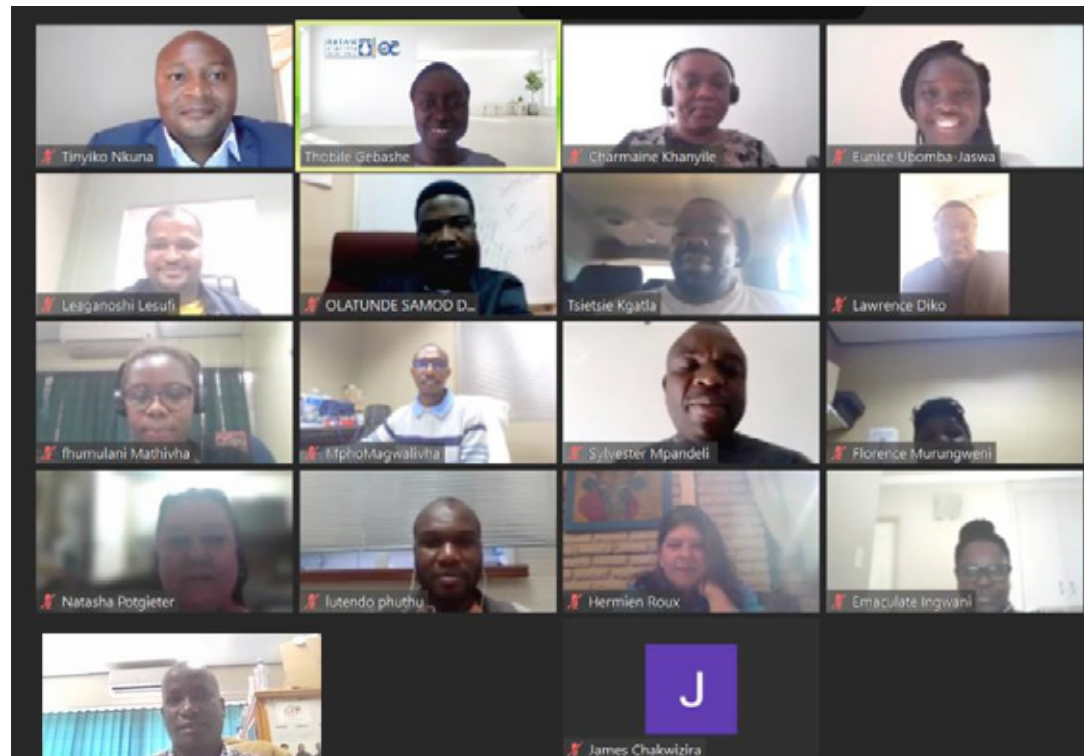
The Directorate of Research and Innovation in pursuit of the Strategic Objective 5: To enhance research outputs for innovation and impact, hosted the WRC101 Roadshow on Monday, 28 June 2021. The purpose of this session was to familiarise new and upcoming project leaders with the process for research proposal submission and related fund and project management issues.

The Director of Research and Innovation Senior Professor GE Ekosse in his address to the delegates encouraged researchers, students, and external stakeholders to extend collaborations among faculties and to further push the boundaries of relations and collaborations in Research and Innovation to other Institutions, particularly those that were disadvantaged in the past.

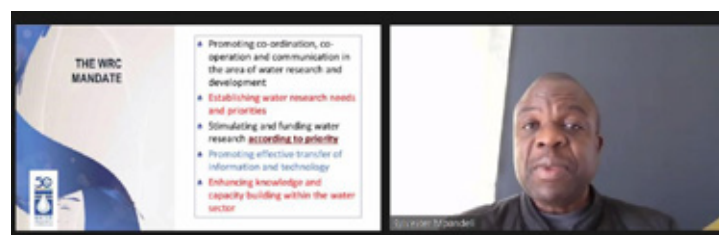
Senior Professor Ekosse told researchers and potential applicants, including Postdoctoral Research Fellows that, in terms of Human Capacity Development he would like to see increase in proposals which strengthen UNIVEN's Research and Innovation Capacity. Professor Mpandeli who is one of the Executive Managers at the Water Research Commission focused on the importance of preserving water. He mentioned that South Africa is among the 33 driest countries in the world and therefore, water preservation is paramount. His presentation covered matters relating to the mandate of the WRC and lauded UNIVEN for its readiness to always collaborate in partnerships that include the Limpopo Provincial Government.

Available opportunities for funding were presented to the delegates by Dr Eunice Ubomba-Jaswa, Research Manager at WRC, focusing on the availability of both Directed and Open Calls. The difference between the two is that the Directed Calls are specific and must adhere to strict Call Requirements while in Open Calls, researchers are given the latitude to develop a proposal linked to the WRC mandate. Researchers in the water space are encouraged to visit the website for the opportunities: <http://www.wrc.org.za/opportunities/>.

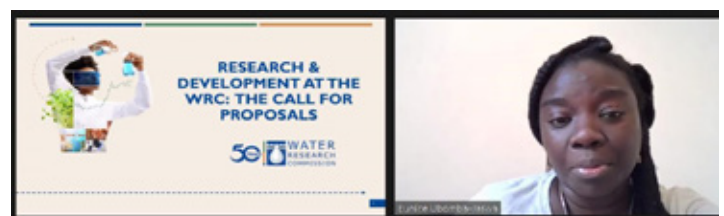
On behalf of the WRC projects at UNIVEN, Mr TR Nkuna presented on the topic entitled "Leading a WRC Project", the presentation largely focused on the project management principles and conflict resolution management of projects. Of particular interest was the issue relating to effective project management.



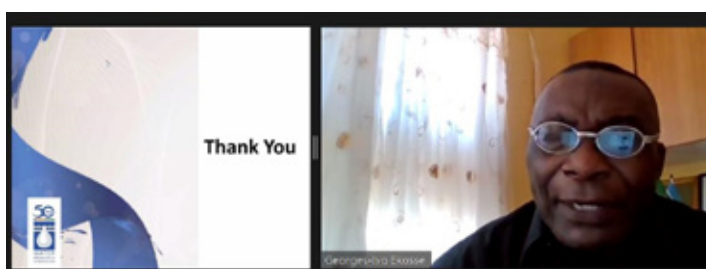
Some of the participants in a group photo



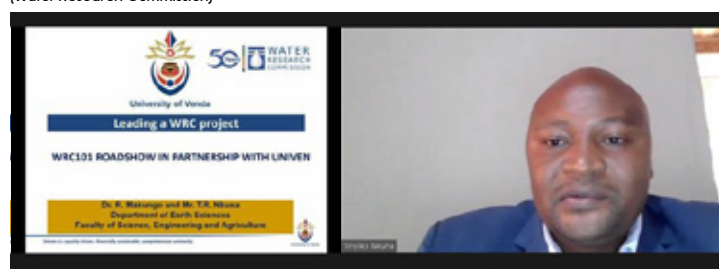
Professor Sylvester Mpandeli, Executive Manager at the Water Research Commission (WRC)



Dr Eunice Ubomba-Jaswa, Research Manager: Water Resources Quality and Management (Water Research Commission)



Director Research and Innovation Senior Professor GE Ekosse



Mr T.R. Nkuna Department of Earth Sciences Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, UNIVEN





**University of Venda**

*Creating Future Leaders*

# 2022 UNIVERSITY OF VENDA ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION AND HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION ARE NOW OPEN

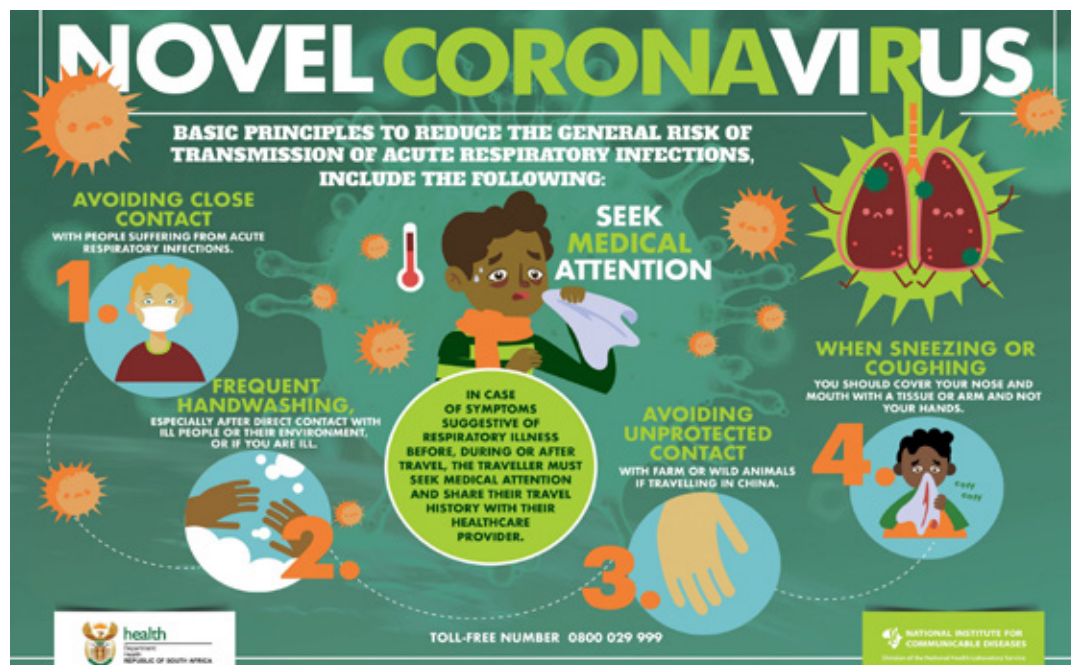
Students who intend to enrol for programmes of their choice with the University of Venda in the 2022 academic year, are hereby informed that **ONLINE** applications for admission and hostel accommodation are now open as from 20 July 2021 and the closing date is Tuesday, 28 September 2021.

Prospective students are encouraged to apply on or before the closing date to avoid frustration in 2022.

Visit **UNIVEN Website**: [www.univen.ac.za](http://www.univen.ac.za)

## ALL APPLICATION ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO STUDENT ADMINISTRATION:

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	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:undergraduateadmission2@univen.ac.za">undergraduateadmission2@univen.ac.za</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 015 962 8953
	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:undergraduateadmission3@univen.ac.za">undergraduateadmission3@univen.ac.za</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 015 962 8974
<b>Postgraduate:</b>	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:postgraduate.admission@univen.ac.za">postgraduate.admission@univen.ac.za</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 015 962 8882 / 015 962 8954
<b>International Students:</b>	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:international.admissions@univen.ac.za">international.admissions@univen.ac.za</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 015 962 9347 / 015 962 9348



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5. Fraud and corruption.

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