



Education is critical for development



Welcome to Africa – Kenyans at the official conference opening.

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"Education is expected to provide all-round development of its recipients. This enables them to overcome prevailing challenges and play an effective role in their immediate society."

This is according to the Governor of Kakamega County in Kenya, Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya.

Speaking at the official opening of the First Pan African International Research Congress on Knowledge Generation and Dissemination in Africa in Kisumu, Kenya recently, Oparanya said education is critical to promote political, social and economic development.

"It is therefore imperative that state and county authorities work hand-in-hand to deliver meaningful and adequate education to citizens. Academic excellence should never be an end in itself. Rather, society should focus on the relevance of knowledge, skills and values it wishes its learners to acquire. This should be the focus, not just in Kenya but also in other African countries and the entire world. All our nations, especially in Africa, have made commendable efforts to direct their educational endeavours towards national goals and promotion of human values."

Oparanya saluted the leadership of the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology for fostering close collaboration with the government of Kakamega, particularly in the field of research and training programmes and organising conferences and cultural events.

"It is the responsibility of academia to identify gaps which require attention, research and implement sustainable solutions for our society's key needs. Research plays a crucial role in socio-economic development, leading to the improvement of the quality of peoples' lives. It increases life expectancy,

enhances agricultural productivity and food security and develops technologies that simplify peoples' lives. Research is responsible for the economic prosperity enjoyed by all developed nations.

"It is important for African states to have clear strategies to undertake research and establish technology firms for prosperity. It is critical for African states to develop mechanisms to increase research funding and accountability monitoring on

the use of these funds. It is also critical to develop ways of engaging the private sector in research by promoting public-private partnerships.

"We will all be winners if we have peace on the entire continent. Peace should spread to Southern Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo all the way to Central Africa Republic, from the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic to Morocco as well as Tunisia, Libya and

beyond. We need to join hands and help heal our continent!"

"I urge you all, as ambassadors of our great continent, to pass this message of peace and development to your respective countries and communities. In doing so, we can lift Africa and the world to higher levels of development. Otherwise we shall not reap the fruits of the research work being undertaken by you," said Oparanya.



Welcoming delegates – a cultural dance group entertaining delegates.

African youth - the hope of the continent



A recent campus parade by Univen students from Freedom Square to the sports hall showcased the university's love for the African continent. During the Africa day celebrations, themed Africanisation, Africa's rich culture was portrayed through traditional attire, drama, plays and cultural performances.

Naledzani Netshirembe rendered poems while Mercy Masakona, a PhD candidate in the African Studies Department, specialising in music, gave the audience a taste of African songs.

"Science has proved that Africa is the cradle of humankind and the place where humans discovered the utility of fire and the beauty of art," said Univen's Acting Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Jan Crafford.

"Young people are the hope of the country and can take the continent to a freer and more equal world - free of the indignity of poverty and the scourge of oppression. Women should embrace their beautiful natural selves and not hide their African beauty under weaves and make-up. Stay united as the

youth of Africa," he said.

"Africanisation is an established African social, political and economic vocabulary," said keynote speaker, Dr Chris Ngwenya of the School of Human and Social Sciences.

"Africa's exotic races have always identified themselves with their countries of origin and they have never wished to be considered as Africans. This is because Africa has always been identified as socially and economically backward, politically exploited by black masses. However, the term has now acquired a much wider meaning since Africa became politically independent."

Univen's SRC President, Gcina Mhlabane, called upon African leaders to unite and fight apartheid and oppressions that still exist.

"Africa Day is incomplete until everyone is entitled to free quality education."

"Promote unity and love for one another, irrespective of your nationality - make every day Africa Day," said the Director of Communications and Marketing, Takalani Dzaga.



Naledzani Netshirembe rendering a poem.



A taste of African songs by Mercy Masakona.



Univen students entertaining the audience.



A Tsonga dance group performing.



Students showcasing African attire.



The group that brought Africa Day to Univen.

23rd International workshop on quantum systems in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology

Hosted by Univen, this workshop will bring together researchers from around the world with cutting-edge contributions to a broad range of quantum systems. The workshop will be held in the Kruger National Park's Mopani Camp from 23 to 29 September. For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/view/qscp-2018>.

We would like to hear from you!

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If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus – contact the tip-off hotline - 0800 212 755, e-mail univenhotline@tip-offs.com

Careways Services to look at employee wellness

Univen has entered into a contract with Careways for the development and management of an employee wellness programme.

The contract will take effect from 1 October and will serve all the

university's employees and their immediate household/family members.

The programme provides confidential consultation to employees when personal problems threaten their

wellbeing or work performance.

It will assist employees experiencing potentially work-hampering, personal problems such as work stress, marital conflict, family problems, emotional conflict,

substance abuse and trauma counselling.

The programme assists employees to resolve personal problems before they negatively impact on their performance.



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-  Face-to-face and telephone counselling: personal difficulties; family and relationship concerns; alcohol, drug or gambling abuse; stress and life changes; violence and trauma; HIV/Aids; grief; work-related matters
-  Financial assistance: debt counselling, managing debt, budgets, black listings, retirement, loans
-  Health information: general health and wellness tips, including dietary information
-  Legal assistance: professional telephonic legal support and basic legal documents, such as your last will and testament, power of attorney, residential lease and general sales agreements

To use the EWP

<p>Call the care centre on 0800 004 770 at any time, day or night, and receive assistance in your preferred language.</p> 	<p>SMS your name to 31581 at any time, day or night, and the care centre will call you back within 60 minutes.</p> 
<p>Email ewp@carewaysgroup.com and receive counselling via email.</p> 	<p>Visit www.mywellnesscompass.co.za to gain access to health and wellness information and tools all designed to help you live your best life possible!</p> 

TAKE NOTE

The EWP is totally confidential. Your personal information remains private, none of your colleagues will ever know you are using any of the EWP services (not even your manager or your employer) and using these services will not affect your job security.

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Univen at EUROSA's final meeting

Univen recently participated in the final meeting of EUROSA, an Erasmus Mundus programme in a consortium with 13 European and 11 South African universities, in Belgium.

The EUROSA programme was developed by the European Union to assist historically disadvantaged institutions in South Africa.

EUROSA started in 2011 and the last students finished their programmes this year. The Erasmus Mundus programme was divided into phases where Univen was involved in exchange programmes for students and staff.

The final meeting was held at the University of Antwerp. Univen was represented by Nontlanhla Ntakana, Assistant International Relations Officer in the Directorate of International Relations.

The EUROSA task team was led by the University

of Antwerp with Piet Hove, Director: International Relations, who gave background of the programme highlights, ups and downs.

Most of the historically disadvantaged institutions did not participate fully in the programme because of language offering and programmes that were not offered at the call for applications. Only a few applications for PhD and postdoctoral programmes were received. The students who participated from South African universities were for masters degrees, while the European Union concentrated more on research.

Many international relations offices also increased and gained more experience in handling projects and mobility programmes and new partnerships were formed between the European Union and South African universities.

"The internationalisation policy must encourage

institutions to widen and strengthen mobility programmes to produce quality education to students," said European Commission Project Advisor, Elif Memis.

"The programme must start at secondary school level, vocational students and young professionals. The institutions must also look at recognition of studies for the student or staff going for study, either in Europe or South Africa. Sustain your networks, even though the programme is finished," she said.

The institutions were encouraged to create a sustainable international alumni network that would assist in supporting international students.

"Set up joint degrees, create a database that will be globally oriented for South African institutions and track the completion of degrees for those who did not finish on time," said Dr Sara Dewachter of the

University of Antwerp.

Because of the struggles that students go through when they are in foreign countries, it was suggested that institutions must keep contact and support them.

Sisangile Nduna and Yandisa Ngqangashe, PhD students from South African institutions and EUROSA grantees thanked the organisers for the opportunity to study within the programme.

"It is essential to think about the future and not fear leaving your own country and to accept the chance to work hard for your degree."

The final meeting agreed that institutions need to assist one another in building international relations offices. EUROSA has brought partnering universities together and many of them now work together on various projects.



"Strengthen mobility programmes to produce quality education" - Memis.



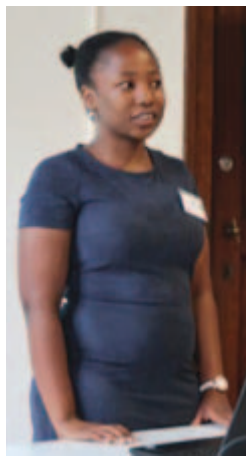
Participants in the EUROSA, European Union and South African universities final meeting.



Group discussions on institutional assignments.



EUROSA grantees at the University of Antwerp.



Brainstorming to create a sustainable EUROSA alumni network.

Participating delegates.



Univen at research and innovation workshop

Univen participated in the recent Research and Innovation Week at the University of Pretoria.

The South Africa-Sweden University Forum organised a grant for the internationalisation project, coordinated by the University of Uppsala in Sweden. It falls under the Erasmus key action capacity building project for higher education which is funded by the European Union for R29 million.

The project is a network of seven Swedish and 23 South African universities to which Univen is a party. It establishes new relations and strengthens ongoing efforts in research, education and internationalisation between Sweden and South Africa. The focus is specifically on sustainable development goals and to provide emerging researchers with knowledge, contacts and networks.

The workshop brainstormed current situations regarding internationalisation at partner institutions. It planned innovative ways to approach

internationalisation and utilise the power of online tools. Working groups and partners developed projects that are aligned to strategic development goals. Activities will be kept visible and available for target audiences such as policymakers, industry, civil society organisations, educational institutions, academics and students to access and learn from them.

Calls for funding of various projects were published in June 2018 for groups to apply. The next workshop will be held at the University of Stellenbosch in May 2019.

Other contributors include the Department of Science and Technology, the National Research Foundation and the Department of Higher Education and Training. The funding covers the cost of three seminars, both in South Africa and Sweden, 40 short term mobility projects and platforms where results and activities will be shared from 2018 to 2020.

The South Africa-Sweden University Forum is

structured along six major research challenges - climate change, natural resources and sustainability, transforming higher education curricula, the nexus between academia and society and social transformation through change. The other challenges are knowledge and social development strategies for society, understanding the burden of disease in Sweden and South Africa and its impact on the health systems of the two countries in the future, urbanisation and cities in the 21st century and digital technologies, big data and cybersecurity. Held at the University of Pretoria, satellite programmes were also presented at the Vaal University of Technology, the University of Zululand, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the University of the Witwatersrand.

The project brought together more than 300 researchers, students from Sweden and South Africa in seminars, exchanges and projects in support of the emerging researchers.

Univen was represented by Dr Segun Obadire, Acting



A meeting of minds - Prof Eva Åkesson, Vice Chancellor: Uppsala University, Sweden, Cecilia Julin, Swedish Ambassador to South Africa and Prof Stephanie Burton, Vice Principal: University of Pretoria.

Director: International Relations and emerging researchers from the Schools of Environmental Sciences, Human and Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Education and Agriculture.

The workshop exchanged ideas between European and South African partners about the goals and actions to identify potential partners for projects proposals.

Present at the Research and Innovation Week were vice chancellors, deputy vice chancellors, senior managers of partner universities, the Ambassador of Sweden to South Africa, the National Research Foundation, the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Young Academy of Science and other industry representatives.

Seen at the Research and Innovation Week.



Univen and Alfa Chickens host Farmers Day

Univen's School of Agriculture's experimental farm, its Animal Science Department and Alfa Chickens recently hosted a Poultry Farmers Day. More than 90 poultry farmers from Vhembe, undergraduate and postgraduate students attended. The representative of Cobb SA and Alfa chickens, Tau Phiri, shared information on poultry operations and the company's research findings. It included information on the breeding of broilers for efficient, profitable growth, bio-security, nutrition, marketing and general management of poultry. This was followed by discussions facilitated by the Department of Animal Sciences. This event was part of the School of Agriculture's mandate to engage the farming community and share ideas on research needs and findings.



Talking chicken - Univen's Head of Animal Sciences, Prof Joseph Baloyi and Cobb SA and Alfa Chickens representative, Tau Phiri.



Comparing chicken broiler farming notes – Univen and Cobb staff.



Sharing information - Farmers, representatives, undergraduate and postgraduate students from the School of Agriculture.

Value yourself and know your self-worth

“Filter your mind and be careful about what enters your head and what goes out.”

With these words, television presenter and actor, Nimrod Nkosi, kick-started Univen's Campus Health Services' 2018 Transport Training Authority's HIV/AIDS campaign, educating students on how to live healthy lives.

“Understand your rights and do not be an abuser of human rights. Value yourself and know your self-worth. Do not add to the statistics of HIV positive students at institutions of higher learning. Contribute to the communities of Venda. Remember where you come from and work hard to achieve your goals. Be accountable for your life,” said Nkosi.

“In South Africa alone, about seven million people who have been tested are living with HIV,” said Dr Moeketsi Mathe, a medical practitioner from Vereeniging.

“Young women are at risk of getting HIV. Getting HIV is a choice and every choice has consequences. People who are HIV positive and who are taking treatment live longer as they go for check-ups and they live healthy lifestyles. Choose not to get HIV and if you have it, choose not to die from it, take the treatment,” he said.

“This campaign is designed to improve your life,”

said Univen's acting Director of Student Affairs, Lufuno Tshikhudo.

“When you are a registered Univen student, we

assure you that your health is put first.”

“Test for HIV and other diseases,” said Univen's SRC President, Gcina Mhlabane.

“If you are sexually active, always use protection. Do not test because you want incentives like T-shirts or USBs - test to know your status.”



Know your HIV status – test to know.



Focus on the environment in Duthuni

"The youth's struggle is no longer about languages and better education, but fighting everything that degrades our environment."

So says the Green Development Foundation's Environmental Officer, Talifhani Amogelang Mokoape.

Speaking at the recent environmental drive in Duthuni, Mokoape said the youth of this village are tomorrow's solution to environmental issues.

"The youth is the only hope to a safer environment and they must be taught at a tender age to understand the importance of waste management."

"We chose Duthuni village due to its natural wetlands that have to be preserved and protected."

Duthuni youth and community members came out in huge numbers to support the greening campaign initiative, organised by the Green Development Foundation and the Universal Greening Organisation.

"I am happy to be taught about how to protect the environment," said grade 4 learner, Udivha Mamilasigidi.

"We are taught at school that a dirty environment causes chronic diseases and we say no to waste."

"I appreciate this kind of initiative to clean the environment in our village," said Ward Councillor, Alidzuli Muebi.

"This is a lesson to us and we are planning to make it a daily habit. I urge the municipality to support this kind of initiative by collecting waste at least twice weekly in Duthuni and around the dam. Our people do their laundry and livestock drink water from this dam."

The youth were entertained by local artists and received give-aways like school bags, pens and T-shirts.



Talifhani Amogelang Mokoape, Green Development Foundation Environmental Officer, assisting the youth with Operation Clean-up.

Duthuni youth collecting waste in the streets and at the dam.



"Cleaning the environment should be a daily exercise" – Alidzuli.



All in a day's work for Operation Clean-up.



Excited kids doing their bit for the greening campaign.

Career guidance at Khesethwane High School

Grade 12 learners of the Khesethwane High School were recently put through their paces to learn about what Univen has to offer.

Accompanied by their educators and the Chairperson of their School Governing Body, the learners received career guidance as well as information about programmes offered by Univen, application for admission processes and bursaries.

"Applications to study at Univen are already open until September 2018," said Univen's Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Justice Lebopa.

"It is important to apply before the closing date. Visit the Univen website and apply online."

"Apply for National Student Financial Aid Scheme and other bursaries. Visit companies' and organisations' websites to get full information regarding funding and tuition fees opportunities. Conduct yourselves in a professional manner, as

the environment will be different from that at high school," said Lebopa.

"The information provided to us was very helpful – thank you Univen," said learner Sharon Sekgobela.

From a class of 71 learners, only two learners confirmed that they had applied to the university or other tertiary institutions to further their studies. After listening to speakers, they promised to apply when they go back to school.

"We received a warm welcome and the career advice which was given to us was more than what we anticipated," said a teacher, Nhamo Manhaka.

"Visiting Univen has motivated our learners. This will assist in improving the pass rate."

The Chairperson of the School Governing Body, Nkosi Mohale, said Univen is well-known for its good performance and has produced good leaders.



Taking in information - learners listening attentively to speakers.