



Adv Mojankunyane Gumbi is the University of Venda's new Chancellor

Adv Mojankunyane Gumbi has been appointed as the University of Venda's new Chancellor with effect from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2024. The appointment of Adv Gumbi was approved by Council at its virtual meeting held on Friday, 22 May 2020.

She takes over the reigns from the former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe who has served two terms in the position.

The University's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, says the University is grateful for the first time to have a female Chancellor. It is an honour to have a woman with the stature of Adv Gumbi at the helm of UNIVEN. "We look forward to her leadership and guidance in the years to come. Her engagement with the University will certainly stand us in good stead," says Dr Nthambeleni.

Dr Nthambeleni added that Adv Gumbi joins the University of Venda at the right time when the University is shifting towards a new strategic direction which is intended to position the University for impact and relevance. The University's new strategic direction for 2021-2025 will be effective as from 2021.

Adv Mojankunyane Gumbi is the founder of Mojanku Gumbi Advisory Services, a Johannesburg-based business advisory firm that maintains a strategic partnership with the Washington-based Albright Stonebridge Group.

She was a Special Advisor to the former South African President Thabo Mbeki from 1999 to 2008. From 1994 to 1999, she was an Advisor to then Deputy President Mbeki in the Mandela administration. During this time, she spearheaded South Africa's economic diplomacy, ensuring a global presence for South African companies. She was involved in peace-making initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Comoros, Sudan, Lesotho, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Iran and the Middle East.

In addition to her role, Adv Gumbi advised on domestic policy issues including the reform of the local healthcare industry, the expansion of South African industry to the rest of Africa and the world, banking and mining sector reforms.



Adv Gumbi was one of South Africa's principal negotiators at the Seattle and Doha rounds of the World Trade Organization, and served as President Mbeki's personal representative to the G8, where she played a leading role in the establishment of the G5 Group (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa). She served also as President Mbeki's personal representative in the Progressive Governance Network. Adv Gumbi continues to advise on a number of African issues.

Prior to serving in the Presidency, Adv Gumbi was an Attorney from 1984 and an Advocate from 1993. In these capacities, she defended political activists from all political organizations in South Africa. She acted as the Head of the Adjudication Secretariat of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) during South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, bearing the ultimate responsibility within the IEC for the resolution of all disputes arising out of those elections.

Adv Gumbi holds Law degrees from the South African Universities of the North (now University of Limpopo), and Witwatersrand, and a certificate in Trial Advocacy from the University of Texas in Austin. She serves and has served on the boards of many companies, trusts and philanthropic associations including the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, the Open Society Foundation, African Bank, LexisNexis, PPC, the Southern African Political and Economic Trust (SAPES), the Black Lawyers Association and the Thabo Mbeki Foundation.

She served as a member of Council of the then Technikon Witwatersrand, which is part of the University of Johannesburg, and the Council of the then University of the North, under the Chancellorship of President Nelson Mandela and Minister Kader Asmal as Chairperson of Council. She served as the Ombud of the University of Johannesburg.

"It is an honour to have a woman with the stature of Adv Gumbi at the helm of UNIVEN.

We look forward to her leadership and guidance in the years to come. Her engagement with the University will certainly stand us in good stead."

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UNIVEN distinguishes itself nationally and globally in waste to energy conversion research

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) has distinguished itself both national and globally in waste to energy conversion research, development and demonstration. The Green Technologies Promotion (UNIVEN Green Tech Promo) Drive that finds base on the ever-grounded expertise in the varied fields of renewable energy within researchers from the Department of Physics, collaborating with team members from schools of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences dates to 2009. The team of the drive has been supported by national institutions such as the National Research Fund (NRF) and the Water Research Commissions (WRC).

The drive resonated well with the launch of the Limpopo Green Economy Plan in 2013 and Dr David Tinawo, the leader of the Biogas Research team from the Department of Physics, School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences served in the first Limpopo Green Economy Plan Implementation Steering Committee.

Mr Lawrence Munyai is one of the entrepreneurs being mentored by the project team and has been using his digester since 2014. The seven stoves are prepared to be

connected at the seven household digesters installed this year in Bungeni, Elim and Magoro.

The University represented by the Department of Physics was in 2014 sponsored by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) to enhance its awareness programmes on the development of green economy in the province with the intention of establishing a Green Economy Centre of Excellence. Building on the positive results achieved from the technology awareness and training activities done around communities of Vhembe District, several sponsors from both within the country and international got interested to support the drive's efforts. One of the most impactful project is the Global Environment Fund (GEF) funded project, "Promoting Organic Waste-to-Energy and Other Low-Carbon Technologies in Small, Medium and Micro-Scale Enterprises (SMMES): Accelerating Biogas Market Development", administered by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, (UNIDO).



Trainees finalizing the construction of the compost pits for a twelve cubic metre digester constructed at Manjorjo Farm in Magoro



Mr Lawrence Munyai testing seven modified liquid petroleum gas (LPG) stoves (22 February 2020) to be used with biogas at his home in Vleifontein

Building on the positive results achieved from the technology awareness and training activities done around communities of Vhembe District, several sponsors from both within the country and international got interested to support the drive's efforts.

The University was contracted to enhance awareness and capacity building through skills development in the youth of the Limpopo province. This has seen tremendous support from our national government departments in the form of co-financing. The leading government department in this support is the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy through the South Africa National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) that has been supporting the work since 2017. With the infiltration of awareness of this local developmental challenge multisolver, the University of Venda is contributing to the country's and global desire to transit to the 'circular economy'

providing a real opportunity that sees the current wasteful economy turning more regenerative, inclusive and equitable.

Some district municipalities, like the Capricorn District Municipality (CDM) has thrown its weight in support of the noble activities of the drive. More districts and local municipalities are getting more and more attracted to the drive due to its resonance with the needed solutions to present challenges of youth unemployment, poverty, inequality, energy (electricity) shortages, food security and other climate change impacts like increasingly water scarcity facing the country.

UNIVEN distinguishes itself nationally and globally in waste to energy conversion research continued/...



Trainees at Tiyani Secondary School in Magoro marking an 18 cubic metre digester



Visit to 8 cubic metre digester beneficiary Mr Khosa in Magoro in Collins Chabane by the project team in the company of a representative of the funding organization, Mr Riaz Hamid of SANEDI.



Prepared digester hole ready for foundation cast at Njhunga Primary School in Bungeni



The beneficiary Mr. Zitha (middle) of Magoro staring with appreciation of the good work the trainees were doing



Pre-Site work Audit visit to Njhunga Primary School by the project team led by Dr Tinarwo (second from right), Mr Ravhengani (in red shirt), Mr Mahuma from SANEDI (extreme right), Mrs Nishani, Mrs Khosa in blue top and trainees and students

Nurturing a partnership with Hlayisani Traditional Health Practitioners Association at Maviligwe village

Prof Vhonani Netshandama, Director Community Engagement together with eight (8) students, five (5) from the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and 3 from the University of Amsterdam (UvA) visited Maviligwe village. The visit took place on Friday, 28 February 2020. Mr Hobyane who is the Chairperson of Hlayisani Traditional Health Practitioners Association highlighted that the purpose of the visit was to strengthen the existing relationship with the Maviligwe knowledge holders and to provide field learning experience for students in a multi-cultural setting.

During a traditional interactive session, students interacted with traditional health practitioners. Traditional healers shared that they are interested in collaborating with Primary Health Care Nurses and Medical Doctors, unfortunately, they felt there is lack of reciprocation as they are always

undermined and treated with suspicion. Both Traditional Healers and students learned how data may be collected in a traditional indigenous collaborative setting.

Students and Traditional healers had informal sessions to talk about any topic they wanted, followed by a short reflection session. In a different session, students shared their reflections and observations from interactions that they had with traditional health practitioners which entailed an inherent cultural power dynamic between men and women; between traditional healers and students.

Community Engagement Directorate intend to organise a workshop aimed at empowering knowledge holders and traditional health practitioners. The UNIVEN IKS Student Chapter further intends to organise a workshop with supervision of the respective mentors in IKS.



Conversational songs and drumming during one of the sessions



Welcoming ceremony



Welcoming ceremony

Higher Health Digital Screening Assessment and Mapping Tool

HIGHER HEALTH has successfully development the tailor-made HIGHER HEALTH-NDOH COVID-19 Integrated Digital Risk Screening Assessment and Mapping tool for the Post-Schooling Education and Training Sector – also known as **HealthCheck**.

This tool allows for early screening, detection, mapping and management of COVID-19 cases within the PSET Sector. Different platforms – USSD (Data free), WhatsApp and a simple web-based form – make for its easy use.

The tool was developed in an extraordinarily short time frame by HIGHER HEALTH, in support with the Department of Health, for the purpose of meeting the imminent deadline of the reopening of Public Universities, Technical and Vocational Training Colleges, Community Education and Training Colleges, Skills Centres, Private Higher Education Institutes, among others.

According to Higher Health, the importance of this tool cannot be overstated.

Since it is mandatory to screen daily, before being allowed to access a public space, HIGHER HEALTH was intent

on supporting the PSET sector with a daily screening tool. HIGHER HEALTH **HealthCheck** can be used for all staff, students and any other service provider entering a campus or a residence, to screen on a daily basis. It is intended to assist with the early detection of possibly infected individuals thereby allowing them to be isolated to prevent any further spread. This will also link such individuals to the requisite care through the NDOH and NICD tracking and tracing system. The tool is aligned to NDOH screening protocols and algorithms.

Upon completing the screening assessment individuals will be provided with a clearance certificate with his/her name, date and time, and can be used as a clearance certificate for quick entry to the campus. Those identified as moderate to high risk to COVID-19 will be further guided by the Digital Risk assessment tool or HealthCheck towards further isolation, testing and linkage to care.

In a nutshell:

daily screening → early detection
→ isolation → prompt care
→ following DOH testing criteria
→ quarantine → linkage to treatment, care and support = lives saved.

To access the tool:

- Download using the URL for the webform: healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za
- Add to WhatsApp contacts: 0600 11 0 000 <https://wa.me/27600110000?text=hi>
- Dial using USSD line *134*832*2#

DON'T LET COVID-19 STRESS YOU OUT

YOUR EWP IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

Do you sometimes
feel life is getting
too much to handle?

Are you worried
about your finances?

Are you
experiencing health
problems?

Do you need any
legal advice?

We can help



We want you to live your **BEST LIFE**
at work and at home.

That's why you, and all your dependants who
live with you, have access to our
Employee Wellness Programme (EWP)
that provides professional support services, 24
hours a day, 7 days a week, for free!

The EWP is a caring, confidential service
that helps you and your family deal with
difficult personal or work-related issues.



WE CAN HELP YOU IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS



Virtual and telephonic 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

TAKE NOTE

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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.

For confidential advice and support, contact Life EHS EWP
SMS your name to 31581 (and we will call you back)

EXAKT4YOU Innovation

Workshop held in Tanzania

EXAKT4YOU is a project funded by the Baden-Wuerttemberg Stiftung, Germany. The funding of Baden-Wuerttemberg Stiftung covered travel expenses including international flights, accommodation, subsistence and health insurance cost, while UNIVEN provided for local travels and other expenses through the office of the International Relations. The workshop was organized and co-hosted by Foot2Afrika,

a registered Tanzanian NGO, and Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW), in Heidenheim, Germany. The project leader for the EXAKT4YOU project is Prof. Dr Sabine Moebis, DHBW, Germany. Partners in the African-European collaboration project for student and staff exchange includes University of Venda, South Africa, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NMAIST), Arusha, Institute of

Finance Management (IFM) in Dares-Salam. The Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative University in Heidenheim, Germany is the African-European collaborative project for student and staff exchange who participated in the event. The main objective of the workshop was to brainstorm and develop a prototype or agricultural plan to assist the Kilimanjaro region to enhance their tourism potentials and crop yields.



Participants showing their certificates after the workshop



UNIVEN students during the workshop in Tanzania



Some of the participants during the Safari game drive

Fulbright Scholarship Programme Representatives visit UNIVEN

The Fulbright Scholarship Programme representatives from the US Embassy in Pretoria, Ms Charmain Botha, Fulbright Programme Coordinator and Ms Bongzi Radebe, Education USA Adviser visited the University of Venda to conduct information session on the 10 March 2020. The main purpose of the session was to answer all questions that potential applicants had as well as to encourage those who had started applications to complete and submit their applications. They also promoted particularly, the Visiting Student Researcher opportunity for PhD registered applicants on the following available scholarships: Fulbright Foreign Student Programme – fully funded opportunity for students and staff to do a Masters or PhD degree in the U.S. and Visiting Research Scholar Programme – fully funded research opportunity for Faculty with a PhD to conduct research in their field at a U.S. university for 3-9 months.

Their visit also included a follow-up and advice session to staff and students who previously applied but couldn't meet the scholarship's requirement. Given clarity to students and staff, Ms Charmain emphasized that applicants should request clarity and advice from Fulbright before sending their applications. Reading materials and steps on how to apply for scholarships was also submitted to the University Library and the International Relations Directorate for future used.



Some of the participants at the Information Session

IRO holds its Departmental Workshop 2020

The International Relations Directorate (IRO) held its annual departmental workshop from 3 – 6 March 2020 at Protea Hotel, The Ranch, Polokwane. The workshop was opened by Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director International Relations. During the discussion, Dr Obadire also presented the current national and International developments in internationalisation of higher education and how this will affect IRO projects on global mobility. Other staff members present at the workshop included Mrs Nontlanhla Ntakana, Assistant International Relations Officer; Ms Suzan Satheke, Assistant International Student Administrator; Mr Vincent Motau (Intern); Mr Malapi Morifi (Volunteer); Mr Tshupo Rasiala (UNISU adviser) and Mr Wiseman Ndlovu (UNISU adviser).

The reflection on the Strategic objective number 7 and progress with the implementation of the strategic targets set for 2019. It was agreed that a greater number of the strategic targets were achieved during the year under review. The Operations and Business plans in line with the Strategic Objective plan 2020 was discussed. The report on the operations at the Helpdesk, admission, registration, exchange of staff and students and compliant processes for international students were discussed including the challenges faced by international student including the declining number of international students from SADC. Some solutions were recommended to some of these problems. The programme of activities for the 2020 academic year at the Directorate was discussed and finalised. Mr Takalani Nyelisan, University Schools

Liaison Officer, Communications and Marketing Department attended the workshop and discussed the possible continuation of the existing joint strategy on

how to attract international students from other countries to increase their numbers at UNIVEN. Some of the suggestions included participation in international

career exhibitions both nationally and internationally by the two offices and at the same time monitoring and evaluating the numbers.



Some of the participants at the Workshop

Natalia Skowronek and Alisha Kersbergen spent ten weeks at UNIVEN

The University of Venda hosted Natalia Skowronek and Alisha Kersbergen for 810 weeks from Jan to March 2020. They are both masters' candidates in International Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam.

Natalia Skowronek (29) got her Bachelor in Anthropology and Cultural Sciences from the University of Lucerne in Switzerland. Her intense passion on exploring the value of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, its preservation, promotion and development is what inspired her to conduct her study in Venda. Beyond her study interests, she is currently working as a team coordinator for a Non-Governmental Organization called FairWork, which envisages to prevent human trafficking and sexual harassment in the workplace. She has acquired experience in events and project coordination for different organizations from most of the educational institutions that she has resided in.

Through all the experience she has acquired, she believes in being a team player and encourages students to be involved in different projects that will challenge them to be better and grow beyond just being an academic.

One of her fears about embarking on this journey beyond the data collection was the cultural orientation- being able to learn as much as she could about her new environment. Hence, it was exciting for her to finally be able to connect with different communities that she entered and interacted with in Venda.

She has expressed deep appreciation towards how open and loving the community was, this made it easier to learn as much as she could about the Vhaveda people.

Luckily, she was able to join in on one of Community Engagement's Research excursions, which are aimed at building relationships with

knowledge holders. On this particular excursion to Muhlava village, she shared that she was amazed by how passionate the knowledge holders were towards the preservation of indigenous knowledge systems. This then validated to her, that she could not have chosen a better place to conduct her study.

Natalia's warmth and thoughtfulness came in handy for us, one local student said. She spent her spare time seeking to understand than to be understood. She offered to assist where she could. I was afraid that she would later drown but she didn't. Even when the reports on Covid-19 later threatened her stay and work, she stayed calm until the end.



One factor that made her transition to the new environment a bit difficult was the high temperatures in Venda.



Natalia Skowronek believes in being a team player and encourages students to be involved in different projects that will challenge them to be better and grow beyond just being an academic.



Alisha Kersbergen (23) completed her International Baccalaureate High School-Diploma in Dubai. From then she moved to Maastricht to study Liberal Arts and Sciences (Majoring in Social Sciences) with the University of Maastricht. During the course of her Bachelor's degree she got the opportunity to participate in an exchange programme in Rome, where she then studied Political Sciences at LUISS Guido Carli University.

Her interests are in environmental sustainability and human rights, with her research study focusing on the Autonomy of Small-Scale Female Farmers. Alisha shared that her interests in choosing South Africa as her area of study was that she is much more familiar with the country as her Grandmother lives in South Africa. Her focus on the University of Venda was inspired by the institution's interest in Indigenous Knowledge Systems and particularly its efforts to decolonize the knowledge and the research methodologies. The institution stood out as the perfect place for intercultural learning.

UNIVEN students are great teachers of the Venda culture and the ethical conduct that is expected during social interactions and in the field, she said.

Her highlight was the beauty of Thohoyandou, the warmth of students and community members, the knowledge shared and intercultural exchanges. She said that it was exciting for her to realise that her study focus was something that the VhaVenda people can relate to. Low points for her include miscommunications that could easily occur during fieldwork due to the different cultural orientations, although they are milestones to be embraced as each miscommunication that occurs is followed by more and more attempts to understand better the views provided.

Alisha said she was grateful that she has been able to learn about the traditional way to approach and to interact with the elders respectfully. She enjoyed spending time with women farmers and listening to their unique views on patriarchy among other things. She created meaningful relations and was even able to do village homestay.

During the past few weeks, the learning process has allowed her to juggle both a healthy study life and adapting to the new environment as both often occur simultaneously. The new environment and experiences play a pivotal role on the progress of the study, she said.

The gratitude for intercultural learning is mutual for the UNIVEN students (Tsakani Nyoni and Unarine Ndou, who are both awaiting honours graduates) who interacted with Natalia and Alisha closely.

Alisha's highlight was the beauty of Thohoyandou, the warmth of students and community members, the knowledge shared and intercultural exchanges.

Natalia Skowronek and Alisha Kersbergen spent ten weeks at UNIVEN continued...

"As we were working with cultural brokers, I learnt the significance of drafting the timeline of each cultural broker, with the timeline we would document events in the life of the cultural broker, the events also assisted us in knowing why and how the individual became who they are. From a personal view, I didn't know that this could be done, but I think it also helps to contribute towards the justification of why a certain participant was suitable for a study, one student said.

Our interaction has shaped our outlook on research for the better, research looked easy, but it isn't. It is time consuming and require a lot of planning. But if done by the rules, it is also exciting. I would encourage more students to participate in projects of this nature, even before they start off with their personal projects. Both Natalia and Alisha express their gratitude towards the University of Venda students and staff and the entire Vhembe community for the hospitality. Both Alisha and Natalia are supervised by Professor Dr. Yves van Leynseele. Professor VO Netshandama served as a local supervisor.



Nine UNIVEN and UvA Students visit Muhlava Traditional Health Practitioner Association to explore areas of collaboration

On Wednesday, 05 February 2020, the Director Community Engagement, Prof Vhonani Netshandama together with nine (9) students; six (6) from the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and three (3) from the University of Amsterdam (UvA) visited the Muhlava Traditional Health Practitioners Association at the Muhlava royal house. The visit was in response to the invitation from the association which aimed at exploring areas of collaboration.

The meeting began with a set of songs that are in appreciation to the chief and the ancestors for their protection and guidance, and then followed by a prayer.

Ntate Masia, the Chairperson of the Muhlava Traditional Healers Association indicated the purpose of the meeting as being an effort to get people to know each other and to explore the link between interests of Traditional Health Practitioners, Traditional healers, students and UNIVEN researchers.

Amongst others, Traditional Health Practitioners shared their challenges and areas of collaboration as follows:

- Lack of practicing facilities - When patients make follow ups, they either admit them in their homes or traditional healers travel to the patient's home daily;
- Patients are forced to remove their traditional beads before they get help from medical practitioners;
- Lack of recognition, standard and certification;
- Stigmatization;
- Lack of documentation and compilation of portfolio of evidence;
- Lack of recognition.

Amongst other things, students learned that as young indigenous knowledge practitioners, they should admit that learning should go beyond boundaries; there is a need for knowledge holders to be informed about ways of interacting with researchers and other stakeholders in a manner that does not make them vulnerable; there is a need for traditional healers to be informed about intellectual property rights to prevent them from constantly becoming victims of the loss of their innovations and knowledge for commercial purposes.



Some of the group members posing for a photo in-front of the Muhlava royal house



...learning should go beyond boundaries; there is a need for knowledge holders to be informed about ways of interacting with researchers and other stakeholders in a manner that does not make them vulnerable...

UNIVEN launches Voices Unite Project for Students/ Youth Digital Active Citizenry

Voices Unite is a ground-breaking student engagement platform and national research study focusing on young people in South Africa. It is a project of "In On Africa (IOA) Proprietary Limited". Voices Unite was initiated in response to the need for youth to become more empowered in decision-making for a better tomorrow. Recently the Community Engagement Directorate hosted delegates from Voice Unite at the Research Conference Centre.

The Voices Unite team was led by the CEO of In On Africa who visited the University of Venda to introduce the project to students. The Voices Unite is a digital platform for young people to share their views and ideas about priority topics that could influence policy and decision-making at institutional, cooperate, non-profit and governmental levels. The platform would be the largest youth-focused digital research survey targeting youth from ages 18-34. The collaboration will allow universities to have access to student's perceptions and views that could influence decision making. It is anticipated that the platform will address key challenges faced by youth such as unemployment, state of education and social issues and bringing transformation.

The presentation was followed by interactive session with students. Students shared their



Prof Vhonani Nelshandama, Director Community Engagement facilitating discussion with students

views on the presentation and the Voices Unite initiative, while facilitating decision to evidence-based interventions and ensure that students converse their needs better.

The platform is set to reach 2+ million post-school students including a minimum sub-sample of 1000 unemployed youth.

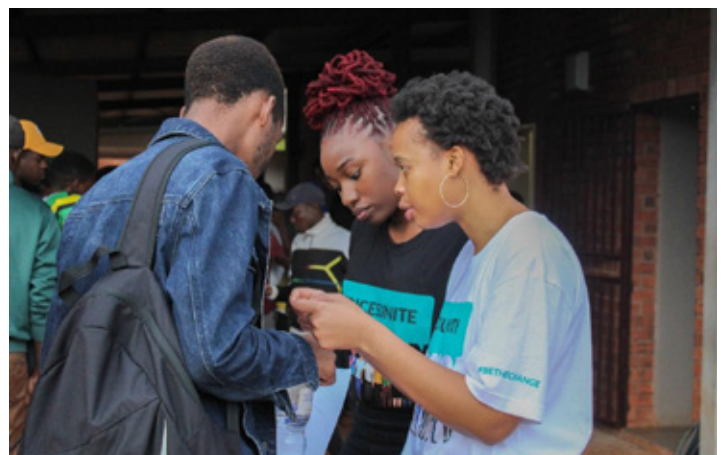


Mr Jonathan Mundell, CEO of In On Africa presenting The Voices Unite Platform

Voices Unite was initiated in response to the need for youth to become more empowered in decision-making for a better tomorrow.



Miss A Somthi, SRC Minister of Finance engaging in the discussions



Ms Nobuhle Hlangoti (Head of Voices Unite) and Ms Elizabeth Chinanga (Head of Partnership) helping students to sign up to the platform

Ms Nobuhle Hlangoti (Head of Voices Unite) and Ms Elizabeth Chinanga (Head of Partnership) co-presented using Mentimeter digital platform that enable creation of presentation and have audience engagement. Students shared their views on different issues amongst others black

tax, financial management, #Fees_must_fall movement, unemployment.

Students were encouraged to actively participate in dialogues through mentimeter. They were assured that sensitive information will be protected.

UNIVEN launches Voices Unite Project for Students/Youth Digital Active Citizenry continued...



Group photo for all the participants

SASUF Delegates Visit UNIVEN

The South Africa – Sweden University Forum (SASUF) is a strategic internationalisation project between 37 universities in South Africa and Sweden. The purpose of the project was to strengthen ties between both countries and to collaborate in working towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The collaborative approved project focused on "Capacity building to improve maternal and child health in South Africa and Sweden, with particular focus on pregnancy outcomes in women with anaemia in rural areas of Vhembe district, South Africa". The project is a collaboration between South

Africa (University of Venda and University of Limpopo) and Sweden (Karolinska Institutet, Uppsala Universitet, Göteborg University).

The Department of Nursing Science, University of Venda hosted delegates from the Uppsala Universitet on 10 March 2020. The delegation was led by Mrs Vanja Berggren. The visit was about the collaborative project between UNIVEN and UL as one of their SASUF project. During her visit to UNIVEN, Mrs Berggren had an opportunity to meet with UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni. During his discussion with

Mrs Berggren, Dean of Health Sciences, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi and staff members from School of Health Sciences, Dr Nthambeleni encouraged the team to work hard to bring positive results that can address health challenges in the community at large. The project is funded by SASUF and Department of Higher Education since November 2019 to Nov 2020 to the tune of about R161,800. The leader of the project at UNIVEN, Prof Sonto Maputle, Advanced Nursing Department took the visitor around the Health Sciences facilities and introduced her to other staff members.

"Capacity building to improve maternal and child health in South Africa and Sweden, with particular focus on pregnancy outcomes in women with anaemia in rural areas of Vhembe district, South Africa"



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal and Mrs Vanja Berggren, Uppsala Universitet, Sweden during the visit



The Vice-Chancellor pose for picture with the visitor, Prof Sonto Maputle and other staff members from the Advanced Nursing Department

UNIVEN Student Participates in Internship Programme in Russia



BRICS Interns: Mr Phumudzo Rasila (front row number six from right)

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Programme is a semester educational internship organised by the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU), Russia. The programme was designed to provide an environment for students from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to study together in the framework of educational programmes that could be evaluated as the most popular and relevant for BRICS. It promotes academic and cultural exchange aimed at intensification of socio-humanitarian cooperation, strengthening dialogue and mutual understanding within BRICS member states. The internship programme is held in recognition of the Russian 2020 BRICS Presidency.

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Mr Phumudzo Rasila, a honours student in Computer Science and Information Systems, School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences is representing the University at BRICS educational exchange programme holding at Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU), Russia as part of 100 students from five countries. Students will get a chance to discuss the global agenda relevant for BRICS as well as to explore Russia's foreign policy and its role in BRICS. The programme started on 11 February 2020 in Russia and will end on 30 June 2020. We receive good news from Phumudzo from time to time as he is doing well in Vladivostok, Primorsky Krai, Russia.



MyUniven is getting an UPGRADE from Blackboard to Moodle

We are excited to share the news of an update on MyUniven, our University Learning Management System.

Over the next few months, our relevant teams will be working on the migration of our Learning Management System from Blackboard to Moodle based Digikamva LMS. Our goal is to complete the migration by the 25th of July this year.

What this means

While the migration will mean a few changes, along with a new look and feel, our appointed Change Management team will guide all stakeholders through the process. All stakeholders involved will receive the appropriate training to ensure

all are comfortable with using the upgraded MyUniven. Please keep your eyes and ears open for communication in your personal inboxes relating to your preparation and training.

Questions and answers

To ensure we keep everyone informed, we will be launching a landing page, <https://www.univen.ac.za/myuniven/>, that will guide you through each phase of the MyUniven project. Here we will also list frequently asked questions with answers. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to us at lmsmigration@univen.ac.za

CHETL-E Learning Team in collaboration with ICT

We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communication channel.

Nendila editorial committee:

Dr Takalani Dzaga – Chief editor
Ms Welheminah Mabogo – Coordinator
Mr Peter Mashishi – Contributor
Ms Mushoni Mulaudzi – Preservation (Library)

Send your contributions to:

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