

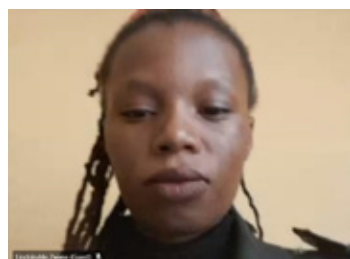


## UNIVEN celebrates 2021 Africa Day virtually

On Wednesday, 26 May 2021, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held Africa Day celebration under the theme 'African Union year of Art, Culture and Heritage: Levers for building the Africa we want'. This Africa Day celebration took place on Microsoft teams.



The Acting Director International Relations, Dr Segun Obadire said celebrations like this keep the hope of Africans alive. He said the idea of exporting raw natural resources to non-African countries to be refined should come to an end because it creates jobs for other countries and does not assist Africans in anyway. Dr Obadire highlighted that these resources are later brought back and sold to Africans at a very high price.



Lindokuhle Zwane, a UNIVEN student who is also a poet, rendered a poem about Africa.



In his welcoming address, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni highlighted that Africans have many reasons

to celebrate this day, even though 'it is not yet uhuru' in other African countries. Dr Nthambeleni said as Africans, we need to re-channel our energies in fostering cultural identity. He further mentioned that UNIVEN, unlike other African Universities, is located near Universities that are based in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regions than those based in South Africa. Therefore, UNIVEN will increase its ways of doing exchange programmes with other African countries, especially with those based in the SADC region of our continent.



Message of Support from SRC, Musa Mokgobi, the Minister for Housing who is doing Honours in Education said since he arrived at UNIVEN, he has learned the true meaning of unity. He further said the only way to conquer as Africans is through unity. "If we can unite as Africans and fight challenges as one then we will conquer at the end." He said Africans should treat each other like brothers and sisters and not attack each other because they are brothers and sisters who need each other in this difficult time.

**"if we can unite as Africans and fight challenges as one then we will conquer at the end."**



Mr Tshepo Raseala, who is a Masters student and a Part-Time Lecturer in the History Department at UNIVEN addressed the attendees under the theme 'African Union year of Art, Culture and Heritage: Levers for building the Africa we want'. He said we cannot say we are free until all Africans are free. "Those who are free should assist those who are not yet free." He encouraged the attendees to aspire to preserve African culture and all that belongs to Africa. "We need to know and be clear about the type of Africa we want, and we aspire to live in." He further mentioned unity as one of the pillars of strength that could assist Africans to conquer.

When responding to a question asked by one of the attendees about commercialising Indigenous Knowledge, Mr Raseala said, Africans need to free themselves from mental slavery. When talking about the issue of African natural resources, he said, Africa is rich, it is unfortunate that the beneficiaries of African natural resources are foreigners from outside Africa.



When making an input, Senior Prof Georges-Ivo Ekosse said, we need to free ourselves from mental enslavement. He said as Africans, we sometimes downgrade ourselves and rate ourselves very low and start to see people from other countries outside Africa to be better than us. "Never hide your identity and free yourselves from mental slavery."

In his closing remarks, Senior Prof Ekosse said Africa is not free until all Africans are free from all sorts of colonisations. "Africa is a unique continent and has a lot to offer not only to its people but to the whole world." He advised Africans to preserve African culture and its natural resources.

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# UNIVEN hosts PEER 2021 Conference to improve water security for smallholder farmers in Southern Africa

From 18-19 May 2021, the University of Venda hosted a Partnership for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) 2021 Conference. It was held at the University of Venda's Research Conference Centre and also on Microsoft Teams. The theme of the conference was to Improve water security for smallholder farmers in Southern Africa. This conference marked the end of the

PEER project that was funded by the United States International Development (USAID) and the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and implemented in Limpopo and Zambezi Basins of South Africa and Zambia. The focus of the project was on understanding water security for smallholder farmers along the crop value chains and transformation of the value chains for smallholder farmers. The implementing partners in the project were at three levels that is project funders who were USAID and DSI; Implementing partners who were the Institute for Rural Development of the University of Venda, University of South Africa (UNISA), the Independent Institute of Education (IIE MSA-formerly Monash), University of Montana in the USA, and the partners at the implementation sites who were Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development officers and the farmers at Nwanedi and Luvhada small scale irrigation schemes. From the Zambia side implementing partners were Chilanga farmers, the Department of Agriculture, Water Resources Management Authority and Department of Cooperatives.

This PEER 2021 Conference brought together researchers, practitioners and farmers to share and discuss experiences and results of the research project. A total of 57 delegates physically participated in the conference while others participated online. Noteworthy are 9 farmers from Luvhada irrigation Scheme under Makhado local Municipality and 12 farmers from Nwanedi irrigation scheme under Musina local Municipality, DSI delegate and 6 students under PEER-sponsorship. Participants examined how Southern Africa can best meet the water security challenges facing smallholder farming. It was hoped that by so doing, a science informed policy-implementation platform for interrogating and sharing insights on the contemporary theme of water security in the context of rural small-scale crop value chains would be created.



In his opening and welcome address, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Crafford, revealed that UNIVEN was rolling out implementation of its new Strategic Plan, 2021-2025. Therefore, the conference came at the right time when UNIVEN was taking a new direction. He went on to say, "This conference is one of many proofs indicating that UNIVEN is a leading institution in the field of Agriculture. I am glad that the reach of this conference is beyond the borders of this country. It will benefit us because it will fight water scarcity, food insecurity and starvation within this region and beyond borders of this country."

Prof Crafford went on to highlight that what was also appealing was the fact that the conference was contributing to the fourth thrust of UNIVEN's new Strategic Plan, namely "Partnerships, linkages and internationalisation". He went on to comment on the effects of climate change on availability of water especially for agriculture by saying, "If you look at climate change in Southern Africa, you will realise that water scarcity is as a result of this current climate. However, we are all in this together. We need to find ways to get water for survival. Agriculture and water are the key drivers of regional integration."

Prof Crafford concluded by advising academic staff to establish and teach students about the importance of agriculture, water scarcity, food security and the sustainability of water availability. "We also have to find ways to conserve water and come up with methodologies of making sure that water is available for agriculture to guarantee food security."



Dr Mwale Manjoro, who was the Principal Investigator (PI) in the USAID and DSI funded project, explained the purpose of the conference which was to bring together researchers, practitioners and farmers to share knowledge on how best to improve water security for smallholder farmers in Southern Africa. The PI emphasised that the goal of the conference was to create a science-policy implementation platform for interrogating and sharing insights on the contemporary theme of water security in the context of rural small-scale crop value chains. She encouraged attendees to participate fully to make the two-day long conference a success. The focus of the conference was thus on building stronger understanding of water related challenges that smallholder farmers are facing, sharing information on the various initiatives underway, and identifying innovative ways for dealing with the water security issues at hand.

**...the purpose of the conference was to bring together researchers, practitioners and farmers to share knowledge on how best to improve water security for smallholder farmers in Southern Africa.**



Whilst presenting on the topic, "Engaged Scholarship in Research", the Director of UNIVEN's Institute for Rural Development, Prof Francis said that, the conference was very important because it was seeking to find solutions for farming communities in Southern Africa. He indicated that engaged scholarship enabled students to practice what they learnt in classrooms or lecture halls and made them learn how to survive in real life situations.

"Building a trustful relationship is central to effective engaged scholarship." Prof Francis pointed out that for engaged scholarship to bear fruitful results, an enabling environment must prevail. He suggested that transformation of curricula as one way of enhancing the chances of engaged scholarship should be practiced." Throughout his delivery, Prof Francis highlighted several challenges that stood in the way of engaged scholarship. Language was one of the challenges of engaged scholarship given that it enabled effective two-way communication. He was of the view that "we need to learn languages for there to be meaningful co-creation of knowledge."

**"Building a trustful relationship is central to effective engaged scholarship."**

## UNIVEN hosts PEER 2021 Conference to improve water security for smallholder farmers in Southern Africa continued...



Prof Mbangiseni Nepfumbada from University of Johannesburg/Rand Water was the Keynote Speaker. He spoke about "Water Security, Resilience and Agricultural Value Chains". His presentation focused on studies he was part of in various provinces of South Africa, including research about the Nandoni Dam in Vhembe District.

Prof Nepfumbada said his research centred around changing people's lives through providing quality water to the people. He further emphasised that in all attempts to improve water security for smallholder farmers in Southern Africa, there is need to be mindful of the connectedness of local communities with farming in general and the changes over time in areas where farming was a lifestyle especially now that commercialisation was taking centre stage. He concluded by noting that research and technological advances could not only be confined to commercial and large-scale production, but rather should be a tool for empowerment. "This includes improving the capacity of the state to support the small-scale farming community."

It was acknowledged during the conference that many smallholder farmers in South Africa and Zambia are already responding to water security challenges; they have initiated a number of initiatives in that regard. The delegates reaffirmed the role of water security in ensuring food productivity and sustainability. They observed that achieving basic water security along agricultural value chains for local economic development was of major regional and national priority. Improving water security for smallholder farmers will require significant investments in local institutions and infrastructure for meaningful progress to be made. Opportunities for successful investments in water security projects will largely be contingent on strong commitment and dedication from all the concerned parties including government, financiers, and local communities. In that regard, the delegates endorsed and supported the notion of having ongoing water security dialogue involving smallholder farmers and other major economic players.



Some of the attendees of 2021 PEER Conference



PEER Conference 2021 attendees with DSI delegate on the second day of the conference

# UNIVEN and Mulenzhe Development Trust meet to strengthen collaboration of projects benefiting surrounding communities



Meeting in progress, Vho Thovhele Ramovha (seated on the left side of the table) briefing a delegation from UNIVEN led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, on Wednesday, 19 May 2021 led a delegation of UNIVEN Senior managers comprising of the Director Institute for Rural Development, Prof Joseph Francis; Director Community Engagement, Prof Vhonani Netshandama; UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) CEO, Dr John Mudau and Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga, which met with Thovhele Ramovha to strengthen collaboration between UNIVEN and Mulenzhe Development Trust. The meeting took place at Thavhani Mall boardroom.



In his presentation, Thovhele Ramovha highlighted that, rural development is very important to him because it seeks to

improve the lives of majority of people who reside in rural areas. When presenting about all projects that he is currently busy with, Thovhele Ramovha explained how he started the project of Thavhani Mall. He said after looking at the services that were not available in Thohoyandou, he realised that there are many services that the mall could bring to the people around Thohoyandou.

"There is vision 2030 where new developments will be established in and around Thohoyandou. People should not go far to access services. All services should be accessible by people residing in both urban and rural areas."

He said there are more projects that are still to come for the benefit of the surrounding communities. "These projects include, a private hospital, fitness centre and Numetro Cinema, poultry and abattoir. We want to bring these services to the people." He advised the University to commercialise some of its services if they need serious developments in and around Thohoyandou.

Thovhele Ramovha added that, among projects that he was busy with, there will be a golf course, private school, and town houses.

"Because these are long-term projects, there is a need to buy new construction vehicles/ machinery. Buying will assist to cut costs. These machineries will also generate income when hired and can later be used to build roads for our surrounding communities and will create jobs for local people."

He said they have three (3) bursary schemes that supports learners from as early as Grade R until they graduate from tertiary institutions focusing on specialised fields.

"We should not wait for government to do things for us, we should start doing things for ourselves and there is a need for them to work together with the University in order to develop this place. In everything we do, we should strive to ensure that our communities are benefiting."

In conclusion, he said indigenous knowledge should be commercialised. If commercialised, our people could make a lot of money from it because this area is rich in terms of indigenous knowledge. "This will also be a way of job creation." He invited students through the University management to acquire skills on some of the projects that they were busy with.

**"We should not wait for government to do things for us, we should start doing things for ourselves and there is a need for them to work together with the University in order to develop this place. In everything we do, we should strive to ensure that our communities are benefiting."**

## UNIVEN and Mulenzhe Development Trust meet to strengthen collaboration of projects benefiting surrounding communities continued...



UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said the University will document all projects that Thovhele is involved in because all projects involve community development.

Dr Nthambeleni outlined the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan where he suggested possible collaborations between Mulenzhe Development Trust and UNIVEN.

These projects are in line with the new strategic plan, especially Strategic Thrust 1 – Student Centeredness and Engaged Scholarship, Strategic Thrust 2 – Entrepreneurial University and Strategic Thrust 4 – Linkages, partnerships, and Internationalisation.

“We want UNIVEN to have an impact and relevance to our communities. We need to expand and find better ways to improve our people’s lives. There is a serious need to address some of these challenges as early as possible.”

When talking about Strategic Thrust 2, Dr Nthambeleni said the University strives to produce graduates who will be able to think beyond looking for jobs. They should be able to start their own businesses and create jobs. He said UNIVEN was busy reviewing its programmes to make them better and be able to be in line with Strategic Thrust 2. “We want our graduates to be able to see opportunities where others do not see opportunities. We want to change the thinking of our graduates.”

**“We want UNIVEN to have an impact and relevance to our communities. We need to expand and find better ways to improve our people’s lives. There is a serious need to address some of these challenges as early as possible.”**



When presenting the purpose of the meeting, Director Institute for Rural Development, Prof Joseph Francis said the purpose was to discuss possible partnerships between UNIVEN and Mulenzhe Development Trust to improve the lives of the surrounding rural communities.



Dr Mudau added that all parties, including surrounding communities and students will benefit from these collaborations. This will ultimately improve the local economy.



In her remarks, Director Community Engagement, Prof Vhonani Netshandama said a lot has been discussed during the meeting and what is left is the way forward on the possible projects to collaborate on for the benefit of the surrounding communities. “We need to come up with a strategy on where and how we collaborate.”

She said there is a need to start investing and empowering local people. “These projects should create jobs for local people and support local entrepreneurs. In addition, projects will also be developing the area where our people reside.” She commended Thovhele Ramovha for projects that are benefiting our communities.



Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Dzaga, gave a vote of thanks and appreciated the availability of Thovhele Ramovha for this meeting despite his busy schedule. He said the University wishes for a very long-lasting relationship with Mulenzhe Development Trust for the benefit and development of the surrounding communities.

**“These projects should create jobs for local people and support local entrepreneurs. In addition, projects will also be developing the area where our people reside.”**



A group photo of delegation from UNIVEN led by Dr Nthambeleni (fourth from left) posing with Vho Thovhele Ramovha (third from left) after the meeting

# UNIVEN Signs MoU with BLA- Legal Education Centre



Adv Mc Caps Motimele SC (Left) and Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (Middle) signing the MoU while Adv Edward Lambani (Right) is witnessing the signing of the MoU

On Wednesday, 12 May 2021, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Black Lawyers Association (BLA) Legal Education Centre. BLA- Legal Education Centre proposed to make available appropriate and necessary Trial Advocacy Training to all UNIVEN final year LLB students. The signing of this MoU took place at UNIVEN Council Chambers.



The Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Adv Mc Caps Motimele SC said this MoU will help mould the reputation of UNIVEN School of Law as one of the leading faculties in the country which provides high calibre graduates who become leaders in the profession. Adv Motimele emphasised that, this is a strategic initiative, "and we are excited that UNIVEN is the first higher education institution to sign the collaboration agreement of this nature with BLA- Legal Education Centre."

He indicated that among his delegates, there was Advocate Fhumulani Mbedzi, who is a UNIVEN LLB graduate. Adv Mbedzi graduated at UNIVEN in 2015. He is currently a Legal Researcher at BLA- Legal Education Centre.



Adv Fhumulani Mbedzi

When concluding his talk, Adv Motimele congratulated Dr Nthambeleni and the University at large for the vision and signing of this collaboration agreement. He further thanked the Dean of the School of Law, Prof Lonias Ndlovu, for his spirited interest and hard work in finalising the MoU.



UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni indicated that UNIVEN has been associated with the Black Lawyers Association, and the Black Lawyers Association - Legal Education Centre for a long time. He said members of the Black Lawyers Association have been providing training to UNIVEN final year LLB students in trial advocacy without any formal arrangement such as a Memorandum of Understanding.

"The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding today will put a formal seal to the association of the Black Lawyers Association-Legal Education Centre and the University of Venda. UNIVEN has always benefited and appreciated the trial advocacy training, which is very important in the practical legal training of final year law students and supplements the clinical training offered by the Law Clinic."

Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that, in line with the UNIVEN's new strategic plan of positioning the University for relevance and impact, and further, in the context of being a student-centred University steeped in engaged scholarship, the importance of signing this Memorandum of Understanding cannot be gainsaid. He mentioned that one of UNIVEN's positioning statements encapsulated in the University's strategic plan is to expand the University's influence beyond Limpopo Province by emphasising the University's unique identity.

"In this regard, we view the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding as a right step towards the path of realising that objective."

He concluded his address by mentioning that two prominent members of the BLA who are associated with UNIVEN are Justice Dikgang Moseneke, who will have a public lecture named after him in 2021- Justice Moseneke Annual Lecture "and our new Chancellor, Adv Mojanku Gumbi, who was the Director of the Black Lawyers Association-Legal Education Centre from 1992-1993."



In his welcome Address, Dean: School of Law, Prof Lonias Ndlovu said BLA is doing a very sterling job of training LLB final year students throughout the country. He highlighted that this formal relationship between UNIVEN and BLA- Legal Education Centre will bear the best results. "We saw a need to have this kind of MoU because when we are looking at how practical aspects of law ought to be taught and the time required to cover the scope of such training, we realised that some aspects would fall by the wayside and not receive the attention they deserve, and that's where this kind of formalisations comes in."



President of BLA Student Chapter, Mr Junior Ntokozo Magagula, a UNIVEN third year LLB student was excited about this formal collaboration agreement. He said it is a good thing that we have such initiatives that will provide skills to our students before they graduate. "This is to ensure that UNIVEN produces skilled graduates who are locally relevant and globally competitive."



The signing of MoU was facilitated by the Acting Director: Legal Services, Adv Eric Nemukula.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford, gave a vote of thanks and wished for a fruitful reward from this MoU because this MoU will also assist in the positioning the University for impact and relevance.



Adv Mc Caps Motimele and Dr Bernard Nthambeleni holding signed copies of the MoU.

# UNIVEN welcomes the Executive Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education



Professor Bongani Bantwini has been appointed as the new Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) with effect from 01 May 2021. He is a C2 NRF Rated Researcher. Prof Bantwini has received his Ph.D in Elementary Education with a focus in Elementary Science Education and Masters degree in Secondary Science Education both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the United States of America, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. Other professional qualifications include Bachelor of Education Honors (B.Ed Hons degree) from the University of Port Elizabeth (now Nelson Mandela University); Bachelor of Education (B.Ed. degree) – University of Port Elizabeth (Nelson Mandela University); Further Diploma in Education (FDE) – University of Port Elizabeth (Nelson Mandela University) and Senior Primary Teachers Diploma (SPTD) – Cicira Teacher

Training College. Additionally, Prof Bantwini has a National Certificate, N6, N5 & N4 in Commerce and Marketing Management, and several other certificates.

Prof Bantwini has over 20 years of working experience in the education field and has taught for various universities both in the USA and SA. Before joining UNIVEN, Prof Bantwini, occupied several strategic positions locally and internationally. His employment history among others include: Research Manager at Walter Sisulu University; Visiting Professor at Walter Sisulu University; Research Professor of Schooling (Primary and Secondary Education) at North West University in Potchefstroom; Senior Research Specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria, Head of Department (Acting): Science Communication and Senior Research Specialist at Research Use and Impact

Assessment Unit, Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria; Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University Atlanta Georgia, USA; Science Education Research Fellow at University of Northern Iowa, USA; Senior Research Specialist (Post-Doctoral Fellow) at HSRC, Pretoria; Teaching and Research Assistant at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign USA; Science Education Lecturer at the University of Port Elizabeth (now Nelson Mandela University); Science and Mathematics teacher for the Department of Basic Education. He has had a number of research and teacher training consulting positions in South Africa and USA.

In terms of research, Prof Bantwini is committed to interdisciplinary approach to scholarships and his research experiences have provided him an opportunity to make connections between theory and classroom practice. Over the years his research agenda has evolved in the pursuit of finding solutions to some of the educational challenges that daily confronts humankind. Prof Bantwini's research agenda continues focusing on curriculum matters, teaching and learning, teacher development, school districts, and other areas he finds of interest or requiring research intervention. He has extensively published in refereed local and international accredited journals, solo and co-authored articles, and book chapters. Some of the publications have enjoyed some spotlight with a significant impact. He presents papers in National and international conferences and continue to serve in various research committees. He has also produced client research and evaluation reports for some government departments and international organisations. Furthermore, he

has a successful record in obtaining external research funding.

As part of his ongoing scholarship, he currently serves in three (3) editorial advisory journal boards: University of Swaziland Journal of Education, Journal of Progressive Education and Journal of Popular Education in Africa. He continues to serve in various committees and review for many local and international journals. He also plays a role at the National Research Foundation, as he reviews and moderate in their various programmes and constantly provide feedback on how to better their funding instruments.

Amongst others, Prof Bantwini is currently a Member of Board of Director at the SciBono Science Discovery Centre NPC since 2016. He is also a Board Member for the Centre for Democracy, Research and Development based in Nairobi, Kenya. This Centre for Democracy, Research and Development, (CEDRED) contribute towards sustainable development in Eastern Africa by promoting positive, innovative, and accommodating approaches to addressing challenges of development through capacity building, advocacy, research and policy development, effective dissemination, and partnership building.

UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni welcomes Prof Bantwini to UNIVEN, and he highlighted that Prof Bantwini is one of the team players who will assist to position UNIVEN for impact and relevance. He urged the University Community to give Prof Bantwini the necessary support in his new role as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education.

## UNIVEN appreciates and celebrates International Nurses Day



12 May marks the International Nurses Day (IND), and it is commemorated under the theme: "Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare."

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni appreciated nurses for the role they play as drivers of future healthcare within the University. "We commend the nurses for the role that they continue to play in containing the COVID-19 virus through the different waves and stages internationally. We thank the nurses in Campus Health Clinic for tirelessly serving our students and staff. Happy Nurses Day, your dedication will never go unnoticed," Said Dr Nthambeleni.

**"We commend the nurses for the role that they continue to play in containing the COVID-19 virus through the different waves and stages internationally."**

# Junior coal mining company equips UNIVEN Geology students

Since COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the search for opportunities for visits and practical training of students in the mining field had not been easy. However, on 20 April 2021, third level UNIVEN Geology students from the Department of Mining and Environmental Geology had an opportunity to visit Maboko Colliery in Mpumalanga. Mr. Thusani Matambele who is the General

Manager at Maboko Colliery was excited about this visit. He indicated that this was the first visit by students to their mine. Matambele gave a presentation about their mine operations, thereafter, he acquainted students with the mine surroundings. Among other things, students learned about the mining operations, coal processing and analysis.

Students were also thrilled by the experience they gained from the visit. Ms. Rambidi Livhuwani who is one of the students who visited the mine said that these kind of visits are very interesting because students practically get to see and practically experience some of the things that they learn in class. These students were highly motivated by meeting the grade control geologist of the Mine, who is also a UNIVEN alumni. When closing his remarks about the visit, Mr. Thusani Matambele encouraged students to work hard and smart to prepare themselves for the mining career, especially

in junior mining companies. He emphasised that the future of most emerging geologists is in the junior mining companies, unlike in big companies, where they need to work their way up to the top and prove themselves. Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mining and Environmental Geology at UNIVEN, Dr. Amponsah-Dacosta, expressed profound gratitude to the management of Maboko Coal Mine for affording UNIVEN students the opportunity to visit and practically experience some of the things that they have learned in class.



Mr. Thusani Matambele (General Manager) explaining the coal mining operations to the group of students who visited Maboko Colliery.



A group photo taken during the visit at Maboko Colliery

## Mukhodeneni is the winner of 2021 Esri South Africa Young Scholar Award



The University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture is pleased to announce that Mukhodeneni Mudau, who is a UNIVEN Honours graduate, is the winner of Esri South Africa Young Scholar Award, 2021. Mukhodeneni won the first place of the 11th year of Esri Young Scholars Awards programme. Part of the prize for winning this award includes R5000 towards her tuition fees. Mukhodeneni Mudau is the first UNIVEN student to win this competition.

Her innovative project is titled: 'Assessment of the Geomorphological Diversity of Komati Gorge, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa'.

The honours project was supervised by Mr Edmore Kori who is a Lecturer in Geomorphology in the Department of Geography and Geo-Information Sciences at UNIVEN.

Esri South Africa is proud to be participating in the Esri Young Scholars Award programme.

The 22-year-old Mukhodeneni Mudau, who hails from a village called Ha-Munzhezdi,

outside Elim, did her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences and Environmental Science honours degree under the Department of Ecology and Resource Management at UNIVEN. She is currently seeking enrolment for master's degree in Environmental Sciences at UNIVEN.

Mukhodeneni entered Esri South Africa Young Scholar Awards competition earlier this year (2021). It was an open call competition for students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) countrywide. The competition was open for every student registered at any South African University. At first, Mukhodeneni said, she felt intimidated by the previous winners when she browsed Esri's website. However, she believed in her project.

Mukhodeneni said that she is intending to enter more academic competitions like the Esri South Africa Young Scholar Awards competition. "I'm looking forward to enrol for masters and hopefully to work with environmental based companies on exciting projects for the betterment of the environment", she added.

# UNIVEN honours Deans and Directors for their efforts and welcomes a new redefined chapter

On Wednesday, 05 May 2021, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) honoured Deans and Directors for their efforts of making sure that UNIVEN is where it is today and for managing to survive previous years, especially a difficult academic year 2020. A Thank You Dinner was held on Wednesday evening at the Ranch Hotel to honour Deans and Directors.



In his message of Appreciation, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni acknowledged the hard work of Deans and Directors who made sure that the University achieves what it was intended to achieve in the past years. "We want to thank you for all your efforts and for assuring that this transition brings positive results." Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that, in 2019, all University stakeholders were engaged in making sure that they understand the new direction that the University was about to take.

"We need to make sure that all University stakeholders understand this transition. Throughout this transition, we must be able to embed good governance in our minds." He emphasised that, when you have a good plan, make sure that the plan is embedded in people because failure to do so, might lead to non-achievement. Dr Nthambeleni encouraged staff members to value their own and each other's work.

He indicated that when he assumed office in 2019, the University was in a sound base and he acknowledged the work that has been done in the past years, hence UNIVEN is now a better place that one would wish to be part of. "We are hopeful that we will get to where we want to go as a University, and we know that determination and teamwork will get us there." Dr Nthambeleni encouraged staff members to allow transition to take place. "Be able to change and move towards the direction that the University is taking."

He concluded his talk by mentioning that the new team of Executive Deans will depend on the support of all staff members in order to achieve what they want to achieve. "Support these colleagues in making sure that we achieve our goals."

**"We are hopeful that we will get to where we want to go as a University, and we know that determination and teamwork will get us there."**



In his opening and welcome address, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin said that he is happy that this is the culmination of everyone's effort. He thanked all Directors and Deans for their sterling work because this success was not going to be possible in their absence. He welcomed the new Executive Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Prof Bongani Douglas Bantwini, who assumed duty at the beginning of May 2021. He also recognised Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka who will be joining the University in June as the Executive Dean of Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture.



When rendering the purpose of the gathering, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford said the reason for the gathering

was to honour Senior Management of the University for ensuring success in previous years, especially a difficult academic year 2020. He said the gathering was about celebrating the University's successful academic year 2020. "For the past 15 years, we saw tremendous changes at UNIVEN and this was a positive change. This new strategy (2021-2025) is about building a new success and a new chapter of the University. We are taking a leave of the old and welcoming a new redefined UNIVEN chapter."

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Dean of the School of Human and Social Sciences, Prof Mokgale Makgopa, on behalf of Deans shared a bit of his experience based on his 24 years that he served the University. He said, when UNIVEN appointed him as a Lecturer, to him was an achievement that made him to boast since he was avoiding management positions in the Department of Education. "Little did I know that I would end up serving as the academic line manager for the School of Human and Social Sciences. Today, I feel very proud to have successfully served my two terms as Dean of the School of Human and Social Sciences."

Prof Makgopa highlighted that, serving the University as a Dean is a challenging responsibility that needs one to be always vigilant and more focussed. He said one of the exploratory learning methods is learning by trials and errors. "It is through learning by trial and error that makes one to end up overcoming these challenges. Furthermore, it is through intrinsic and extrinsic motivation that one ends up accomplishing the envisaged goal as well as sustenance of one's position." He thanked the University of Venda for providing them with the space to demonstrate their leadership skills. "We feel very proud of our legacy which shall always be kept in the records of the University."

He concluded his response by acknowledging the support that they received from their Executive Line Manager, Professor Jan Crafford who has been all out to give support in making sure that all schools work towards achieving their goals.



A group photo of UNIVEN Senior Management

## May Is International Internal Audit Awareness Month



The month of May is International Internal Audit Awareness Month. The Internal Auditor plays a vital role in strengthening the governance, internal control, and risk management of the entity they are providing an assurance service to. The profession is governed by a Code of Ethics that ensures an ethical culture and approach towards providing independent and objective assurance as well as adding value to the organisation's operations.

The Internal Audit and Risk Department of the University of Venda held several virtual discussions with various internal University departments to gain and understand the way these departments operate; to find out about their plans and how they are planning to achieve their objectives that are in line with the new University strategy; to share information on the role of internal audit at the University as well as the type of engagements and assistance that Internal Audit may provide.

Internal Audit and Risk Department presented to the Senior Management of the University at a workshop that was held at the Ranch Resort from 05 to the 08 May 2021. This was a very valuable opportunity for Internal Audit to share the planned activities of the Internal Audit function as aligned to the 2021-2025 strategy of the University with Management.

Mrs Diana Makwarela from University's Internal Audit Department is preparing a

document on mechanisms to raise more awareness and collaborate with students who are studying Auditing as a subject on this exciting and very rewarding profession.

For those wishing to obtain more information, you can visit the website of the Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa on [www.iiasa.org.za](http://www.iiasa.org.za).

## INTERNAL AUDIT

**A vital part of**  
strengthening  
organisations and  
protecting stakeholders  
of both the public  
and private sectors

Visit: [www.iiasa.org.za](http://www.iiasa.org.za)  
for more information

# SHOUT IT OUT!

**May** Is International Internal  
Audit Awareness Month



# UNIVEN Customary Law Lecturer discusses issues of interplay between Civil and Customary Marriages in Polygamous Households



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

**Improper conduct includes the following...**

1. Financial misconduct,
2. Misuse or misappropriation of University assets,
3. Health and safety risks,
4. Plagiarism,
5. Fraud and corruption.

Since Monday, 03 May 2021, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Customary Law Lecturer, Ms Zama Mopai participated in national television interviews on the interplay between customary marriages and civil marriage in polygamous households. Ms Zama Mopai first featured on Newzroom Afrika channel 405 on Monday afternoon at 13:30, and again on Wednesday, 05 May and Thursday, 06 May 2021, on the SABC Morning Live programme that was aired on both SABC 2 and SABC News Channel 404 between 07:30am and 08:00am. During the interview, Ms Mopai provided clarity on the challenges emanating from Civil and Customary Marriages especially Polygamous Households. Ms Mopai also participated in several mainstream media platforms discussing similar topic as a Customary Law Expert, putting the University name on the map.

Dean of School of Law, Prof Lonias Ndlovu said he is proud to have colleagues like Ms Mopai who are always hands on. He said, Ms Mopai is always ready to display a good image of the University. Prof Ndlovu encouraged other colleagues who are experts in any field to grab similar opportunities when it presents itself.

UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni commended Ms Mopai for representing the University well during these relay interviews.

## We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communication channel.

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# 6 FOODS TO FIGHT FLU SYMPTOMS



## CHICKEN SOUP

Reduce dehydration and congestion and soothe a sore throat.



## LEAFY GREENS

Optimise immune function with vitamins C and E.



## YOGHURT

Strengthen your body and fight the virus with a dose of protein.



## GARLIC

Reduce flu germs with allicin, which boosts the immune system.



## OATS

Protect your immune cells with antioxidants.



## SPICES

Alleviate congestion with cinnamon and cayenne pepper.

For more information about the flu, visit [www.mywellnesscompass.co.za](http://www.mywellnesscompass.co.za)

For confidential assistance on health matters, contact your  
LIFE EHS EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAMME  
on toll-free

**0800 004 770**  
or SMS your name to 31581

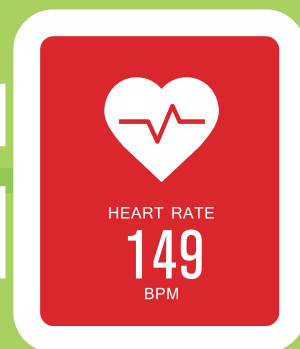


# MOVE MORE, PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

**WHY:** Increasing your heart rate can help to reduce the risk of certain health conditions. ----- ➔

**WHAT:** These conditions include cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, anxiety and depression.

**HOW:** Cardio exercise helps to release endorphins, increase blood circulation and lower blood-sugar levels.



hiking



dancing



swimming



cycling



skipping



running

For more information about exercise, visit [www.mywellnesscompass.co.za](http://www.mywellnesscompass.co.za)

For confidential assistance on health matters, contact your  
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**0800 004 770**  
or SMS your name to 31581





# KNOW YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE NUMBERS

**Systolic blood pressure:** Top number  
**Diastolic blood pressure:** Bottom number

## NORMAL

No more than 120/80 mmHg

## LOW BLOOD PRESSURE

Lower than 90/60 mmHg

**What to do:** See your doctor for a check-up.

## PREHYPERTENSION

120–129/80–89 mmHg

**What to do:** Exercise for 30 minutes per day.

## STAGE 1 HYPERTENSION

130/80 mmHg+

**What to do:** Season your food with herbs instead of salt.

## STAGE 2 HYPERTENSION

140/90 mmHg+

**What to do:** Actively manage stress and limit alcohol intake.

*Disclaimer: Discuss abnormal blood pressure numbers with your doctor.*

**For more information about hypertension, visit [www.mywellnesscompass.co.za](http://www.mywellnesscompass.co.za)**

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# 5 WAYS TO SUPPORT A GRIEVING COLLEAGUE



**1** Tell them you are there for them, but give them space.

Check in with them now and then via email or text.

**2**

**3** Offer to help with tasks like cooking or shopping.

Try to listen more rather than give unsolicited advice.

**4**

**5** Don't compare their loss to yours.

For more information about grief, visit [www.mywellnesscompass.co.za](http://www.mywellnesscompass.co.za)

For confidential assistance on psychosocial matters, contact your  
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on toll-free  
**0800 004 770**  
or SMS your name to 31581



PSYCHOSOCIAL  
Counselling

