



## Adv Gumbi was officially installed as UNIVEN first female Chancellor

The University of Venda honoured Adv Mojanku Gumbi as its sixth and first female Chancellor during a momentous inauguration ceremony held on Friday, 18 February 2022 at the University Auditorium. The University Council appointed Adv Gumbi as the UNIVEN Chancellor with effect from 01 January 2020 to 31 May 2024. However, her installation was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a hybrid event that was streamed live on UNIVEN social media platforms.



Adv. Gumbi takes over the reins from the former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe who has served two terms as UNIVEN Chancellor.

In her inauguration acceptance speech, she thanked the community that makes up the University of Venda, led by the University Council, for the distinctive honour extended to her to be elected as the Chancellor of this outstanding centre of learning. She said "It is an honour that I accept with humility, in particular because I follow in the hallowed footsteps of one of the outstanding sons of our country, Ntate Walter Sisulu, as well as those of Presidents Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and Kgalema Motlanthe".

**"It is an honour that I accept with humility, in particular because I follow in the hallowed footsteps of one of the outstanding sons of our country, Ntate Walter Sisulu, as well as those of Presidents Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and Kgalema Motlanthe"**

The inauguration of the Chancellor coincides with the University of Venda's 40th anniversary, celebrated under the theme 40 years of academic excellence in the rural setting.

The chancellor is the titular head of the university and confers degrees during university graduations.

"This role has given me the distinct honour of being part of a ground-breaking initiative that brings together current and former Chancellors of Universities to harness their collective wisdom in the interest of higher education. It is an initiative which, while recognising the status of Chancellors as titular heads of Universities, seeks to bring them into a common forum in aid of universities. We are encouraged by the support that this initiative has received from Vice-Chancellors, and we will be working with them and Chairpersons of Council to refine its work" says Adv Gumbi.

In her speech, she touched on several issues relating to social, economic, and political.

She indicated that a number of the UNIVEN alumni reached out to her when they learnt about her inauguration event. Adv Gumbi congratulated all those involved in shaping these young minds, and the students who have maintained the very high standards set by the alumni of this university.



Adv Gumbi was also accompanied by the UNIVEN alumni, former Miss South Africa, Basetsana Kumalo, who in her time went on to represent the young people of this country globally in proudly embracing African beauty. "She felt compelled to be with us today to lend her presence in celebrating this University that made a huge impact in shaping who she is today", concluded Adv Gumbi.



In his welcome remarks as the University Chairperson of Council, Mr Juneas Lekgetha said "after 40 years of leadership led by male-only chancellors, the UNIVEN community has finally made the politically relevant choice and discovered that a female chancellor would indeed be rationally correct. We finally have a mother in the house. There will no longer be the burning of meat, which remain tasteless in our plates".

He continued to say "this is one of the first of the many events that will be celebrated in lieu of our 40th Anniversary. Whilst we reflect on the first graduation cohort of 1985 graduations, only two female students graduated. Today, more than 60% of each graduation constitutes females; and this shows how successful we have been in attracting interest amongst our society. It is not just attracting females, but many of our scarce skills qualification categories have now celebrated an increase in female graduates in our institution. Our contribution to the national skills requirement has been immensely predominated by female graduates".



When introducing the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni mentioned that, of the three shortlisted candidates, Adv Gumbi's name came up on top and this was due to her impeccable track record as human rights lawyer, who has worked both as an Attorney and Advocate and has over 30 years of experience in private practice, public policy development and African conflict resolution.

## Read inside

- The Adv Gumbi was officially installed as UNIVEN first female Chancellor 1
- UNIVEN through UIGC Connect will be the first University to provide WIFI to the public 3
- The GladAfrica Epilepsy Research Project 'Stepped-Up 4 Epilepsy' during the Epilepsy Week 14-20 February 2022 5
- UNIVEN Convocation pledges R50 000 to assist financially needy students 6
- UNIVEN Protection Services Department partners with stakeholders to embark on local Door-to-Door Safety Campaign 7
- Senior Management Operational Plan Workshop prepares senior managers for the 2022 academic year 8
- The South African Institute of Physics hosts a teachers development workshop at Vuwani Science Resource Centre 9
- Univen collaborates with Vhembe District Municipality on a Back-To-School Campaign 10
- National South African Association of Campus Health Services organises a webinar on abuse as a parallel pandemic 11
- Co-developing plans for Operationalising Citizen-driven Community Development in Traditional Authorities in Vhembe District of Limpopo 12
- UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal honors 34 retirees for their loyal service 14
- University of Venda Celebrates World Radio Day with SABC Limpopo Combo 15
- Women In Science: Prof Irene Barnhoorn is now a C2 NRF rated researcher 16



## Adv Gumbi was officially installed as UNIVEN first female Chancellor continued...

After the July 2021 violence that took place in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng Provinces, Adv Gumbi was appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa as a member of the Presidential Panel to investigate the July violence.

Adv Gumbi served as the Chairperson and now Member of the Home Affairs Ministerial Panel investigating Government Printing Works.

She also serves as the Interim Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of South African Tourism board. She is a Member of the Tourism Ministerial Panel to review Tourism Policy.

Dr Nthambeleni indicated that Adv Gumbi is a selfless, ethical leader who places the well-being and success of the University over her own personal gain and success. He told the audience that the Chancellor said the University should not spend funds from its government grant for her inauguration and offered to pay the cost for this ceremony from her pocket.

"We look forward to her leadership and guidance in the years to come", says Dr Nthambeleni.

Congratulatory messages came from UNIVEN SRC President, Mr Smile Manganyi; SENATE representative, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann; Universities South Africa (USAF) CEO, Prof Ahmed Bawa who delivered the message virtually; Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality represented by Cllr Shonisani Sinyosi, Portfolio Head Community Services and the Traditional Leaders' represented by Thovhele Nthumeni Masia.

Esteemed guests present included among others, members of the chancellor's family and friends, University of Johannesburg Vice-Chancellor, Prof Tshilidzi Marwala; retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke; esteemed members in the judiciary and in the field of law, former Chair of UNIVEN Council, Mr Serobi Maja; former UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and current Vice-Chancellor of Sefako Makgatho University, Prof Peter Mbat; UNIVEN Council members, traditional and religious leaders as well as sponsors and donors.



University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani when rendering an item on a confirmation of the provisions of the Act



UNIVEN SRC President, Smile Manganyi congratulating the Chancellor



Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, Adv Mojanku Gumbi (UNIVEN Chancellor) and Dr Bernard Nthambeleni



This august event commenced with the traditional performances and UNIVEN choir led by Dr Aubrey Khosa entertained the audience.



UNIVEN Choir in action





# UNIVEN through UIGC Connect will be the first University to provide WIFI to the public



The University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and the Chairperson of UIGC Board, Thovhele Nthumeni Masia launched the first of its kind UIGC-Connect project which will benefit communities around Vhembe District Municipality. This momentous event took place in the evening of Friday, 25 February 2022 at 2Ten Hotel, Sibasa, outside Thohoyandou.

Stakeholders and invited guests came in numbers to witness the historic launch of the UIGC Connect. The UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) PTY (LTD) is a company solely owned by the University of Venda. The launch marks a very important day in the history of the University of Venda, including the province at large.



Delivering a speech of the launch, UNIVEN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr

Bernard Nthambeleni said "this is a historic day in the calendar of the University of Venda, not only that we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the University this year, but also the fact that we are gathered here for the official launch of the UIGC Connect". Dr Nthambeleni told the guests that launching of the UIGC Connect is not accidental.

"As a University, we took a deliberate strategic direction of being an impactful and resourceful university to communities around us". He pointed that through the Integrated Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Biodiversity Plan, the University of Venda seeks to position itself as an anchor institution for the effective integrated local and regional development. "We also seek to transform our university to be an Entrepreneurial University". He added that it is our strong view that the University of Venda must be a catalyst of development in its surrounding communities.

Dr Nthambeleni alluded the fact that, to improve the quality of the lives of surrounding communities in Thohoyandou, the University of Venda held a workshop on University Town Concept for internal stakeholders. This led to the adoption of the strategic objective that measures the number of interventions that would lead to the development of Thohoyandou into a University town.

"In line with our strategic intent of making impact to the surrounding communities, we have mandated our company, UIGC to position itself in manners that do not pose competition to the local communities but rather provide both a business enabling and supporting environment".

Dr Nthambeleni concluded his speech by saying "this project will create sustainable job opportunities and training spaces for TVET students, particularly those in the IT and Telecommunication space. As a University, we are committed to lead in the development of Limpopo and South Africa".

**"this project will create sustainable job opportunities and training spaces for TVET students..."**



Dr John Mudau, CEO of UIGC presented on UIGC Connect Brand. "We are an internet service provider operating as UIGC-Connect. We build, operate, and maintain our own internet infrastructure within the Vhembe District Municipality", said Dr Mudau.

This is an excellent 4th industrial revolution brand in the province. ICASA granted two licenses to UIGC which are as follows:

- Class Electronic Communications Network Services Licence (No: 1743/CECNS/NOV/ 2020).
- Class Electronic Communications Service Licence (No 1743/CECS/ NOV/ 2020).

According to Dr Mudau, the two licenses allow UIGC to build network infrastructure and to provide data to the public. He maintained that the University wants to ensure that its students particularly those who are in private residences have a stable internet connectivity. "The University has also been granted wayleaves by both Thulamela and Collins Chabane municipalities. These wayleaves allow the University through UIGC to build the network infrastructure in those areas". He said UIGC Connect is the only company that can set up fibre in the district.

He indicated that UIGC Connect will operate in phases. Phase one will benefit about 42 accredited private accommodation. Phase two will then cater for the public. Dr Mudau showed that UIGC Connect sim-cards which are in all languages, will soon be available in different outlets. He concluded by saying that UNIVEN will be the first university to provide wi-fi to the public.



The Chairperson of the Board of UIGC, Thovhele Nthumeni Masia directs his greatest appreciation to the University Management led by Dr Nthambeleni for giving UIGC the opportunity to operate. He said that launching of UIGC Connect is the beginning of more innovations.



Messages of support were from the Off-Campus accredited residence landlords represented by Ms Sebo Maphula of Maphula residence and Thovhele Gole Mphaphuli of the Mphaphuli Tribal Council.



The keynote message was delivered by the MEC Thabo Mokone, responsible for Economic Development, Tourism, and Industry. The MEC commended UNIVEN for this initiative. He encouraged people within the province to work together for the sustainability of UIGC Connect project. The MEC indicated that as government they are working with the University in many projects including the Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ). "With this kind of collaboration, a better life is on the way", says MEC Mokone. Mr Thabo Mokone applauded UNIVEN for its outstanding contributions to the improvement of the lives and livelihoods of communities.



The MEC was introduced by the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Dowelani Nenguda.



## UNIVEN through UIGC Connect will be the first University to provide WIFI to the public..continued



As he welcomed the guests, Dr Takalani Dzaga, Director of Marketing, Branding and Communication said "It is evident that in order to ensure the continuity of businesses during the period of COVID-19, information technology was the only solution and continues to be the only solution. There is no doubt that digital connectivity is now a global imperative. It is evident that access to the internet is becoming a fundamental right.

There is no doubt that Digital connectivity is one of pivotal actors and change maker in society".

Also in attendance was the UNIVEN Executive and Senior Management, Council members, UIGC Board and staff, SRC President, and Secretary General; Mayor of Thulamela Municipality; APSA Union representatives; Off-campus accredited residences landlords; Guests from BMF; Standard Bank representatives; SAMSUNG On Campus representatives; MTN representative; Vodacom representatives; GEMS representatives; Thavhani Mall representatives; business partners, and representatives of different media houses.



The programme was directed by Ashifashaba Shonisani Muleya.



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin proposed a vote of thanks. He thanked and appreciated all the people who participated in the programme including UNIVEN choir and Dr Colbert Mukwevho who entertained the guests. Dr Martin indicated to the guests that this launch confirms that UNIVEN is in the right direction and that it is impacting the world in its rural setting. Finally, he said that UNIVEN is indeed a world class institution.

**"It is evident that in order to ensure the continuity of businesses during the period of COVID-19, information technology was the only solution and continues to be the only solution. There is no doubt that digital connectivity is now a global imperative.**





# The GladAfrica Epilepsy Research Project 'Stepped-Up 4 Epilepsy' during the Epilepsy Week 14-20 February 2022



UNIVEN FM Studio: L-R Prof Lufuno Makhado-Public Health, Ms Masane Luvhengo- MA Psychology student, Dr Angelina Maphula- Psychology



Ms Masane Munyadziwa and Dr Angelina Maphula : Epilepsy Awareness Campaign – Next to Student Cafeteria at the University of Venda

The Epilepsy week saw a collaborated effort from the University of Venda's GladAfrica Epilepsy Research Project (GERP), GladAfrica Foundation Trust (Funder) and Epilepsy South Africa to bring about Epilepsy awareness. The collaborative awareness campaign was comprised of a Family walk (5km) and run (10km) that happened in Gauteng from the Mall of Africa (Time Square Park) led by the GladAfrica Foundation Trust Team, Epilepsy message sharing on Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn), as well as Interviews on SABC and community radio stations led by the GERP Team at the University of Venda. The GladAfrica Epilepsy Research Project (GERP) is a research project that took off from 2020 to develop an Epilepsy Awareness Programme, Cultural Congruent Intervention Programme, and Epileptic Life Skills guidelines for both

primary and secondary schools for the rural communities of Limpopo and Mpumalanga Province. The GladAfrica Foundation Trust is the primary funder of GERP led by Professor Lufuno Makhado.

In an effort to raise awareness and reduce stigma for people living with Epilepsy, on 14 February 2022, Prof Lufuno Makhado, Dr Angelina Maphula and Ms Masane Luvhengo went to UNIVEN Community Radio on the "Lunch Talk programme" hosted by Nelwamondo Rotondwa. The team addressed the importance of accepting people living with Epilepsy and encouraging everyone to provide the necessary support. Epilepsy, like other illnesses, causes brief changes in how a person behaves, thinks, or feels. Uncontrolled seizures can interfere with an affected person's everyday life. Research attests that this condition is often surrounded by various

prejudice and myths. Many people who have Epilepsy often get excluded from numerous productive activities because many think a person living with Epilepsy is incapable.

Various aspects regarding the symptoms, causes and treatment for Epilepsy were emphasised. In addition, Dr Maphula presented the same facts on Phalaphala FM and Vhembe FM on 14/02/2022, while Dr BS Manganye had his epilepsy awareness talk on Malamulele Community Radio. The emphasis on Phalaphala FM was that people living with Epilepsy are still normal and should be allowed to lead normal and productive lives like everybody else.

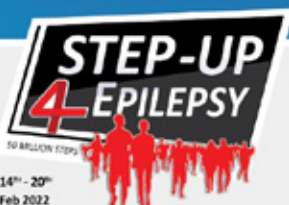
Dr Maphula and Ms M. Munyadziwa ran an awareness campaign at the University of Venda where students came and inquired about Epilepsy. It is important to note that providing the proper care is essential to

improve the quality of life for people living with Epilepsy. The emphasis was also that when taking medication, feeling better is never an indication to stop taking the prescribed medication unless instructed by the medical doctor. Overall, this is a manageable illness, and many high-profiled people are living with Epilepsy yet successful because it does not render one incapable. Professor T. Lebesse presented on Giyani Community Radio on the 16/02/2022 with an emphasis on treatment that when a person has a seizure, the bystanders must take caution to ensure that they protect the person from injuring self, cushion the head for safety, refrain from restricting movement, help to breathe by laying the person on their side, untie anything that might be tight around the neck and stay with the person until fully recovered.



## EPILEPSY RESEARCH PROJECT

Our efforts to elevate awareness about people living with epilepsy and to invent informed response mechanisms will be made possible through an already active four-year research partnership with the University of Venda.



14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>  
Feb 2022



www.gladfrica.com



A true testament of what can be accomplished when living with Epilepsy, **Mr. Noel Mashaba** founded GladAfrica Group almost two decades ago. He has since grown his business into a successful ISO 9001:2015 certified multi-disciplinary, built-environment consultancy.

The co-chairperson of the GladAfrica Foundation, Mr Noel Mashaba, was affected by epilepsy from a young age hence raising awareness about this disorder remains high priority for him and for the GladAfrica Foundation.



14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>  
Feb 2022



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# UNIVEN Convocation pledges R50 000 to assist financially needy students



Mr Moudy Mudzielwana, Mr Rudzani Mushweu and Mr Masa Sylvester Motadi posing for a photo at the Convocation Strategic Planning Session in Bel-Bela

President of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Convocation, Mr Masa Sylvester Motadi and Deputy President, Mr Rudzani Mushweu pledged R20 000 each while Mr Moudy Mudzielwana of Tshikova Green and Climate Change Advocates pledged R10 000 towards the University's fund-raising initiatives, to assist financially needy students. These pledges happened during the Convocation

Strategic Planning Session which took place on Monday, 28 February until Wednesday, 02 March 2022 at Warmbaths Forever Resort, Bela Bela.

Mr Motadi said he has pledged this money as a way of encouraging other UNIVEN Graduates to contribute to the development of the University of Venda. All stakeholders of the university and businesspeople should

be motivated by this pledge so that we can each contribute something in order for the executive committee of convocation to achieve strategic goals and objective.

Mr Mushweu expressed that "we have been there; we know the hardship and challenges faced by students daily. Our small contribution will go a long way in assisting students from deprived

families and challenging other alumni to contribute."

Mr Mudzielwana said growing up in rural environment and making it into the national mainstream economy was not easy and helping someone achieve a dream is more important than amassing own material. "The vision is to connect each student and graduates with their dreams," he concluded.



Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni expressed his appreciation to their generous contribution. A separate account will be created for these generous donations.

**"we have been there; we know the hardship and challenges faced by students daily. Our small contribution will go a long way in assisting students from deprived families and challenging other alumni to contribute."**



A group photo of attendees of the 2022 Convocation Strategic Planning Session



# UNIVEN Protection Services Department partners with stakeholders to embark on local Door-to-Door Safety Campaign



During the month of February, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Protection Services Directorate together with Community Police Forums (CPFs) from areas around Thulamela Municipality; Department of Transport and Community Safety; Limpopo Provincial SAPS and UNIVEN CPF embarked on the safety campaign around UNIVEN Campus. This Door-to-Door Safety Campaign is as a result of statistics showing that crime was high in Maungani and Ngovhela villages. These stakeholders that participated in the Safety Campaign were also collecting data from residents of these villages which will assist them to find relevant solutions to the high crime in these two villages.

Theft, robbery and rape indicated to be very high in these two villages and majority of UNIVEN students reside in residences that are based in these villages hence these stakeholders saw a need to embark on this Door-to-door safety campaign. During this campaign, data was also collected from residents of the two villages.



In his opening and welcome message, Mr Maanda Nemaaxwi indicated that the University has invited all relevant stakeholders to partner and assist in the crime prevention campaign.



Mr Tlou Mabala



Mr William Mogatsane



Sergeant Anetta Mokweho from Thohoyandou SAPS thanked all participating stakeholders who were there for their time and efforts. She further thanked UNIVEN for the hospitality and seeing a need to partner with them in this important Door-to-Door campaign. Other participating stakeholders include Youth Against Crime, YCOP, CPF, Community Safety Forum, Community in Blue (SAPS street patrollers) Reps Forum, Victim Empowerment, and representatives from various wards.



Mrs Mercy Mohotsi (above) who is the Director at the Department of Transport and Community Safety, accompanied by Mr William Mogatsane and Tlou Mabala indicated that the reason why they (Department of Transport and Community Safety) decided to join this Door-to-Door Safety Campaign, is the increasing rate of contact crime statistics in and around Thohoyandou. "We have targeted these two villages because majority of UNIVEN's off campus residences are in these villages and that's where most students are residing."

This one-day data collection has further proved that contact crime is the main problem in these two villages.



Above are the pictures taken during the Door-to-Door Safety Campaign



Participating stakeholders during the door to door campaign



Some of the members from the participating stakeholders dividing themselves into groups



# Senior Management Operational Plan Workshop prepares senior managers for the 2022 academic year



On 14 and 15 February 2022, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal held the Senior and Executive Management Operational Plan Workshop to plan for the academic year 2022. The plans discussed during the workshop were Teaching and Learning ; Research and Postgraduate Studies; Corporate Services; Finance ; Registrar and Vice-Chancellor's Divisions. This Workshop took place at The Ranch Hotel and Conference Centre outside Polokwane.

During the workshop, the University divisional heads reflected on the divisional achievements based on the 2021 Annual Performance Plan. These presentations included challenges and mitigations linked to the Annual Performance Plan and operational Plans indicators including key risk and audit issues. The divisional heads also presented and discussed high level activities in the Operational Plans for 2022 in support of the University wide 2022 Annual Performance Plan.

On the second day of the workshop, the Registrar's Operational Plan and Vice Chancellor's Operational Plan; Risk

management and Human Resources matters pertaining to contracting and performance evaluation were presented. The proposed template on the performance plan presented by the Director Strategy and Monitoring was adopted.



When setting the scene, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni highlighted that the issue of governance is very important and UNIVEN always strives

for a clean audit. He encouraged senior managers to move into a different direction, making impact with what the university is doing. "Making positive impact will assist in the improvement of the university's brand image. Focus on the activities that will contribute to the effective implementation of 2021-2025 Strategic Plan." Dr Nthambeleni reiterated the importance of striving for impact both nationally and internationally because we are a University for all South Africans and beyond South African borders. "We should all strive to save the reputation of our University even internationally."

In his closing remarks on the last day of the workshop, Dr Nthambeleni told senior managers that, performance should always be based on what we do on daily basis. He further encouraged senior and executive managers to continue working hard to make UNIVEN a world class brand. "Let us build a University that we wish to work for. Continue to implement new strategy 2021-2025 philosophy anchored on a new business operating model. Let us not plan in isolation but work as one team that is working for the same university. There should be

improved service culture that should be underpinned by robust engagement on the inter-dependencies to enable progress. Overturning a university to be on a performance-based university is a huge job and needs teamwork and cooperation."

Amongst other presenters were Dr Sannah Mativandela who presented on Reporting Framework; Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo who presented on the Proposed Operational Plan and Reporting templates; Prof Jan Crafford who presented on Teaching and Learning Operational Plan; Prof Nosisi Feza presented on Research and Postgraduate Studies Operational Plan; Mr Botwe Kraziya presented the Finance and ICT Operational Plan; Dr Robert Martin presented on Corporate Services Operational Plan; Adv. Edward Lambani presented the Registrar's Division Operational Plan; Mr Tinyiko Sibiya presented the Risk Register; Mrs Diana Makwarela, Adv. Eric Nemukula and Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo presented the Vice-Chancellor's Division Operational Plan; Mrs Uanda Ndou presented performance agreements/contracting as well as a Template for EMC and SMC Assessment.





# The South African Institute of Physics hosts a teachers development workshop at Vuwani Science Resource Centre

The South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) recently held Teachers Development Workshop at Vuwani Science Resource Centre to assist teachers improve physical Sciences teaching skills so that they can pass on the skills to learners, to develop and nurture the next generation of physicists in South Africa by improving the grade 12 science learners results, so that they will be able to continue with careers in science education and research at institutions of higher learning. The Vhembe East Teachers Development workshop is held every year as SAIP has a good working relationship with the Vhembe East Education district.

Dr Sophy Mulaudzi from Vuwani Science Resource Centre urged teachers with laboratories and relevant resources to share with other teachers and learners from other schools that do not have laboratories. She also advised teachers to share the knowledge that they have learnt during the workshop with learners and other teachers.



*Dr Sophy Mulaudzi*

According to Dr Eric Maluta, the Coordinator of Vuwani Science Resource Centre, the SAIP goal is to improve physics education and research, develop and nurture the next generation of physicists in South Africa. He further said SAIP believes that physics is a fundamental science that underpins the development of all other science, engineering, and technology disciplines.

Dr Maluta continued to indicate that, traditionally, the workshop is held only for content development, but this year there was an added hands-on training for teachers to be reminded on the importance of performing the experiments, so that they will be able to help the learners at schools. This workshop has equipped teachers with skills on performing different experiments that are related to grade 12 curriculum. Dr Eric Maluta is currently a member of South Africa Institute of Physics with portfolio of Teachers Development and have coordinated these activities in different provinces like, Limpopo, Free state, Northwest, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga.



*Teachers conducting experiment at Vuwani Science Resource Centre*



*Teachers doing experiments at Vuwani Science Resource Centre laboratories with the help of Mrs Mothapo, Mmaphefo (wearing lab coat) from University of Limpopo department of Chemistry*





# Univen collaborates with Vhembe District Municipality on a Back-To-School Campaign



Robert Mbulungeni Secondary School learners

UNIVEN student recruitment team, in collaboration with office of the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, embarked on a Back-To-School Campaign from 18 to 21 January 2022 to encourage learners to start the year on a high note despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The Municipality also took an opportunity to conduct monitoring of Covid 19 compliance at selected schools in both Vhembe East and West Education Districts. Selected schools were addressed by various stakeholders including the office of the District Mayor, ward councillors, school governing bodies, Independent Electoral Commission, representatives of the Department of Education as well as traditional leaders.

Considering the Strategic Objectives number Three (3) and 15 of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the Marketing, Branding and Communication Department is expected to work closely with various structures in marketing the University programmes; as well as disseminating information on programmes and services offered to prospective learners.

The sessions ran concurrently allowing visit to four schools per day, and the University of Venda Schools Liaison team was spread across various areas of the District providing career guidance and motivational talks to learners, including grade 12 learners.

UNIVEN Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Justice Lebopa visited Jaji Secondary School at Madobi Village, Mahlori Secondary School at Hlanganani and Robert Mbulungeni at Tshilamba. Meanwhile, the Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Takalani Nyelisani visited Thathe and Thusalushaka Secondary Schools at Tshidzivhe and Mbahe villages respectively.



The Assistant Schools Liaison Officer Justice Lebopa addressing learners on the programmes and admission requirements to study at UNIVEN



Student brochures were shared with learners for them to plan their career goals in advance. Educators and parents also used the opportunity to enquire about the 2022 admission and registration plan.



Delegated as the Acting Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Shonisani Sinyosi at Mahlori Secondary School at Hlanganani Central where she encouraged learners to prioritise education before everything. "You don't have to engage yourself into things that will destroy your future, the fact that we visited your school demonstrates that we respect your goals, and it is our role as parents, government and other stakeholders to help you achieve them. As the Municipality we are adopting this school. We will attend to all the challenges raised and we will also monitor learners' performance regularly," said Cllr Sinyosi.



Photo taken at Mahlori Secondary School: Chief Progress Kutama said traditional leaders have a role to play in monitoring schools and learners' performance. "We must be concerned when learners in our areas are dropping out of schools. We need to question it because they will become criminals who may give us problems in our society. We must assess the situation in children-headed families and provide necessary support and where possible work with social workers and other professionals to intervene".



Above: photo taken at Robert Mbulungeni Secondary in Tshilamba: Delegated as Acting Mayor Cllr Rose Mathukha talked about Vhembe District Mayoral Bursary and the impact it has in the community. "As the Municipality we have the bursary available to assist learners through their studies at the university. With regard to challenges of water and sanitation as raised by the Principal and learners, we will make sure that this problem is attended to".

During her address at Thathe Secondary, the Acting Executive Mayor, Ms Rose Mathukha encouraged learners to start studying immediately and not wait for the end of the year to start preparing for their final examinations. She further warned learners to keep strict observations to the Covid-19 regulations. She encouraged learners to work even more harder despite the pandemic, so that they could make their school proud.

During the campaign briefing sessions, schools were afforded the opportunity to raise concerns relating to delivery of service (such as provision of water and sanitation) by local government (municipalities) as well as Department of Education that impacted on schools' performance. Common to these issues related to declining performance aggravated by teacher/learner ratios allocated, declining class conditions (shortage of learner desks, tables and chairs) as well as bad road conditions. Despite these issues being raised every year, schools claim they have never been resolved. As a result, many learners have moved to schools associated with top results (pass rates). With these declines in low enrolments, the Department has reacted with the implementation of the merger policy which further attracted resistance by communities.



Mahlori Secondary School learners



Grade 12 learners of Thusalushaka Secondary during learners' session, observing Covid-19 regulations



## Univen collaborates with Vhembe District Municipality on a Back-To-School Campaign continued...



Mvudi Circuit Manager, Ms Ndivhuwo Ramovha, addressing stakeholders at Thusalushaka Secondary

This school is one of those being considered to be merged with another school due to low enrolment numbers. Ms Ramovha mentioned that whilst our schools are overwhelmed with operational challenges, "Education is a societal matter, together we can develop our country and the nation". She believes communities should be engaged in resolving crisis at our schools because it is them (communities) who fought effortlessly for them (learners).

UNIVEN Schools Liaison, Mr Takalani Nyelisani believes that academic departments partnering through a lending hand in teaching at these schools may

assist to improve the situation at schools. "Considering the role already being played by Vuwani Science Resource Centre in enhancing performance in Maths, Natural Sciences and Life Sciences, these schools can benefit from UNIVEN's proximity", said Nyelisani during stakeholder briefing sessions taking place before learners were addressed. Mr Nyelisani also considers partnering with the Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning (CHETL) could also assist in addressing issues of learner support. He also encouraged parents to be involved with their children's education and be good partners with all stakeholders in their children's future.



UNIVEN Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Takalani Nyelisani addressing learners at Thusalushaka Secondary

In his address, Mr Takalani Nyelisani reminded learners that the key to success remains in their hands. He pleaded with learners to take their schoolwork seriously from the first day. "You cannot neglect your work the whole year and expect a miracle at the end of the year", said Nyelisani. Nyelisani indicated that good results come with hard work and sacrifice. He further warned learners that what is even disappointing is to see learners achieving good results but having not applied to institutions of Higher Learning, this resulting at learners taking a gap year unnecessarily.

Mr Nyelisani urged learners to consider UNIVEN as their University of choice. He re-iterated that UNIVEN has for the past 40 years, affirmed their slogan "Creating future leaders", and our students/graduates have demonstrated that they can withstand comparison of quality produced by our institution.



Grade 12 learners Muvhuso Netshithuthuni and Gudani Mukondeleli from Thusalushaka Secondary respectively presenting their response during the schools' visits by the Back-To-School campaign. Both learners thanked the guests for making time to come and motivate all learners on the first week of the school calendar; and promised to work hard.

## National South African Association of Campus Health Services organises a webinar on abuse as a parallel pandemic

The South African Association of Campus Health Services (SAACH) recently held a webinar themed 'abuse as a parallel pandemic'. This webinar took place on Microsoft teams.



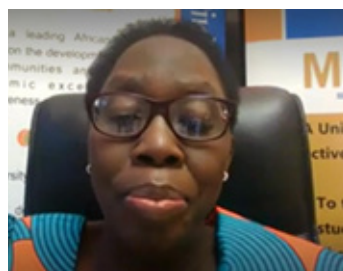
University Registrar, Adv. Edward Lambani said this is an important meeting for Campus health services. He indicated that he was impressed by the theme of the webinar 'Abuse as a parallel Pandemic'. This implies that anything that is a pandemic means it has spread or happening across many countries in the world.

Adv Lambani mentioned that the world health organisation is concerned about the abuse towards women and children. He indicated that the abuse happens everywhere even in universities. "As health practitioners of the association of campus health services, we are at the forefront of assisting those that are abused and dealing with the abusers"



The Chairperson of the Limpopo Region for South African Association of Campus Health Services, Mr Edward Dongola said he is grateful for this opportunity given to him by SAACH. "It is the culture of SAACH to have an annual conference rotating per region. He emphasised that "our country is one of those that are unfriendly toward women and girls, until such a time our country changes its posture of abusive behavior towards the vulnerable group, everyday should be an opportunity to deal with such issues."

Mr. Dongola said this event is meant to equip and empower attendees with adequate skills and knowledge about gender-based violence issues so that they could also empower others. He challenges everyone to spearhead the fight against any form of gender-based violence and abuse at our institutions and societies. He concluded by mentioning that institutions and societies should have programmes that deal with GBV and abuse to mitigate this problem.



In her presentation Dr. Rev Ngwako Rapakwana said she is humbled to be presenting about abuse as a parallel pandemic. She labeled abuse as any action that internationally harms or injures another person.

According to Dr Rapakwana all forms of abuse began to intensify during Covid-19 Lockdown which included GBV, substance abuse and many other abuses. "Violence against women intensified during the pandemic inside and outside homes as well as campuses for staff and students."

She said any person who purposefully harms another in any way is committing abuse. She also outlined types of abuses as physical, psychological, sexual, verbal spiritual and emotional abuse amongst others.

Dr Rapakwana indicated that GBV manifests within the higher education sector in various ways like inappropriate and degrading comments about the appearance and

sexuality of an individual, stalking and spying upon an individual. Some are sexual favors for marks and interference with and individual's studies including withholding of funds.

She said to prevent GBV and responding to violent episodes within the higher education, actions like adopting a zero-tolerance policy to gender discrimination and violence, promotion and teaching of protective and preventive strategies including gender empowerment and implementing a safer campus, should be considered.

In conclusion, she encouraged all to work together to reach campus community to advocate, to teach and protect them against all forms of abuse.

Mr. Norman Letebele thanked participants for attending this webinar and he acknowledged the good work done by the organising committee.

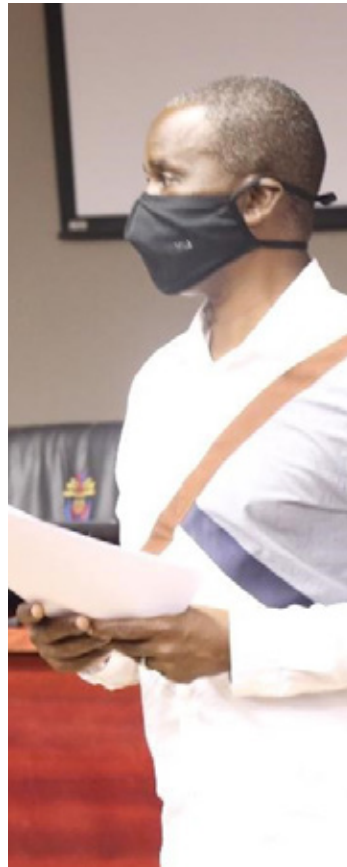
The National Chairperson of the South African Association of Campus Health Services Ms Molimo Geya expressed that she is thankful for the three institutions, being the University of Venda, University of Limpopo and University of Mpumalanga for organising the 2022 SAACHS Webinar to keep each other informed.

She also recommended that, in the next webinar, students and SRC members should be invited because they are stakeholders, and they will give suggestions and feedback.

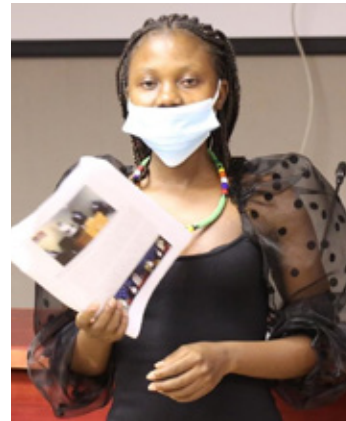


# Co-developing plans for Operationalising Citizen-driven Community Development in Traditional Authorities in Vhembe District of Limpopo

On Tuesday, 18 January 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Institute for Rural Development (IRD) hosted a workshop in the Research Conference Centre. The theme of the workshop was "Co-developing Plans for Operationalising Citizen Community Development in Traditional Authorities in Vhembe District of Limpopo". Participants were drawn from UNIVEN (staff and postgraduate students), Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, Vhembe Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Madonsi, Manenzhe, Masia, Njhakanjhaka, Sinthumule and Tshivhase Traditional Authorities (Traditional Council; Civic Association; Youth; Women). This workshop built on the historic signing of Memoranda of Understanding with the six Traditional Councils that took place on 8 December 2022. Prof Takalani Mashau, the Acting Deputy Dean for Research in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education directed the day's programme.



In his welcome address, Dr Jethro Zuwarimwe (Senior Lecturer in the IRD) appreciated attendees for availing themselves to participate in the workshop. He revealed that the purpose of the workshop was to set in motion processes for implementing the MoUs signed in December 2021.



Ms Amukelani Hlaseka, an Innovation Champion for Local Economic Development (LED) spoke about the evolution of the UNIVEN-Traditional Authorities partnership for citizen-driven rural community development. In her presentation, she revealed that UNIVEN was implementing a 5-year strategic plan. In this regard, the IRD was obliged to steer citizen-driven development underpinned by human development. "Through the work in the Traditional Authorities, we will demonstrate that UNIVEN is a locally relevant and community-engaged institution", Ms Hlaseka explained. She revealed that engagements in each Traditional Authority provided the content used to prepare the MOUs that were eventually signed. In conclusion, "After signing the MOUs, we must chart a way forward. This is why we are here today".

**"Through the work in the Traditional Authorities, we will demonstrate that UNIVEN is a locally relevant and community-engaged institution"**



The Director of the IRD, Prof Joseph Francis, urged representatives of the six Traditional Authorities to share information and ideas with other community members that they represent. Prof Francis pointed out that the signing of MoUs with six Traditional Councils in one day and place was historic for it has never happened before at UNIVEN. He explained that the Traditional Councils are expected to facilitate effective decision making. "As UNIVEN, our role is to facilitate and institutionalise citizen-driven community development", he said. This process helps to manufacture servant leaders in line with UNIVEN's dream of "creating future leaders". He concluded by saying, "ours is a revolution to make sure that people drive their own development, a revolution without guns but one that uses information, skills and knowledge to win the war".

In the course of operational planning, it was revealed that it was anchored on three phases, namely stakeholder mobilisation and organisation; laying the foundation for effective implementation; and nurturing the evolution of citizen-driven rural community development. Prof Francis then placed the participants in Traditional Authority-based groups to deliberate on and clarify what "citizen-driven rural community development" means and how it can be actualised.

**This workshop built on the historic signing of Memoranda of Understanding with the six Traditional Councils that took place on 8 December 2022.**

*Below and on page 13 are photographs of the various teams in action.*



*Tshivhase Traditional Council.*



*Masia Traditional Council.*



## Co-developing plans for Operationalising Citizen-driven Community Development in Traditional Authorities in Vhembe District of Limpopo continued...



Sinthumule Traditional Council.



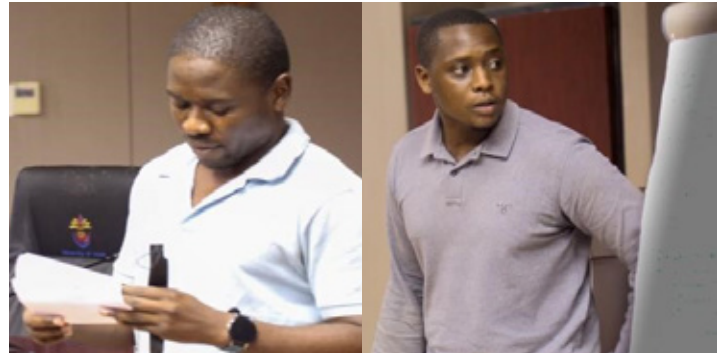
Madonsi Traditional Council.



Njhakanjhaka Traditional Council.



Strategic partners / University



From Left to right: Mr Ipfi Masia of Masia Traditional Council; and Mr Tshivhase representing the Tshivhase Traditional Council presenting the results of their group discussions



Mr Mpho Netshizwawhahulu of Sinthumule Traditional Authority (Left) and right, Mr Ronald Mabasa, Madonsi Traditional Authority

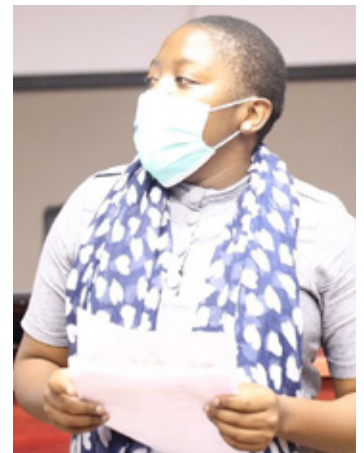


Ms Musa Kotane, representing the Njhanjhaka Traditional Authority



Mrs Divhani Tshivhase

In her closing remarks, Mrs Divhani Tshivhase said she was happy to see that UNIVEN was engaging local communities in Vhembe District more than ever before. She highlighted that this was refreshing and held considerable promise towards enhancing the livelihoods of citizens. In conclusion, she challenged the University to generate capacity development programmes for Traditional leadership.



Ms Seraphim Mafokwane, a Human Sciences Research Council intern in the IRD delivered the vote of thanks. She was excited to be part of the good work that the University was involved in, in the surrounding communities.



# UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal honors 34 retirees for their loyal service

On Friday, 25 of February 2022, the University of Venda hosted an event to bid farewell to staff members who have contributed to the success and sustainability of this University in the previous years. This Retirees farewell event was planned to take place in December 2021 and was postponed due to rising number of the Covid-19 cases in the country. The farewell event took place at the University's Research Conference Centre.



In his farewell message, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni noted that these staff members have been true assets of UNIVEN and that without their dedication and commitment to this University, UNIVEN would not be where and how it is today. "We value the work that you have done for the University in the previous years. You have played a very important role as part of people who have contributed to the success of this University".

He said the reason why UNIVEN is called historically disadvantaged University is because its establishment was not properly planned. He continued to share with the audience the history of the University that started as a branch of the then University of the North, now called University of Limpopo. Dr Nthambeleni thanked the former President of the Republic of Venda and his cabinet who saw a need of establishing a university.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal informed the retirees that in October this year, UNIVEN will celebrate 40 years of existence. He said this is a huge milestone looking at the way this University started. He thanked retirees for their participation in making sure that this University becomes a success. "Some of you started with this University and all of you should be part of the October celebration".

He highlighted that the University is currently well managed and is financially in a good state. "The University is not managed by the executive management only, but by all of us – be it service, admin or academic staff."

Dr Nthambeleni also mentioned that UNIVEN is pleased that the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan has made bold plans and objectives to achieve and that we are in the second year of the implementation of the strategic plan. He further touched on UNIVEN positioning statement which is 'Positioning the University of Venda for impact and relevance'. "We are not just a university by name, we are a university that has impact in its surrounding communities".

Dr Nthambeleni added that UNIVEN is one of the universities with higher number of staff with doctoral degrees in the country.

Towards the conclusion of his farewell message, he spoke about remarkable achievements of this University including the

SAICA accreditation, the establishment of the Law School, amongst others. "Our biggest wish is for you to start enjoying life and stay safe. Contribute to the communities where you come from. "Retiring doesn't stop you from assisting other people." He concluded his talk by encouraging retirees who haven't taken the vaccine to do so because vaccines have proved to be saving lives. He said this is your university, when things are not going right, you have the right to come back and advise the management. Universities are owned by communities not the management.



In his opening and welcome address, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford told retirees that they spent every day working for the University, dedicating their lives to the university instead of spending time with their families. "We are very grateful for that, UNIVEN has now become part of your family member". Prof Crafford further said in all families we sometimes find ourselves being caught in disagreements due to our differences on choices we make, "but correct those mistakes and keep soldiering on and that's exactly what you did in the previous years hence you have managed to service the university for such a long time." He thanked the retirees for the service that they have given to the University of Venda and told them that now they need to spend most of their time with their families.



On behalf of the Director Human Resources, Mr Victor Sigama said HR is delighted to be part of this celebration to honor 34 of our long-serving and dedicated staff members.

Mr Sigama said that what you have done is nothing less than your passion, dedication and perseverance that will surely set an excellent model for other colleagues who are remaining. The University will never forget what a wonderful job you have done!

He thanked the retirees for their time and contributions to develop this University and transform it into what it is today! As he concluded, Mr Sigama mentioned that most of the people view retirement as a finish line or as the end of the road. But retirement is simply a milestone you pass on your journey. It's like crossing the border from one state to the next.



Representing Service Staff members was Mr Joel Ramulondi who worked at the Protection Services for 35 years. He said in early years, service staff were neglected but with time, the situation changed and we are grateful that this demonstrates that the University treats all of us equal. "We thank God for the strengths that he has given us to work for this University for many years". Mr Ramulondi advised staff members who are still working for the university to conduct themselves ethically. "Be committed to what you do".



Admin staff members were represented by Mrs. Regina Tshikomba, who was the School Administrator in the School of Law. Mrs. Tshikomba said, "the University has given us the opportunity to service students from all over the world and to improve our lives academically".



Adv. Majake who was a Senior Lecturer of Mercantile and Private Law, representing academic staff said he joined the University in 2009. Adv. Majake said when he joined the University, he knew that UNIVEN will be his home for retirement. But before that, he has taught at this University in 1986. "I then left to teach in USA. When I came back from the United States, I found the University being a changed space. What an experience for me to have worked for this university," he said UNIVEN has changed many of us for the better. "It was a pleasure working for this institution."



A Group photo of retirees with Prof Jan Crafford, Dr Robert Martin, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Mr Victor Sigama and Dr Takalani Dzaga.



As the Programme Director, Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga APR told the retirees that retiring does not mean you should no longer be part of this University. Dr Dzaga said UNIVEN is the way it is today because of the services rendered by these former staff members and today UNIVEN celebrates 40 years of existence because of their contribution and the hard work of current and former University staff members.



In his vote of thanks message, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin told retirees that retirement should not be the end of the relationship with the University. "We would like to stay connected with you. We would like you to remain part of the University for many years to come. When we spend more time together, we end up becoming a family like we are today. We trust that you have planned well and that you will take your retirement seriously". Dr Martin urged the retirees to continue to exercise so that they always stay healthy. He concluded his talk by echoing the Vice-Chancellor and Principal's plea of advising retirees and other staff members to vaccinate and even go for vaccine boosters.



# University of Venda Celebrates World Radio Day with SABC Limpopo Combo



Munghana Lonene FM, Phalaphala FM and Thobela FM Presenters presenting live at UNIVEN Cafeteria Lapa

On Sunday, 13 February 2022, the University of Venda hosted the SABC Limpopo Combo to celebrate World Radio Day. This World Radio Day Celebration took place at the University's Cafeteria Lapa from 09h00 to 14h00.

World Radio Day is celebrated worldwide on February 13. During the 2022 World Radio Day, the SABC Limpopo Combo comprising of Munghana Lonene Fm, Thobela Fm and Phalaphala Fm demonstrated how radio is still a formidable force that continues to change lives across the globe. The objective of World Radio Day is to raise public awareness on the importance of radio and encourage decision makers to use it to provide access to information, and to improve international co-operation among broadcasters.

The SABC broadcasted various programmes live from the University of Venda campus and further imparted knowledge of the industry and its current dynamics with some of UNIVEN staff and students, including media studies students. Between 11:00 and 12:00 the above mentioned three Limpopo radio stations were simultaneously broadcasting live.



SABC Limpopo Combo Business Manager, Mr Madikana Matjila thanked UNIVEN staff and students who attended this World Radio Celebration with the SABC and the University. He urged students to start volunteering at community radio stations like UNIVEN Fm while they are still studying because it gives them exposure and the experience that is needed in the bigger radio stations. "We need new talent that would give us new ideas".



During his interview with SABC, Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga said that UNIVEN is excited to host SABC in celebrating the 2022 World Radio Day at UNIVEN campus. Dr. Dzaga continued to express that this is a great

**During the 2022 World Radio Day, the SABC Limpopo Combo comprising of Munghana Lonene Fm, Thobela Fm and Phalaphala Fm demonstrated how radio is still a formidable force that continues to change lives across the globe.**



UNIVEN media studies students and Marketing, Branding and Communication staff members listening to SABC staff members during the question-and-answer session

exposure to UNIVEN students, especially those who enrolled for media studies programme. "We have no doubts that this will inspire our students and we are also hopeful that this opportunity will improve their performance in class".

He concluded his interview by thanking the SABC for coming to celebrate the 2022 World Radio Day with UNIVEN staff and Students. He said this will add a lot of value to the institution. Dzaga further said the University looks forward to working with the SABC in hosting a series of events building up to the main celebration of the University's 40 years of existence in October 2022.



Mr. Tebogo Magubane from SABC expressed that, one of their biggest challenges is dealing with employment issues where he told students to forget about the scarcity of jobs and create their own spaces.



Ms. Roseta Sebapu from SABC said the media industry needs passion. "You need to be patient if you want to succeed in life. Know what you love and follow that dream". Ms Sebapu encouraged students to invest their time in community radio stations to gain experience.



# WOMEN IN SCIENCE: Prof Irene Barnhoorn is now a C2 NRF rated researcher



Prof Irene Barnhoorn's interest is in science research studies and particularly on exposure to environmental endocrine disruptors (EDCs) and health effects on wildlife and eventually humans. Her focus is mainly on freshwater aquatic sciences with the emphasis on aquatic endocrine disruption (ecotoxicology) and the safe consumption of wild fish. She has published numerous papers in high impact factor national and international scientific journals. Prof Barnhoorn has produced several honours, masters and doctoral students in aquatic toxicology both in the laboratory and field. She has recently received her C2 NRF rating in 2022.

Prof Barnhoorn was appointed as an Associate Professor in the Department of Zoology, University of Venda (UNIVEN) in December 2012). Her responsibilities include lecturing and research in aquatic toxicology. Since she started at UNIVEN, her research focus is still on freshwater aquatic sciences with the emphasis on aquatic endocrine disruption (ecotoxicology) and the safe consumption of wild fish. In 2016, she became head of the

Department of Zoology. Concurrently with research, she teaches two third year modules (Animal ecophysiology and Basic freshwater ecology) and an honours module (Freshwater Ecology) in the Department of Zoology.

Over the past eight (8) years, she has completed various projects on the safety of humans after consumption of fish harvested from the Albasini Dam in the Luvuvhu River catchment. These studies addressed pesticides, including insecticides, fungicides (mancozeb) and herbicides, pharmaceuticals, especially ARVs in water sources and fish in the Vhembe District of the Limpopo Province. In collaboration with the University of Johannesburg they completed laboratory exposure studies using environmentally relevant concentrations. The possible long term and short-term effects of efavirenz and nevirapine were assessed on different endpoints in the *O. mossambicus*. The quality of the ARV exposure studies was acknowledged by accolades received by two master's students and one PhD student whom she cosupervised.

Over the past eight (8) years, Prof Irene Barnhoorn has completed various projects on the safety of humans after consumption of fish harvested from the Albasini Dam in the Luvuvhu River catchment. These studies addressed pesticides, including insecticides, fungicides (mancozeb) and herbicides, pharmaceuticals, especially ARVs in water sources and fish in the Vhembe District of the Limpopo Province.

Matching her research in Vhembe District, she is collaborating with research at the Roodeplaat Dam (RPD), and she is the first author on a recent paper reporting for the first time the detection of herbicides in water and fish from RPD (Barnhoorn and van Dyk, 2020).

In collaboration with University of Limpopo (UL), they are investigating the presence of pesticides, metals, and pharmaceuticals (including veterinary products and possibly ARVs), in rivers from the Limpopo province.

She is a member of the South African Society of Aquatic Scientist (SASAqS), Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Africa branch and the Zoological Society of Southern Africa (ZSSA). Prof Barnhoorn is registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) as a Professional Natural Scientist in Aquatic Science with registration number 400355/13. She has also served as a member of the EDC Advisory Group to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) on environmental chemical pollution.

Prof Barnhoorn started in 2001 as a postdoc fellow at the University of Pretoria, where she was involved in research studies on exposure to environmental endocrine disruptors (EDCs) and health effects by a multidisciplinary and multiinstitutional team. She used the opportunity to develop her own research interests and projects. She further reported the first cases of intersex on the African continent in *Clarias gariepinus* from the EDC contaminated Rietvlei Dam (RVD) (Barnhoorn et al., 2004) and in *Oreochromis mossambicus* from a malaria area where DDT (known EDC) spraying is ongoing (Barnhoorn et al., 2010). Testicular calcifications and neoplastic lesions in the testes of wild eland (*Tragelaphus oryx*) at RVD provided evidence that mammalian wildlife is also affected by EDCs in South Africa (Bormman et al., 2010). She has built multidisciplinary and multi-institutional collaborations with various scientists in the EDC field.

## We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communication channel.

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