



University of Venda

OCTOBER 2015

# Nendila

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

## #Feeshavefallen

### *Dialogue the only way to problem-solving – Vice Chancellor*

Over the last couple of weeks South Africa has experienced an unprecedented manifestation of democracy – probably the best coordinated protest action yet in our young democracy. In ten days, students across the country verbalised their needs and frustrations in a coordinated manner, calling on government to meet the promises - perceived or real - made over many years.

Culminating in a meeting of university vice chancellors and student leaders called by President Zuma at the Union Buildings on 23 October, where he subsequently announced a zero increase in tertiary education fees in 2016, this was the manifestation of a well-orchestrated campaign.

Yes, we did see hooliganism among the student masses at the Union Buildings. However, when does a crowd become a mob? Students said these culprits were not students. My call is then that those very students should call these people to book as they are harming the student cause in the same manner as we are now seeing at some other universities.

But where does this leave tertiary education in South Africa? I have and always will believe that dialogue is the only way to solve problems. We practise this as standard procedure at Univen – and it is paying off. We have seen the development of a responsible student leadership cadre on the Univen campus – with dialogue that is robust and honest.

From management's side we have taken swift and honest action over the last couple of weeks.

Students participated in a peaceful protest against fee increments for the 2016 academic year. As a result, students blocked access to campus on 22 October, leading to the cancellation of classes and other academic activities.

I met with the students at the main gate and undertook to receive their memorandum with demands the very same day.

They requested a response within 24 hours – which was not possible due to the meeting at the Union Buildings. In an extra-ordinary meeting, the Univen Council met on 26 October and I communicated the university's response to the student leadership that same afternoon.

The students demanded that university tuition fees be dropped by 10,5 percent. The university's response was that the proposed fee increment of 2016 was ten percent. However, following President Zuma's announcement of a zero percent increase, Council announced a zero percent fee and residence fee increment in 2016.

In terms of the students' statement that School of Education students pay R11 000 for a computer module, Management pointed out that there are only two computer modules in the school at a cost of R1 480 and R2 790 respectively, which is in line with those of other undergraduate modules.

The students demanded no increase in registration fees and management concurred. Management pointed out that National Student Financial Aid Scheme and self-paying students pay the same registration fees – it is thus an incorrect assumption that scheme students pay less.

Management concurred with the demand that the library hours should be extended from 20:00 to midnight.



About the demand that the open study section of the library be open on a 24-hours basis, management pointed out that this is already the case.

About the demand for the computer labs to be open on a 24-hours basis, management said these will be open until midnight and for 24 hours when there is a demand.

Students decided to resume classes on 27 October 2015. The meeting also agreed that examinations would be postponed by a week, starting on 7 November. The offices of the Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic and the University Registrar produced a revised examinations timetable.

"I am confident that the route of communicating at all times that we have embarked on is the correct one - as a matter of fact, the only one. It will take a lot of convincing to prove otherwise.

"The University Council has aligned itself to President Jacob Zuma's announcement for a zero percent fee increase in 2016," said Mbati.

"We further agreed on a number of measures to lessen the financial burden of needy students."

**Prof Peter Mbati**



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# CCTV cameras enhance Univen security

Some 285 CCTV cameras with 400 viewpoints have been installed to enhance campus security. Univen's Director of Protection Services, Mr Azwidohwi Mukheli, says the cameras are monitored from a state-of-the-art central control room, hailed by government security experts and the Univen Council as one of the best in university security.

"The cameras continuously provide video surveillance of the entire campus, acquiring inalienable intelligence from technical sources.

"A number of initiatives have been undertaken to execute Univen's integrated protection services masterplan, commencing in November 2014.

"In a world that is increasingly becoming volatile, the university is committed to maintain the safety of students, staff and visitors on campus. The masterplan includes a comprehensive listing of

policies, procedures and information relating to campus safety, emergency management and the health and welfare of the campus community.

"Modern security trends will be adopted and applied for quality security services, including embedding technology into surveillance activities. Risk will further be minimised by reducing the dependency on physical guards.

"The cameras have drastically reduced white-collar crime and incidences of theft and vandalism of university property. There is also a noticeable decrease in crime at the public areas of student residences."

He said the CCTV project upgrades the university's security service quality and modernises the portfolio of instruments and methodologies to render a campus security service.



**"Univen is committed to maintain the safety of students, staff and visitors on campus – Mukheli."**



24/7 Surveillance in a state-of-the-art control room.

# Fostering collaboration between Univen and Masinde Muliro University

A memorandum of understanding between Univen and the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kakamega, Kenya paves the way for various activities.

These include an exchange of staff and students, including an exchange of administrators, collaborative research activities, as well as cooperation in teaching and learning, including mutual benchmarking of teaching and learning methods. It also includes the use of staff members as external examiners, specifically at postgraduate levels, and cooperation with community engagement projects like work integrated learning.

Other benefits are cooperation with staff development and cooperation with national, regional, and international institutions operating within the region in the design, implementation and assessment of capacity development initiatives.

In May this year, Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatia, accompanied by the Director of Research and Innovation, Prof Ekosse visited the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology to actualise the existing memorandum of understanding and set up a visit to Univen.



**Clinching the deal – Profs Fred Otieno and Peter Mbatia signing the memorandum of understanding.**



Former Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation, Prof Shiundu, receives a workshop participation certificate from Prof Ekosse.

Masinde Muliro's Deputy Vice Chancellor: Planning, Research and Innovation, Prof Kabaji, the Director, International Relations and Academic Linkages: Prof Abenga and the Director: Research and Extension, Prof Achoka subsequently visited Univen in July.

At the meeting it was decided that Univen's Director of Research and Innovation, Prof Ekosse, would run a mega workshop on article writing, grant proposal writing and postgraduate students' supervision at Kakamega and assist with the setting up of administrative and management structures for postgraduate studies. He did so in October.



Prof Mbatia on the Kakamega campus.

## Research essential for Thulamela's 2030 vision

Univen's fourth year School of Environmental Science students presented the Thulamela Local Municipality with the research findings of an integrated development project to enhance the municipality's 2030 city status vision.

Among others, the research investigated urban design proposals for restructuring the central business district, rapid land-use change for residential development purposes, illegal land-use change without approval and the current land-use at the Shayandima industrial area.

The research found that various factors hampered Thohoyandou to be rated among environmentally friendly towns in South Africa. These included a lack of sufficient recreational, cultural and sports

facilities earmarked for youth and elderly people, unpaved surfaces that become dusty when it is hot and muddy in the rainy season and buildings which have no access for disabled people. This also led to a rise in informal sector activities and abandoned buildings in the central business district that may be a crime hot spot.

Developed strategies include turning one-way streets into two-way streets, making underutilised public land available for private sector development, creating a downtown playground to make the town more child and family friendly and creating a flea market area.

"We welcome all the findings and will act on these, keeping the relationship going between Univen and the municipality," said Town Planning Manager, Humbulani Nemaadzhilili.



Working towards Thulamela Municipality's 2030 city status.



# Alumni crucial in Univen's developmental agenda - Mbat

"Alumni should not ask what can my alma mater do for me but rather what can I do for my alma mater?"

Launching the Univen Zimbabwe International Alumni Chapter in Harare recently, Vice Chancellor and Principal Prof Peter Mbat said alumni play an essential role in the long term sustainability of universities.

"Alumni are critical brand ambassadors for universities and play an essential role for resource mobilisation. Their cooperation should constantly be sought."

Mbat and the President of the Univen Convocation, Mr Levy Ndou, launched the Univen Zimbabwe International Alumni Chapter. It was also attended by Zimbabwe's Minister of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services and Executive Director of the Presidential Scholarship Programme, Christopher Mushohwe, Pro Vice Chancellor at the Women's University in Africa, Prof Nherera and Mr Ashwin Pienaar of the South African Embassy.

Minister Mushohwe outlined the history of the Zimbabwe Presidential Scholarship, which has made it possible for many Zimbabwean students from indigent backgrounds to study at Univen and later contribute to building the Zimbabwean nation.

"Continue to utilise your education to the benefit of education and the country."

"Internationalisation empowers members of the university community to engage confidently as equals with the world," said Univen's Director of International Relations, Mr Cornelius Hagenmeier.

"Regional collaboration in higher education contributes to uniting a region which has been artificially divided by colonial boundaries."

Mr Munyaradzi Mugomeza was elected as chairperson of the chapter.

**"Utilise your education to the benefit of education and the country" - Mushohwe.**



**The new Univen Zimbabwe Alumni committee**, front from left Mr Shadreck Muchaku, Head of Events and Marketing, Mr Munyaradzi Mugomeza, Chairperson, Mr Tafadzwa Mandaza, Deputy Chairperson, Ms Lucia Chimhau, Secretary, Ms Lindiwe Munatsi, Deputy Secretary and Ms Greation Nyevera, Treasurer. Back, from left - Mr Able Mateta, Head of Communications, Ms Esirina Mupfudze, Head of Special Projects and Community Outreach, Mr Mambanga Pfungwa Head of Research and Innovation, Ms Thembeni Matshudu, Head of Fundraising and Mr Raymond Nyarugwe, Head of Membership and Recruitment.



The launch of the Univen Zimbabwe International Alumni Chapter honoured the legacy of the late former Univen Student Representative Council President, Phibeon Munyoro.

Affectionately known as The Lion, Munyoro served as president for two terms – 2000-2001.

"Munyoro will forever be remembered for helping other students grow and succeed," said Univen Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbat.

"He was instrumental in raising over R40 000 for student support - an amount that was fairly huge at that time. He was a leader who had students at heart as he would always pursue their interests."

Zimbabwean Minister of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services suggested the formation of the Phibeon Munyoro's Foundation to help students from disadvantaged families.

Munyoro was born in the deep rural village of Mount Darwin in Zimbabwe.

His parents and relatives were among the guests who attended the commemoration.

# Research should have an impact on society

"The domination of South African universities in the continental rankings mirrored the extent to which South Africa embraced internationalisation and globalisation," says the Zimbabwean Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Dr Godfrey Gandawa.

Officially opening the recent international research conference 'Entrepreneurship, economic integration and sustainable economic development', Gandawa said institutions of higher learning in Africa should be ranked in terms of their research output, number of rated academics and the extent to which they secured third stream income, particularly from industry.

"For universities that are concerned about economic and social impact, neither the institutions themselves nor their academics should consider it good enough for their research results to be academically valued only. They should care that their research has an impact on society."

"Academics should contribute significantly to the

generation of sustainable solutions to societal challenges. This is possible if there is a culture change in which universities put sense into the heads of politicians and they will listen. Currently, universities are leaving politicians to run the country."

Themed 'Fifty years of Zambian politics: contradictions and distinctions in African economic integration', Prof Collins Miruka of the North-West University in South Africa's presentation focused on Zambia as a case study. He highlighted the many things that African countries had done wrong, resulting in them failing to develop for about 50 years.

The Vice Chancellor of the Great Zimbabwe University, Prof Rungano Jonas Zvobgo's presentation focused on the tragedy of not embracing entrepreneurship in virtually all spheres of life.

"Society should not wait for government all the time to solve problems that bedevilled society – lead from the front."

"The major challenge facing Africans is poverty and

unfortunately, we are all employed by poverty," said Univen's Prof Joseph Francis.

In his presentation 'Negotiating humps, landmines and speed traps on the way towards sustainable development: Are we well prepared?' he focused on the importance of mobilising and involving all interest groups in society.

"We fail to engage children when formulating community development agendas. Our failure to involve the people affected by development challenges made us manufacture a huge dependency syndrome. This is disabling potentially successful initiatives, consequently making people wait for service delivery vehicles to arrive from I don't know where."

"Excessive expenditure that goes towards security or bloated military establishments instead of socio-economic development is another impediment to the realisation of sustainable development. Non-governmental organisations that regard themselves as representatives of the grassroots when in fact they serve their own interests are a serious deficit in

leadership for development throughout all spheres of life.

"Another challenge to sustainable development is youth militancy. Youth do not want to hear about promises of development that are delivered after a long time - what they want are answers to their problems today, because they live by the day," he said.

The conference was hosted by the University of Venda in collaboration with the Midlands State University in Zimbabwe. It attracted delegates from universities and other higher education institutions in Lesotho, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Participants were specifically drawn from the universities of Cape Town, Fort Hare, Great Zimbabwe, Midlands State, Mzumba, Lesotho, North-West, Rhodes, Zimbabwe, Venda and the Zimbabwe Open University. Other participants were from the Bulawayo Polytechnic and Hillside Teachers College, as well as Zimbabwe's Ministries of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development and Small and Medium Enterprises.



**"Research should impact on society" - Gandawa.**



**"Society should not wait for government to solve problems - lead from the front" - Zvobgo**



**"Excessive expenditure for security or bloated military establishments instead of socio-economic development impedes sustainable development" – Francis.**





Prof Khoza does it again - and again.

# Prof Khoza joins FUNDISA's hall of fame

Univen's Senior Prof Base Khoza does it again and again. Khoza has been inaugurated into the Forum of University Nursing Deans in South Africa's (FUNDISA) hall of fame for research excellence in nursing.

Khoza is Univen's first Senior Professor. In 2012 and 2013 she was awarded as the university's best overall researcher. She is a C3 National Research Foundation- rated researcher and one of the three women among 17 foundation rated researchers at Univen. She specialises in nursing education and health promotion.

"I acknowledge your efforts in research and postgraduate outputs which over the years have been recognised by Univen," says Univen's Director: Research and Innovation, Prof Ekosse.

"This inauguration into FUNDISA's hall of fame attests to the fact that Univen is making gigantic strides in knowledge generation and dissemination. May you continue to sacrificially strive for continuous excellence in research as you lead the university's School of Health Sciences, mentor junior academics and supervise and promote postgraduate students."

FUNDISA pursues excellence in nursing scholarship at universities in South Africa to promote nursing practice, research and education. The heads of all 22 university schools of nursing in the country are currently members of the forum.

They meet at least four times a year and work on different projects through the portfolios of education, research, practice and advocacy. FUNDISA works closely with national partners such as the Nursing Education Association, College Principals Association and the SA Nursing Council. Its work also has an international component.

## We would like to hear from you!

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# Teamwork can get you anywhere - Maimela

"Teamwork is the key to a successful organisation," says the Chairperson of the Univen Council's Human Resources Committee, Kenny Maimela. Speaking at the committee's team building session recently, Maimela said if adhered to properly, teamwork can get you anywhere in the organisation. "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success."

Deputy Vice Chancellors Prof Jan Crafford and Dr Jannie Zaaiman, Human Resources Director Mr Tshililo Manezhe and Prof Edward Nesamvuni also attended.



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# Univen professor an acclaimed Afro-jazz musician



Madimabe Geoff Mapaya is an associate professor and holds a PhD degree in African Studies from the University of Venda. His study interests lie primarily in mmimo wa setšo (Indigenous African music) and its implications on the 21st century ideas of African musicology.

Mapaya is a member of the School of Human and Social Sciences executive board and heads the music department. He is a founding member and leader of the Indigenous Music and Oral History Project at the university.

Apart from his university duties, Mapaya is a nationally acclaimed performing and recording Afro-jazz musician with several albums to his name.

In addition to authoring the monograph entitled the Music of Bahananwa, he served as a scientific editor of the Cultures of Limpopo publication, in which he authored a chapter on dipela tša harepa. He is currently co-editing a compendium entitled

John Blacking and the current African Musicology - Reflections, reviews, analyses and prospects (A companion to African Musicology) to be published later this year by African Books Collective Publishers.

Mapaya has also guest-edited several Department of Higher Education and Training accredited journals, the Talking Drum newsletter and continues to contribute research articles to both national and international peer-reviewed journals. Some of his research findings and embryonic ideas have been tested in national and international conferences.

Mapaya served in many South African Qualifications Authority standard generating bodies for the music industry, and ran several learnerships and community related arts projects from the Univen.

Apart from being the lead author of the country's Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement, he served as the chair of the Limpopo Arts and Culture Council and as a member of the National Arts and Culture Council of South Africa. Whilst a student at the University of Cape Town, he founded and chaired the Black Music Students Forum. After

serving as the national chair of the Musicians' Union of South Africa, he was once again elected to chair the Academic Staff Association at the University of Venda.

Mapaya is currently on sabbatical leave, but continues his supervisory role and research and publishing function within the section of African Studies at Univen. His future research interests are motivated by the need to roll back the effects of 'African epistemicide' prevalent in the academe and the socio-cultural realms.

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## New campus health clinic for Univen

"In the past eight to ten years, Univen has invested about R1,5 billion on refurbishment and construction of new infrastructure projects," says Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana.

Officially opening the new Campus Health Clinic, Mbatlana said this included student residences, laboratories, lecture halls, staff offices and houses and the refurbishment of the library.

The new Campus Health Clinic was erected at a cost of R16,5m.

"A substantial portion of the resources were provided by the Department of Higher Education and Training, while a significant amount of Council-controlled funds was also made available for the myriad of infrastructure projects that we embarked on," said Mbatlana.

"I pay tribute to our minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, who has driven a powerful transformative agenda in the South African higher education landscape. This applies in particular to his singular and unapologetic vision in providing resources to address the dire shortage of appropriate infrastructure and related facilities in historically disadvantaged, rural-based universities."

Prior to the official opening, the MEC for Health in Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, launched flavoured condoms on campus.

"I congratulate Univen for building this state-of-the-art clinic within such a short space of time. I pledge the provincial government's support to ensure that the clinic provides quality service to members of the university community."



**Students' well-being at heart** - Dr Ramathuba, Prof Mbatlana and Ms Mulaudzi declare the new Univen Campus Health Clinic officially open.



**Be wise, condomise** - MEC Ramathuba (middle) launches flavoured condoms.



**Ready to serve the university community.**



# Botswana and Nigeria Independence Day celebrated on campus

Members of the university community commemorated the independence days of Botswana and Nigeria on campus recently. Nigeria celebrated the 55th anniversary of its independence attained on 1 October 1949, whereas Botswana attained its sovereignty 49 years ago on 30 September 1956. Botswana's Consular

General, Anastacia Matsheka, attended the event together with 15 officials from the Botswana Consulate office in Johannesburg. Dr Catherine Selepe, Director: Student Affairs and Dr Segun Obadire, Chief Administrative Officer of the Directorate of International Relations, officiated at the function.



## Art Photo Exhibition 'Auf Augenhöhe' on campus

The photo art exhibition 'Auf Augenhöhe' – a German expression meaning "At eye level", was jointly opened by the President of the German University of Applied Sciences and Art in Hildesheim, Holzminen and Göttingen, Prof Dienel and Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatl.

The exhibition was developed by students of the German universities in partnership with Univen. It depicts the vibrant tripartite collaboration between three universities which transcends various aspects of their core business.

"The heart of the collaborative work, which is depicted in the exhibition, lies in the short-term student exchange in social work which the universities have successfully implemented since 2013," says Mbatl.

"More than 40 students from the participating universities have been able to visit the respective partner university to get a first-hand impression of social work institutions in other countries.

"The value of the partnership should continue to grow and in the future also involve additional faculties and campuses of our university, such as health sciences," said the President of the German HAWK University, Prof Dienel.



"At eye level" – Prof Mbatl and Prof Dienel jointly opened the photo art exhibition 'Auf Augenhöhe' on campus.



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