



UNIVEN celebrates SAICA accreditation



Performers entertaining the audience during the celebration ceremony of the SAICA accreditation

More than two million people in Limpopo live below the breadline. It is no wonder that there was great joy in the province as students, academics, members of the chartered accountancy profession, government officials and VIP guests gathered in the University of Venda's (UNIVEN) Auditorium to celebrate the accreditation of the University's BCom (Accounting Sciences) undergraduate degree by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). This Accreditation celebration ceremony took place on Friday, 18 October 2019.



When welcoming the audience, Dean of the School of Management Sciences, Prof Armstrong Kadyamatimba said the third (3rd) of July 2019 is the day UNIVEN fully received its accreditation. He explained that the most important SAICA objective is to provide the same quality education for all institutions of higher learning in the whole country. "Now it is for students and lecturers to re-commit to the standard of SAICA to put the University on the map." Prof Kadyamatimba said UNIVEN is closely working with SAICA to offer a full postgraduate qualification by 2021. He thanked all organisations that contributed in making sure that UNIVEN is amongst Institutions of Higher Learning that are SAICA accredited.

He emphasized that from the beginning of this accreditation it wouldn't have been easy without these bodies that have contributed into this accreditation. "Therefore, I would like to thank the University of Johannesburg (UJ); SAICA; BANKSETA and Thuthuka, including UNIVEN staff members who worked tirelessly in making sure that the University gets accredited."



In his purpose of the gathering message, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford said to celebrate the accreditation, UNIVEN will now take its rightful ownership of accredited BCom Accounting Sciences. "This is also to celebrate with the partners that walked this path of accreditation with us. It is good when a plan with partners come together like this even though it was not an easy road."



Cultural group entertaining the audience



Ms Chantyl Mulder from SAICA said SAICA has a national footprint across the country. "We are in all universities and we provide quality education." She told students to never be in a hurry for education. "Being a CA is not an easy road, but you become a quality accountant who is in demand." Ms Mulder told students that they need to be proud of where they are coming from even if they are coming from a poor background. "When you go out there, be proud of yourself for what you have accomplished. We need to have skills for the 21st century and we strive for quality education for all South Africans. Our children need to know how to read and write properly." She said the objective of SAICA is to transform South African universities to provide quality education. "We are today celebrating a big dream, Africa for Africa", said Ms Mulder.

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"If you want to make a big impact in people's lives, you need to start thinking about collaboration because you can't achieve a lot without collaborations, partnerships and funding. It's been a magnificent journey and we will continue to assist other Historically Disadvantaged Institutions." Ms Mulder further said SAICA is not doing this for themselves but for the generations to come. We will continue searching and looking for funding for our students.

With UNIVEN's accreditation, SAICA has now accredited six of the country's HDIs. This means that all six of South Africa's HDIs have now achieved accreditation for their undergraduate BCom CA-stream degrees. This, in turn, contributes towards the National Development Plan transformation initiatives by increasing the number of black CAs (SA) not only in the province but also in South Africa.



Mr Sizwe Nxasana, the South African Business Executive and Accountant spoke about moving from quality to relevancy. "This accreditation means we have now achieved quality at UNIVEN but quality on its own is not enough."

"How do we make sure that Institutions such as UNIVEN remain relevant? We need to go back to the basics that we used to live for. Values such as do not take anything that does not belong to you. We can no longer train just accountants, but we need to train them to be relevant in the 4th Industrial Revolution. Those accountants should know how to use technology." He said the first thing is to improve the Faculty of Education (School of Education) because we are all here because of our teachers.

Mr Nxasana said UNIVEN should teach entrepreneurship as one of the modules. He said UNIVEN students need to understand the business of Agriculture. "They need to understand how to solve local problems because Thohoyandou, is a gold site of this country. We need to ensure that fruits from here are not being exported to other countries. Researchers should make sure these fruits create employment for local people." He encouraged academics and researchers to start thinking about collaborations with local farmers and to teach the youth on how to take advantage of what is available around them.



Officials from all partnering organisations pose for a group photo outside the Main Administration Building

"Universities need to teach quality and relevant education at the same time, otherwise we will be left behind," He concluded.



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said this is indeed a big deal for our institution. "We also need to ensure that our curriculum remains relevant. We can't continue teaching old syllabus. We want to prepare our students to be competitive and remain relevant during this time of the 4th Industrial Revolution. He said Institutions of higher learning should contribute and add value in our country by producing disciplined, quality leaders. Dr Nthambeleni thanked SAICA, Thuthuka and BANKSETA for their support.

"We are pleased by SAICA's accreditation and as we celebrate, we are also proud to be the last historically disadvantaged institution to receive this accreditation." Dr Nthambeleni thanked the University Management, staff members and Prof Kadyamatimba and his team for their hard work and dedication for ensuring that this accreditation becomes a success.



MS Elelwani Netshituni read a speech on behalf of the CEO of BANKSETA, Nosipho Makhanya who couldn't attend the celebration due to other commitments. In the speech, Nosipho Makhanya said the value of education can never be underestimated. She said BANKSETA has partnered with SAICA and UNIVEN to make sure that UNIVEN acquires this accreditation. "The aim was to ensure that UNIVEN receives SAICA accreditation at undergraduate level. The BANKSETA Capacity Building Project offers projects that makes sure that our future generations are taken care of in terms of education," she said.



University of Johannesburg (UJ) Head of the Department of Accountancy, Prof Ben Marx said this is the greatest achievement and UNIVEN need to pride itself with this achievement. "When we moderated UNIVEN, we realised that we needed to think about the academic leadership. That's when we formed a steering committee. The journey couldn't have been possible without UNIVEN's Executive Management, especially Prof Jan Crafford." He also thanked Accountancy Department staff for their cooperation and patience throughout the process.



Ms Rofhiwa Masakona, a 4th year student rendered a speech on behalf of UNIVEN accounting students. She said there is power in having a vision, in having a positive mind and in teamwork. "We would like to extend our gratitude to SAICA for believing in UNIVEN and for this accreditation." She further thanked the sponsors and funders for their contribution. She thanked UNIVEN staff members for being patient until UNIVEN is fully accredited. "A seed has been planted in us, it is up to us to nurture this seed within us", she told fellow students.



Former Thuthuka beneficiaries Representative, Ms Arinaho Madzunya who is also an Academic Trainee said she is a living testimony. "I come from a deep

rural area where I am the second person who has graduated from our village." She said it was not an easy road because even UNIVEN was not SAICA accredited at that time. "This programme helped me in life in such a way that I forgot my poor background. It has helped me because I have studied until where I am without paying any cent. This accreditation means a lot to us. UNIVEN needs to take advantage of this and start producing more quality Chartered Accountants.



Newly Elected Chairperson of the School of Management Sciences, Mr Ndivhuwo Tshirembe said this accreditation has brought so much joy in the whole University community. He wished best of luck to UNIVEN students who are going to write the upcoming examinations.



The CEO of SAICA, Mr Freeman Nomvalo gave his congratulatory message through a video as he couldn't make it physically to the event. He said today we are not only celebrating the accreditation; we are celebrating the achievements of all rural universities. "Accrediting UNIVEN ensures that we improve access for all students in this area. It has been a long journey up to this point. We will ensure that students coming from these universities don't need bridging course when they go to accredited universities. We are grateful for all partners for all the work they have done."



The Head of the Department of Accountancy, Prof Emmanuel Oseifuah acknowledged all the support from the University Management, the School of Management Sciences and all partnering organisations including SAICA; UJ; BANKSETA; NSFAS and Thuthuka.



A view of the audience during the celebration

Disability Unit tackles the issue of accessibility for people living with disabilities



On Tuesday, 22 October 2019, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held Disability Awareness Day to create awareness about the challenges faced by people living with disabilities on and off campus. This event started with a disability tour around campus where after the official programme was held at Student Centre Chamber.

UNIVEN continues to receive the support from the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology through Historical Disadvantaged Institutions grant (HDI). Disability Unit received grant for 'Main streaming student with Disabilities' across the departments and schools within the University. The following mobility devices were purchased to support students and staff with disabilities:

- 8 Scooters
- 4 Manual wheelchairs
- 1 Electric wheelchair

Other assistance devices include Braille sense Polaris, Smart reader HD, Laptops, Transformer HD, Software and other devices to support teaching and learning for students with disabilities.



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said according to Statistics South Africa, about 5 million people in South Africa are living with disabilities. "We cannot shy away from these statistics. We need to start acting and cater the needs of those living with disabilities. By doing that, we are not doing them a favor but cater their basic needs to be equal to those of ours." Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that this is because the law of this country says it must be done. He expressed that even our public transport system is not user friendly for people living with disabilities and something need to be done. He said our public transport system need to be improved to cater for those living with disabilities.

He said the SRC should also strive to do something for people living with disabilities on and off campus in order to make the lives of students living with disabilities better. "Most buildings on campus were not designed for people with disabilities in mind. Most buildings on campus don't even have emergency exits. We will have to demolish some of the walls to make sure that we create emergency exits because it is not safe to work in this kind of environment."

Dr Nthambeleni further highlighted that some of the buildings don't even have elevators, and this means people who are on wheelchairs will not be able to access other floors. He said sometimes we need to put ourselves in someone's shoes. "We need to think about the challenges that other people are going through daily. We need to address the challenges that we have inherited from our past." He mentioned that there are some good elements of success at the University. He mentioned equipment such as the adapted bus for students with disabilities, funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training, through HDI grant. "The SRC need to come with a plan and submit so that we can start seeking for funding for those plans. This should be a plan that addresses the challenges faced by people with disabilities."

Students with disabilities were also given a chance to talk about the challenges that they come across on campus and Dr Nthambeleni assured them that some of those challenges will be addressed in the year 2020. "We are in fact busy with the Department of Higher Education and Training regarding the improvements of our infrastructure to also accommodate people living with disabilities."



Head of Disability Unit, Dr Tshifhiwa Mbuva said this is the day we want to sensitize ourselves about our teaching and learning environment.

This is not only about teaching and learning but accessibility for all students. "We understand that we are coming from an era where some of our buildings were not accommodative to and not accessible for people living with disabilities. We need to start encouraging the culture of adopting the style of accessibility in all buildings as an institution of higher learning." Dr Mbuva said all buildings should be easily accessible and be user friendly to all students. She said most buildings including some of the lecture halls and residences are not accessible especially for students who are on wheelchairs. "All facilities should always be accessible."



DSC Chairperson, Mr Arnold Mathebula expressed that political student structures don't cater their needs, but instead they use people with disabilities during election campaigns and after winning elections, they forget about them. "We are tired of relying on political student structures to address our issues. We are not fighting with anyone but fighting the system that has forgotten about us. We need to work together in championing these challenges."

He said everyone should start taking people living with disabilities serious. "Those who are not living with disabilities should learn to respect people living with disabilities because most people forgot that there are people living with disabilities."



Director: Center for Higher Learning Teaching and Learning (CHETL), Prof Nancy Mutshaeni gave a vote of thanks. She thanked the Vice-Chancellor for honoring the invitation and promising to address the challenges faced by students living with disabilities. Prof Mutshaeni concluded her talk by mentioning that disability is not inability.



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni on an electronic wheelchair with other UNIVEN students who are living with disabilities and other staff members



UNIVEN unites to condemn gender-based violence and xenophobic attacks



Recently staff and students of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) together with Senior Management gathered at the University Auditorium to address the issue of Gender-Based Violence. This gender-based violence session was triggered by the mounting number of gender-based violence incidents that were happening throughout the country, particularly at institutions of higher learning including at UNIVEN.



Dr Simon Mavhungu talked to staff and students about gender-based violence through, the word of God. He said he has started a gender-based service at UNIVEN campus, teaching male students the word of God and how to rely on the Word of God to address multiple challenges that communities are confronted with. "One of the reasons why South Africa is faced with this kind of a challenge is that, this country has the highest number of mothers who are raising children alone. Children need to be raised by both parents." He said when a man and a woman divorce, in most situations, the children remain with the mother. If there are male children involved, they will suffer the most because they don't have a person that could guide them and lead as an example as to how males should behave towards females.

When talking about xenophobic attacks, Dr Mavhungu said in most occasions, government and private sector system supports the girl child and boys are left on their own. Most bursaries only empower girls while male students are on their own. "They have dropped out of schools. They are now

frustrated hence you see their latest actions-referring to both xenophobic attacks and gender-based violence. The recent actions are a true reflection that men are frustrated." He urged the government and the society to work together in building young men to be the best men of tomorrow.



In his address, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said UNIVEN pledges its support to all national and international efforts that are aimed at curbing the scourge of gender-based violence and xenophobic attacks in all their manifestations. He said UNIVEN management condemns all forms of gender-based violence and xenophobic attacks. "On the 3rd of September, students have gathered at Freedom Square for a candle lighting ceremony in support of the fallen heroines who died in the name of gender-based violence. We are a society at war with ourselves. Our country is under attack! Our mothers, sisters and daughters are under attack! Women and children live in fear of being sexually abused or murdered. Women should not have to protect themselves from men. Women should feel safe and secure with us as men."

Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that, as a University, we must lead in this gender inequality and unfairness treatment. "We need to lead by example by educating our people on how to treat each other. Universities should provide education to ensure that we live in safer places." He said UNIVEN will set aside a date in its calendar on a quarterly basis to have dialogue on issues pertaining to gender-based violence. "More security measures should be in place to eradicate crime in this University," he added. In his concluding remarks the

Vice-Chancellor and Principal said, "we are fighting for safety and well – being of our women on campus".



The Former SRC President, Mr Tsundzuka Hakamela encouraged students to be active and show that they are serious about sending a strong message of gender-based violence to the perpetrators so that even those who were going to violate women would think twice before they violate other people's rights. Hakamela thanked the University Executive Management for organizing this kind of an event where staff and students come together to talk about this kind of issues. Mr Hakamela however, warned lecturers not to take advantage of female students in exchange of marks. Hakamela made a submission to the Executive Management that there should be a female in the Executive Management.



Dr Thizwilondi Mudau, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator for Youth Studies came with a message of support and said, when I see women and men wearing black clothes, she is being reminded of those who lost their souls due to gender-based violence. "We are mothers and we are being murdered.

This thing of living with fear must stop. We need to come together, sit down and come up with strategies on how to get rid of these killings of women and children." She said there is a need to educate our male children to respect women. She concluded by urging the audience to be patient in addressing the issue of gender-based violence because when we work together, we will ultimately overcome this problem.



Head of the Department of Gender and Youth Studies, Dr Raymond Raselekoane said this scourge continues unabated because the patriarchal system, power structures, cultural practices and hegemonic masculinity lead men to feel as if they own women, and that sexual intimacy and submission by women is owed to them. He said today, we hang our heads in shame because of the outrageous and abhorrent incidents of gender-based violence sweeping across our country. These include the horrific and grisly fatal shootings, stabbings, burning, rape, butchering and disemboweling of women and children by men.

Dr Raselekoane further said in order to promote gender equality, human rights and social justice for all, UNIVEN should also have clear and targeted plans and programmes for both staff and students to fundamentally change their mind-set. "All UNIVEN policies should be gender-sensitive. UNIVEN should create and provide a safe and secure environment for female students by establishing a zero-tolerance policy to all forms of gender-based violence on campus. There should also be effective structures for monitoring, assessing and evaluating the implementation of gender policies at UNIVEN," he said.

UNIVEN unites to condemn gender-based violence and xenophobic attacks continued



Former Minister of Legal, Rabelani Ramutshila said he is disappointed by the turnout of men during Gender – based violence event. He said this session was supposed to be addressing males instead of females who came in numbers. He however thanked the organizers and the Executive Management for organizing such an event because this shows that we all acknowledge that there is a problem that the country is faced with. He urged Management to take gender-based violence cases serious. Mr Ramutshila also advised Management to make sure that the campus environment is safe for all. "This institution should teach us discipline. The policies that were created long time ago has failed us as students, therefore we need to get rid of them and draft new policies." He gave an example that if a student has a case pending, that student should be suspended and stay at home until the case has been finalized. Mr Ramutshila further said that serious actions should be taken against perpetrators in order to set a good example.



Gender Activist, Mabore Machete said something needs to be done about this gender-based violence. "We need equal treatment for all students. Gender activists should be recognized and should work with all relevant University structures"



Founder of Stopthespot Youth Organisation, Ms Mercy Raphaelalani said issues like this don't need speeches, they need actions. "We need to do something about this matter." She appreciated the support from staff members in the University and SRC members, however told the SRC cabinet members not to take advantage of female students.



Junior Ligavha from LGBTIQ said he didn't choose to be a gay. "If I were to choose my sexuality, I wouldn't choose to be a gay because of what I go through. This need to stop. Let us change the world and this needs to start with you and me, then ultimately the whole world will change," he said. Ligavha asked for a gender-neutral residence for gays and lesbians.



Lindokuhle Zwane who is also a gender activist has advised students to unite and fight this gender-based violence. She further advised women who are raising male children to take into consideration that tomorrow that child is going to be a man and should be taught how to protect and respect women.



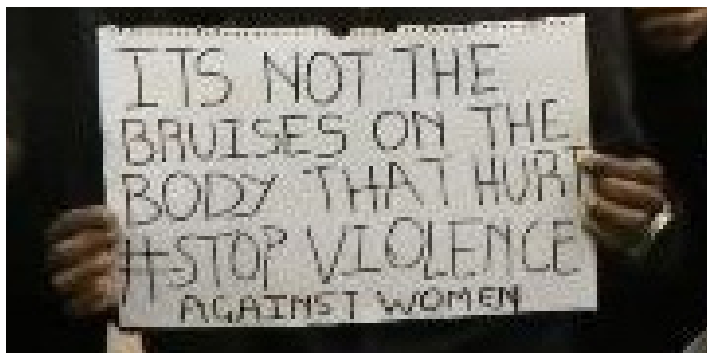
Mahlatse Mogalu, "Sparckle" from UNIVEN Radio advised female students not to sell themselves for material things and for food. She advised them to also start respecting themselves and to refuse being used. She also advised the University Management to strengthen the University security system. The issue of safety and security was cited as a burning issue at UNIVEN by most of the speakers.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford thanked all speakers and attendees for honouring the invitation. He told students that the Management have heard their grievances and believe something will be done. He urged staff and students both male and female to respect each other.



Former Minister of Arts, Ms Boitumelo Hlapa during the opening and welcome address



Students and Executive Management posing for a photo with posters with messages on gender based violence

UNIVEN scoops fastest growing entrepreneurship university award



University of Venda Representatives Ms Zanele Shikwambana, DVC Operations, Dr Robert Martin, Mr Promise Nyalungu, Mr Pfano Nefale, Mr Thabo Lebelo and Mr Malapi Morifi posing for a picture

Within the context of high graduates and youth unemployment, most universities are moving towards becoming entrepreneurial institutions with the exploitation of knowledge generated from research and development at the core of such paradigm shift. The imperative to drive student and graduate entrepreneurship has been growing steadily, Universities South Africa (USAF) through its initiative, Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) hosted its maiden Studentpreneurship Intersarsity Competition 2019. University of Venda (UNIVEN) studentpreneurs participated in EDHE's Studentpreneurship Intersarsity Competition.

On Wednesday, 18 September 2019, Promise Nyalungu and Simon Maumela represented UNIVEN in the national finals of the EDHE Studentpreneurship Intersarsity Competition in the following categories: Existing businesses-social impact and Innovative business idea. Both Nyalungu and Maumela are UNIVEN students.

The efforts of UNIVEN studentpreneurs under the stewardship of the University's DVC Operations, Dr. Robert Martin saw UNIVEN receiving the "Fastest Growing Entrepreneurial University in South Africa". An award which was received on behalf of the University by DVC Operations, Dr Robert Martin.



Ms. Zanele Shikwambana and Mr. Simon Maumela posing for a Picture. They competed under the category "innovative business idea"

Mr. Simon Maumela pitched under the category of 'Innovative business idea'.



PICTURED RIGHT: DVC Operations Dr Robert Martin posing for a picture as he receives the award for fastest growing entrepreneurship university



StruuArtzz Entertainment board of directors COO M. Pfano Nefale, CEO M. Promise Nyalungu and CFO Mr Malapi Morifi posing for a picture

Mr Promise Nyalungu pitched under the category of 'Existing Businesses-Social impact' for his company StruuArtzz Entertainment.



StruuArtzz Entertainment board of directors with University of Cape Town Vice-Chancellor Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng posing for a picture

Universities of Venda and Mpumalanga sign MoU



Colleagues from both UNIVEN and UMP who witnessed the MoU signing ceremony

On 17 September 2019, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of University of Venda (UNIVEN): Dr Bernard Nthambeleni led a delegation of UNIVEN Senior Management staff consisting of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic: Professor Jan Crafford, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations: Dr Robert Martin, Director Research and Innovation: Senior Professor Georges-Ivo Ekosse, Director Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning: Professor Nancy Mutshaeni, and Director Student Affairs: Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo to Mpumalanga for the finalization of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) of the Universities of Venda and Mpumalanga. Groundwork for the signing of the MoU took place at UNIVEN on Friday, 07 June 2019.

In June 2019, the UNIVEN Management met with the Management of the University of Mpumalanga (UMP) to discuss possible areas of collaboration, particularly in Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer; Student Governance, and Agriculture. This meeting took place at UNIVEN Council Chambers. The UNIVEN team was led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal: Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, and other members were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic: Professor Jan Crafford, the University Registrar: Professor Edward Nesamvuni, Director Research and Innovation: Senior Professor Georges-Ivo Ekosse, Dean School of Agriculture: Professor Jude Odhiambo, and Director Student Affairs: Lufuno Tshikhudo. The UMP delegation was led by its Vice-Chancellor: Professor Thoko Mayekiso, and other members were Director of Research Management: Professor Phindile Lukhele-Olorunju, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Sciences: Professor Moses Mbewe, and Director of Student Affairs: Dr Paul Maminza.



Vice-Chancellors Professor Thoko Mayekiso and Dr Bernard Nthambeleni signing the MoU



Deputy Vice-Chancellors Professors R Bernard (L) and JE Crafford (R) giving support to the Vice-Chancellors

In the final document which was signed on 18 September 2019 by both Vice-Chancellors, it is stipulated that the collaboration may include any programme at either institution that could help foster and develop the relationship, such as: Exchange of faculty and/or staff; Joint research activities and publications; Participation in seminars and academic meetings; Special short-term academic programmes; Short and medium

term research visits for postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows; Exchange of undergraduate students; Exchange of academic and scientific materials; and Participation and exchange of information in Student Affairs.

In rounding up the signing ceremony, both Vice-Chancellors charged their colleagues with the responsibility of implementing the MoU.

Make sure your CV is a true reflection of who you are

The Director of Human Resources, Mrs Uanda Ndou, would like to inform the University community that on Tuesday, 13 August 2019 in Johannesburg, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law tough new rules criminalising the submission of fraudulent qualifications or misrepresentation of education credentials.

Job seekers and prospective students who submit fraudulent qualifications or misrepresent them will now face up to five years in prison in terms of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Amendment Act 2019.

The Act is expected to come into effect on a date determined by President Ramaphosa by proclamation in the Gazette and its provisions may have different commencement dates.

All organs of state, employers, education institutions, skills development providers and quality councils will be required to authenticate, before appointment or registration, all qualifications or part-qualifications presented to them for hiring or study.

Please follow a link below for more information about this new Act. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/jail-time-for-lying-on-cvs-31041433>

Communities should embrace UNIVEN in reshaping and positioning their youth to take charge of their development

On Friday 13 September 2019, Chief Musekwa accompanied UNIVEN Schools Liaison Officer, Takalani Nyelisani to Mamvuka Secondary School as part of the "Apply-Before-The-Closing-Date" Campaign.

Despite his busy schedule, he post-poned all other prior commitments with an aim of spending time with learners at Mamvuka Secondary. Accompanied by Vhakoma VhoMusekwa, the Chief warned learners "you are seating on the belt of mineral resources; but you will need to position yourself for job opportunities on this belt mining activities through relevant educational qualifications".



Vhafuwi Vho-Musekwa anchored by Vhakoma Vho Musekwa as he addresses learners

As Chairperson of the Mine, he prioritizes education as the pillar of development for his communities. He encouraged learners to study for qualifications that will enable them to benefit mining activities and agriculture in the area.

"The University of Venda offers qualifications that will make you relevant to the activities of the mine and local farms. In this area, we have re-claimed over 50 farms, and these need you to come up with tangible business models of development," said Chief Musekwa. A coal mine has already begun and more such operations are underway. Our communities should appreciate the role that UNIVEN can play in preparing our youth to take charge of our development," he added.

The Chief dangled a carrot to learners and educators when he promised that if they work hard and produce good matric results for 2019, he would slaughter a beast for the school to celebrate results. Learners and educators committed themselves to work hard during exams, by ululating and demonstrating respect to the Chief as they kneel before him.

It was a special opportunity for learners and educators at Mamvuka to receive the visitors. "It was such a rare opportunity to share platform with Chief Musekwa, who suggested to accompany me to the school. September is heritage month. These learners must consider this visit as a special heritage from Chief, having set aside time to spend one and half hour at their school," said UNIVEN Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Takalani Nyelisani.

Nyelisani told learners that the University of Venda offers tuition in eight schools including Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. "These qualifications are vital in the role you can play in the development of the mine and farms around Mamvuka and Musekwa reclaimed precincts. You are very fortunate to have the Chief coming to motivate you", continued Nyelisani.



Represented by Aripfumedzane Magiledzhi, learners at Mamvuka Secondary School greatly appreciated the visit and committed to working hard.

Mr Hezekiel Mudau, an educator at the School, encouraged learners to take the visit by both Mr Nyelisani and Chief Musekwa very seriously, knowing their busy schedules.



The Deputy Principal, Mrs Matshidiso Maano presented words of appreciation on behalf of the School Principal and educators.

Vhafuwi Vho-Musekwa recommitted his undivided support to the School and undertook to ensure that the coal mine provides bursaries to the hard-working learners, especially those pursuing Mining and Agriculture fields.



Learners and teachers bow in respect to the Chief



Grade 12 Learners with Vhafuwi Vho-Musekwa and Mr Nyelisani after the visit.



Learners listening attentively to information on UNIVEN programmes offering and admission requirements presented by Mr Nyelisani



Mr Mudau giving words of encouragement



Mr Nyelisani, Chief Musekwa, Vhakoma Vho-Musekwa, Mr Mudau and Mrs Maano.

F3 Residence is the champion of the 2019 Drummies Extravaganza



On Thursday, 17 October 2019, the Student Housing Unit of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held the 2019 Drummies Extravaganza Awards Ceremony. The ceremony which was held at the University's Sports Hall was intended to award the winners for their outstanding performance during the 2019 Drummies Extravaganza Competition that took place on the night of Saturday, 31 August 2019.

Mbatha said when this extravaganza started, there were few students participating. "two years down the line, the stadium was full up to maximum capacity until in the morning of the following day." Mr Mbatha further explained that the number of participating residences has increased from 12 to 21 this year.

He encouraged those who have participated and never won to be proud that they have contributed in this University. Mr Mbatha said next year they would like to improve the Extravaganza Drummies competition. "This kind of activities help us to forget about doing things that are negative." He encouraged students to participate in this annual ceremony because it was organized for them.



Director Student Affairs, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo said this event would not have happened if it was not for the groups that have participated in the competition.

He said this extravaganza started three years ago, and this is the third successful Extravaganza Drummies competition. Mr Tshikhudo advised students who attended the awards ceremony to celebrate with those who have won and told them to continue to participate even next year.



Unit Coordinator at Student Housing, in the Directorate of Student Affairs, Mr Mbokodo



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal said this event seeks to promote the social cohesion among the whole University community. "Our role is to create future leaders; we give the core knowledge that students need in order to survive out there. The education that we provide seeks to improve student's successes." He gave a brief history of extravaganza since 2017 and said this extravaganza is fast growing each year. "The 2019 extravaganza was a great success. Dr Nthambeleni further expressed that UNIVEN will continue to support this event and wished the Drummies Extravaganza to grow even bigger next year. He congratulated the winners and the organizers of this event for a job well done.

The winners of the 2019 Annual Drummies Extravaganza are as follows:

First place: **F3 Residence**

Second place: **Emlanjeni Residence**

Third Place: **Bernard Ncube and Carousel**



Head of Student Governance, Ms Esther Mashavhanduna proposed a vote of thanks. She thanked all participants and said this is a social cohesion activity and all students should participate because it will even refresh their minds. She advised the winners to nurture their talent because that can take them somewhere in life.



Registrar's Division held a splendid Farewell Function for Prof Nesamvuni

The Academic Division of the University of Venda had their special and unique way to bid farewell to Prof Edward Nesamvuni, UNIVEN Registrar. The event which took place at Warmbaths Aventura Resort on Monday, 30 September 2019, was graced by the presence of the Executive Management Team led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni. Among the guests, was Prof Nesamvuni's wife, Dr Cebisa Nesamvuni.



In his farewell message, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni appreciated the role and contribution made by Prof Nesamvuni as a University Registrar. He recognised the efforts made by the University Registrar together with his team. He also expressed that the University Registrar position is a critical portfolio in the effective functioning of any University. "You have indeed demonstrated that you are a true leader. Through the Farewell messages from members of your Division, it's apparent and explicit that you're leaving the Division a much better place than how it was when you joined the University six years ago. Good Leadership is about making others better through your presence and making sure that the impact continues to be felt even in your absence. We're grateful that you're leaving UNIVEN, in particular, the Registrar's Division in a better shape than when you took the reins. You indeed managed to build a strong culture that drives high employee engagement. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal further congratulated Prof Nesamvuni on his immense contribution to South Africa's system of innovation.

He also described Prof Nesamvuni as a very good-hearted person.

Members of the Registrar's Division (pictured below) had the opportunity to express their honest and genuine feelings about their working relationship with Prof Nesamvuni. The farewell messages succinctly acknowledged their positive working relationship and expressed hope for the future, particularly considering the foundation already laid during Prof Nesamvuni's tenure. On behalf of their respective Directorates and Sections, the Director of Student Affairs, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo, Acting Deputy Registrar, Mr Mpariseni Ligudu, Head Committee Administration, Mrs Martha Lewis and Head Records and Archives

Management, Mrs Nosipho Molefe as well as Personal Assistant to the Registrar,

Ms Weyeni Tshivhenga, had the opportunity to say good bye to Prof Nesamvuni. The respective colleagues in the Registrar's Division gave send-off messages to commemorate all the good times together



and let Prof Nesamvuni leave with happy memories. There is no doubt that through these messages, Prof Nesamvuni is leaving with happy memories. This splendid farewell function was a great way to recall happy memories and an opportunity to express goodwill and a spirit of human bonding with respect. Members of the Registrar's Division expressed several collective accomplishments and what they have gained from the leadership and guidance of Prof Nesamvuni. They further expressed that through Prof Nesamvuni's wisdom, thoughtfulness and generosity, they were empowered to excel in their respective work environments.



In his response, Prof Nesamvuni expressed that he had amassed a wealth of knowledge from colleagues which made him to be an excellent performer. He said members of the Registrar's Division had inspired him to grow and challenged himself and become the kind of a person he is today. The University Registrar's response demonstrated his gratitude for support, opportunities to learn, special memories and good-humoured narratives. He said, through this memorable farewell function, he realises that he has been so very fortunate to be associated with all members of his Division and that they all meant so much to him. "I am indeed proud to have been part of this Team. For the past six years, you made it easy for me to feel at home and a valuable member of the Division. The successes we've achieved together have been the result of cooperation and collaboration. I'm really privileged to have been associated with colleagues who understand the importance of bringing the best out in each other, Team spirit", said Prof Nesamvuni.

He reiterated the role that members of his Division played in mentoring him and as a result of that he became wiser and more knowledgeable. Prof Nesamvuni expressed a range of achievements during his tenure which included improved capacity to deliver, rotation within and between workstations, development of policies and procedures, staff training and development, which includes training on emotional intelligence, effective coordination of activities, which entails the transversal committee which according to him will remain critical. He also mentioned the importance of building relationship with both internal and external stakeholders as well as maintenance of team spirit throughout the University. Prof Nesamvuni concluded his address by sharing with the audience the interview that he participated in on UNIVEN Radio following the recent farewell function of Council and Senior Management. During this interview, he was requested to share his future plans. He indicated that he was going to further his contribution in innovation, something that he had wanted for several years and this was opportune time for him to pursue his aspirations.



Weyeni Tshivhenga (PA to the University Registrar), University Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni and his wife, Dr Cebisa Nesamvuni



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford, in his opening remarks expressed that the event was intended to crystallise the moment of leave whilst providing the opportunity for the University Registrar to publicly acknowledge colleagues and to graciously show his appreciation and gratitude for the colleagues within the Registrar's Division. "Let's take this moment to celebrate all the memories we've made together", said Prof Crafford.



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations, Dr Robert Martin expressed a word of gratitude. He thanked all the colleagues who played respective roles to make Prof Nesamvuni's farewell function a memorable event, in particular Ms Tshivhenga who coordinated the organising team. He also thanked Prof Nesamvuni for his contribution to the advancement of the University. He recognised Prof Nesamvuni's wife, Dr Cebisa Nesamvuni for supporting and standing by Prof Nesamvuni. Dr Martin concluded his remarks by sharing some quotations on the words of wisdom.



Prof Jan Crafford, Prof Edward Nesamvuni, Dr Cebisa Nesamvuni, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Dr Robert Martin

Indigenous Knowledge Systems as an Agent of Decolonisation and Transformation for Socio-Economic Development in Africa

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda (UNIVEN), Dr Bernard Nthambeleni officially opened the 5th African Association for the Study of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AASIKS) conference which was hosted by UNIVEN. The conference took place at 2Ten Hotel, Sibasa from 23 – 25 October 2019. The 2019 AASIKS conference was held under the theme, "Indigenous Knowledge Systems as an Agent of Decolonisation and Transformation for Socio – Economic Development in Africa".



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni welcoming the guests

When officially opening the conference, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal said

"We are proud that this conference comes in the wake of major milestones in South Africa when 'The Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Act 6 of 2019' has just been promulgated which aims amongst others, to provide for the protection, promotion, development and management of indigenous". He further said, "the presence of the national

Intellectual property policy which sort to protect IKS through the use of IP regimes like patents, trademarks, designs and copyrights is an important vehicle for universities to respect the intellectual property of indigenous communities".

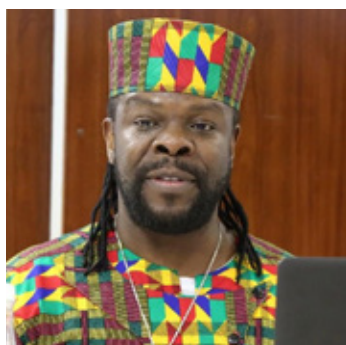
Dr Nthambeleni added that the University of Venda is one of the few institutions offering Bachelor of Arts in IKS and the first cohort of students graduated a Bachelors' degree in IKS in 2016.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal concluded his speech by sharing with the delegates that UNIVEN is in the process of crafting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, which includes a Strategic Thrust on Entrepreneurial University. It is therefore important for UNIVEN to host a conference of this nature where scholars should deliberate on how to achieve inclusive and sustainable development; improving students' graduation opportunities within the much-needed debate regarding the transformation of the curriculum and decolonial scholarship.

He encouraged the delegates to continue teaching Indigenous languages in order to preserve the knowledge which is disappearing.



A Three-day conference afforded an opportunity for researchers and academics, indigenous knowledge holders, traditional healers and students to discuss progress made and challenges experienced and, most importantly, shared best practices.



The keynote address delivered by Dr Hlupheka Chabalala, who in his presentation indicated that there is a need to systematise African Natural Medicines for future clinical applications. This has been demonstrated by our great innovative African ancestors like Aim Hetep and Merit Ptah 5 000 years ago, in Ancient Egypt. There are unlimited numbers of ancient records demonstrating that Africans had high sciences of medicine. This should be done through research and development initiatives, which may imitate progress witnessed in China, India and most oriental countries that have universities, hospitals, industries and farms on natural medicines.

Dr Chabalala committed himself and said, "I would like my unit to support and mentor young UNIVEN IKS students to be pioneers in this study area". Dr Chabalala gave a very insightful speech challenging the students to be curious, deep and not just take anything written at face value. They must seek to go deeper.

The conference was an opportunity for a critical engagement on how Africans can bring indigenous knowledge and science together better. In most of the presentations, it was discussed that people express themselves and understand better in their indigenous languages.

It was noted that there was an increasing realisation among researchers, developmental agencies, policy makers and academics, among others, that African indigenous knowledge was an under-used

resource in Africa's developmental process. People were encouraged in learning from what local communities already knew created an understanding of local conditions, and provided an important context for activities designed to help them.

The conference noted with concern that the main challenge is the focus on the commercialisation of indigenous knowledge rather than on a better understanding of indigenous knowledge itself.

Over the three days, researchers, students and knowledge holders presented their work, discussed the challenges they have experienced and, most importantly, shared best practices with others in IKS fields.

Subthemes addressed during the conference include the Education and Decolonisation; Implementation and Practice; Philosophy and Sociology; IKS and Socio-Economic Development; and Social Entrepreneurship Development.

The conference was blessed by guest speakers who are experts in the area of IKS, the likes of Prof Emeritus, Meshach Oggunniyi from the University of Western Cape, Ms Nontombi Marule, Director: Innovation and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, South Africa; Dr Hlupheka Chabalala, Director: IK Based Technology Innovation, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa and Ms Jane Mufamadi, CEO: Freedom Park, Heritage Site & Museum, Department of Tourism, South Africa.



AASIKS delegates led by Prof. Emilia Afonso, President of AASIKS: Universidade Pedagógica, Maputo, Mozambique amongst others were Prof Meshach B. Oggunniyi, Past President of AASIKS, University of Western Cape; Dr. Keith Langenhoven, Secretariat Manager of ASSIKS, University of the Western Cape and Dr Iwuanyanwu N. Paul Secretary of ASSIKS, University of Western Cape.



Dr Dima when presenting (one of the knowledge holders)

IKS knowledge holders were represented by Dr M.R Dima, Director of Afeyemd,

Mr. Hobyana M.D, Chairperson H.T.H.P; Mrs. Livhadelo Ndiambani, Secretary

Vhembe Traditional Health Practitioner and Mr Matamba Mamuremi, Chairperson, Vhangona Indigenous and Practitioner.

The conference also attracted some International guests from Australia, Mozambique, Namibia (University of Namibia), University of Zimbabwe and University of Zambia.

The conference received delegates from sister universities like the University of Zululand, University of Kwazulu Natal, University of Limpopo, Nelson Mandela University, North West University, Universidade Pedagógica, Mozambique, University of Namibia, Fort Hare University, Universidade Pungue, Rhodes University, University of Western Cape as well as Human Sciences Research Council.

The University of Venda had several 4th year IKS students presenting.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems as an Agent of Decolonisation and Transformation for Socio-Economic Development in Africa continued



The Director of Community Engagement, University of Venda, Prof Vhonani Netshandama has been elected as the new President of AASKIS for the next two years (2020-2021). The elections took place during AASKIS AGM which was held on the 2nd day of the conference.



In his concluding remarks, Prof Emeritus Meshach Ogunniyi commended the University of Venda for their hospitality and making the conference a success. He thanked students for their active participation throughout the conference.

He advised students to write selling CVs.



Delegates were entertained by Dzomo La Mupo (ladies in green golf shirts)



The 5th AASKIS Conference was organised by the Community Engagement Directorate at UNIVEN.



UNIVEN and Limpopo Provincial Department of Transport and Community Safety host an eye-opening Crime Prevention Seminar

On Thursday, 03 October 2019, the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s School of Law, Department of Criminal Justice in partnership with Limpopo Provincial Department of Transport and Community Safety hosted a Crime Prevention Seminar to assist the Provincial government in the review of the provincial crime prevention strategy and to further determine possible and effective measures in the prevention of crime. This Crime Prevention Seminar was held at the University's Auditorium.

Among other stakeholders was Limpopo Provincial SAPS (Thohoyandou SAPS); Executive Mayor of Vhembe District, Honourable, Dowelani Nenguda; SAPS Band; Church leaders; delegation from Antwerp University in Belgium; delegation from University of KwaZulu Natal; delegates from Tshwane University of Technology and delegates from University of Limpopo.



During the Seminar, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety Hon Namane Dickson Masemola explained this seminar as a historic meeting of minds and thoughts from various academic staff, government officials and students. "This meeting is positioned during the right time because we now have 3 months in the office since elections and this meeting will assist us to review our strategy on how to tackle crime in our Province," he said.

Hon MEC Masemola highlighted that, long before 1994, leaders fought and drafted a legal document on how to combat and reduce crime in this country. He said the Department is in the process of reviewing Limpopo Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy and they need inputs from various stakeholders. "Research findings from study conducted by academics regarding causes of crime and recommendations of how to tackle this challenge will also assist us to reduce crime in this Province." MEC Masemola also said the experiences of students who are frequently being attacked by criminals also need to be given special attention because they can assist in the crime prevention strategy.



SAPS Band entertaining the audience

Amongst other things, Masemola said lawlessness takes a country backward. We need to make sure that we educate our people on matters relating to crime and how to combat it. He said social cohesion cannot just happen out of the blue. "We need to have sessions like this in order to build a crime free country not only at institutions of higher learning but also within communities where we come from."

He said he was happy to see young people gathered in the Auditorium because the future of this country lies with them. MEC Masemola advised community members, traditional leaders, church leaders and all government departments to work with the members of the SAPS in making sure that peace is being restored in the Province. He said crime in Limpopo is decreasing but that should not be celebrated. "We need to make sure that there is no crime at all."



In his welcome address, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Prof Jan Crafford representing Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal said the School of Law does us proud because not so long ago, they hosted the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Honourable Ronald Lamola to address similar issues relating to the rising number of criminal activities in our country. Prof Crafford thanked the Provincial government for honoring the invitation to the seminar. He said the University is doing its level best to combat crime within the Campus and in the surrounding communities.

Mr Stander who is the Chief Director in the Limpopo Provincial Department of Transport and Community Safety presented on their current Limpopo Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy (LPCPS). He said there is a vision 2030 for safety and Security that outlines that people living in South Africa need to feel safe at home, at work, at school and they must enjoy an active community life free from crime. This crime prevention strategy further explains that, women should walk freely in a well-resourced professional institution staffed with skilled officers who value their work, serve their community, safeguard lives and property without discrimination, protect the peace against violence and respect the rights of all. "The country needs to improve its Criminal Justice System." Mr Stander further explained that



Deputy Dean of the School of Law, Dr Kholofelo Mothibi, amongst other things told the audience that there is a need to have rural community safety plan. She said before

community members can report crime at SAPS, they need to educate each other on how to prevent or deal with criminal activities within communities. "Traditional leaders and religious leaders need to restore orders within their respective communities." She further spoke under several themes including social fabric crime; community policing and safety and situational crime prevention. When concluding and making recommendations, Dr Mothibi said the country need to review and check what doesn't work for us and build on what works for us.



When making inputs on Limpopo Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy Review, Prof Ademola Jegede, a Professor in the School of Law, UNIVEN said there is a need to engage in this kind of discussion to make sure that both parties produce a very important document that will ensure that criminal activities in this Province are reduced.



UNIVEN and Limpopo Provincial Department of Transport and Community Safety host an eye-opening Crime Prevention Seminar continued



Vote of thanks was rendered by Advocate Gideon Joubert, from the office of the Dean of the School of Law. He thanked the organizers of the event, speakers, students and visitors from the Department of Community Safety and various government departments for honoring the invitation and Members of SAPS including the band. He also thanked MEC for making time to meet and speak with students of UNIVEN.



Dr Colonel Christopher Mabasa who is a PhD candidate from Tshwane University of Technology spoke about four pillars of crime prevention. He said community members need to be taught how to combat crime. "There should be an improvement in our border controls."

Brigadier Shiyani Wilson Mashava, Station Commander at Thohoyandou SAPS said all stakeholders are relevant and important. All speakers spoke about finding a system in place to prevent crime and asked students to assist in drafting that system. "We really need to implement our strategies. SAPS is left alone in the battlefield and every problem is left for the police to deal with. Everything is being channeled to the police, let all government departments, community members, church leader and traditional leaders work together in combating crime."



Ndivhuwo Munyai, a UNIVEN Criminology student was given an opportunity to present. He recommended that there should be CCTV cameras at high crime zone areas and should be monitored on daily basis. He spoke about the issue of job creation because unemployed graduates will contribute to the increase of crime rate. He recommended that there should be centres for children without parents because most of them are out on the streets and are hungry hence they even commit crimes.

LLB Students Muano Nemavhidi and Collins Munyai said the government also need to send people to our communities to educate people regarding crime. They also spoke about the illegal sale of alcohol. "South African youth should stand up and do something about crime happening around them. They should not wait for a crime to happen before they can act. We need to be proactive. People who are selling alcohol to children and those selling illegally should be reported by community members to the police."

Mr Happy Tirivhangasi graduate from Antwerp University in Belgium said a proper government should have a structure or a plan on how to prevent crime. "There should be a security measure in place in order to keep peace and order in that country. Tackling crime before it can happen is very important." He said it is dangerous for a country to have undocumented immigrants. "Landlords should also make sure that their foreign tenants are well documented. Employers must be accountable and take responsibility of checking work permits of immigrants before hiring them."

Advocate Mafanywa Mangammbi said there is a need to start from the beginning. "Crime should be the first subject to be taught at primary level. Government, communities, church and traditional leaders should start educating people about crime. There is no money that will be enough to combat crime, the only way to combat crime is go back to communities and educate them about crime. Even an increase of police men and women cannot combat crime, not even death penalty can combat crime.



MEC Dickson Masemola, Members of SAPS, UNIVEN staff members and religious leaders posing for a photo outside Main Administration Building



UNIVEN and Public Service Commission sign a Memorandum of Understanding

On Tuesday, 08 October 2019, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and the Public Service Commission (PSC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which guarantees a collaboration that will lead to future co-operation and projects of mutual benefit. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to set out the basic principles according to which both parties wish to conduct their future discussions in order to enter into formal agreements on a project-by-project basis. The signing of the MoU took place at the University's Council Chambers.

The collaborative areas include, but are not limited to the following: to hold jointly organised public lecture series on subjects of mutual interest; to undertake collaborative research, teaching, learning, and share results; sharing of information shall be focused, on enhancing the capacity of both parties; to promote opportunities for internship and experiential learning for nominated students of law from the University of Venda at PSC platform or PSC Office in Limpopo; to provide access to research and library facility of University of Venda to the PSC; to provide a platform for the PSC to conduct workshop on governance and public service values at the conference facility of the University of Venda and both parties will collaborate in the spirit of good governance on areas as may be identified from time to time to promote ethics and good governance in public administration.



Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said UNIVEN is pleased to be signing the MoU because it came at the time when the University is in the process of implementing a new strategic plan. He said this strategic plan and signing of the MoU will assist the University to reshape itself and change the way the University looks. "We are also aware that when producing future leaders, we will take into consideration that we produce quality leaders who become good citizens of this country. Our University shouldn't only lead in research and creating future leaders but should also address challenges that the country is faced with." Dr Nthambeleni said UNIVEN believes that this strategic plan will guide the University on how to conduct itself and to make sure that our graduates are also able to create jobs.

"We are pleased that the signing of this MoU will make sure that our students will be exposed to the workplace. This is not only a signing of a paper but something valuable and will assist our students. This initiative will drive the University into the right direction," he said.



Adv. Edward Lambani (standing) facilitating the signing of a MoU while Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (far right) and Commissioner George Mashamba (middle) are signing the MoU



Commissioner George Mashamba said this is a great moment for the Public Service Commission. He said they have interacted with students from various institutions including UNIVEN students and from their experiences, they felt that there should be a MoU that will ensure that institutions of higher learning produce the best graduates. Commissioner Mashamba further said that PSC will provide graduates with necessary skills through internships and experiential learning. "We need to make sure that we do not only create future leaders but also responsible future citizens," said Commissioner Mashamba.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations, Dr Robert Martin said the signing of this MoU couldn't come at a more appropriate time while UNIVEN is in the process of reviewing its strategic plan. He said this MoU will give a rewarding relationship.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford thanked Commissioner Mashamba and the Public Service Commission for considering it necessary to sign this MoU with UNIVEN. He thanked Commissioner Mashamba for the role that he has played in making sure that the signing of this MoU becomes a success. Prof Crafford further thanked both Dr Nthambeleni and Commissioner Mashamba for mentioning that they will ensure that UNIVEN do not only create future leaders but also responsible citizens of this country.



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (third from right) and Commissioner George Mashamba (fourth from left) exchanging signed MoU documents while UNIVEN Senior Management members are posing with them

UNIVEN researchers urged to be inclusive and innovative



UNIVEN Researchers pose for a group photo with research indaba invited guests

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Directorate of Research and Innovation under the leadership of Senior Prof Georges Ekosse, hosted Research Week at 2Ten Sibasa, outside Thohoyandou from 02 – 03 October 2019. The first two days were dedicated on Research Indaba (Research Leadership and Technology Transfer Stakeholders forum) Workshop. Day three which was an Open day, continued on campus on 04 October 2019. The 2019 Research week was hosted under the theme 'Promoting Research and Innovation to its pole position at UNIVEN'.



The Director of Research and Innovation Senior Prof Georges-Ivo Ekosse

The Director of Research and Innovation, Senior Prof Georges-Ivo Ekosse in his welcome remarks appreciated the dedication and commitment of the invited guests and their availability when they are needed. He also extended his gratitude and the impression on the state of research at UNIVEN. "I am pleased to say that the University of Venda 2019 graduation ceremonies has conferred a total of 64 Doctoral degrees. It is a great achievement that we have accomplished so far," Ekosse.

While rendering the Research Thrusts, Networking, collaborations, Technology

Transfer, Disseminations and financials at UNIVEN, Senior Prof Ekosse guided UNIVEN researchers to write proposals not only for grants, but for their proposals should have impact to the community and play a major role to be recognised worldwide.

He encouraged academics with masters qualification to do PhD. Prof Ekosse said "We expect every academic at UNIVEN to publish including postgraduate students to publish before they graduate. Having a qualification without publishing is not enough". He made mentioned that UNIVEN currently has 38 NRF rated researchers. "More than 50% of publications come from those rated researchers", added Prof Ekosse.



Deputy Director General, Technology Innovation, Department of Science and Technology Mr Mmboneni Muofhe

"It is not pleasing that only few African men and women participate in Science and Technology. We need to recruit more of our fellow Africans to join us in science and technology because education is a way in which we as the country can help our country's economy to grow through science and modern ways," said Deputy Director General, Technology Innovation, Department of Science and Technology, Mr Mmboneni Muofhe. He encouraged young researchers that their research should focus more on social issues that are happening for them to solve problems through science and technology.

When addressing research value for societal benefits, he outlined that researchers should take advantage of the challenges that the country is facing in order to embark on a project that will impact and benefit not only the affected society but also the country.



Dr Stanley Liphadzi, Group Executive, Water Research Commission

Dr Stanley Liphadzi, Group Executive, Water Research Commission responded on the state of research at UNIVEN that he is enthralled on the number of doctoral degrees that the University produces each year. "It should be a habit for researchers to publish their journals so that they can have an impact to the now world". He mentioned that when he was addressing the audience on the impact of research and innovation in the now world.



Dr Vusumuzi Malele from the Department of Science and Technology

Dr Vusumuzi Malele, from the Department of Science and Technology during the Research Indaba Workshop shared his knowledge with the audience on inclusive innovation in South Africa and the role actors in entrepreneurial research development and innovation. "It is advisable that as researchers, you shouldn't exclude knowledge holders as they are the ones who have innovation ideas that can help with the research project." He further alluded that the university together with researchers should consider looking first on those around them and consider changing their research for entrepreneurship



Dr Eunice Ubomba Jaswa, Manager Water Research Commission

Dr Eunice Ubomba Jaswa, Manager Water Research Commission presented on sharing global perspective: Focus in emerging Contaminants in water wherein she urged researchers to also consider doing their research on water contaminants as it is one of the challenges that most of the south Africans are facing.



Ms. Mantwa Kgarume

The National Intellectual Property Management Office represented by Ms. Mantwa Kgarume, warned researchers to register and own their research ideas before it could be stolen and used by someone else.

UNIVEN researchers urged to be inclusive and innovative continued

She also informed the audience that there are a number of researchers whose ideas have been stolen and used for the benefit of others, hence there is nothing they can do if that person or researcher didn't register his idea with NIPMO to protect his research work.

Research Indaba workshop was followed by the Research Open day on Friday, 04 October 2019 at the University's Research Conference Centre parking. Researchers and stakeholders had the opportunity to showcase their research work through posters.

UNIVEN research week attracted stakeholders from all spectrum, be it government and private sectors.



UNIVEN staff well-versed on Personal Financial Management and Conflict Management

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) staff had a privilege to be well - informed and educated on how to save money and manage conflicts at workplace. The Personal Financial Management and Conflict Management workshop took place at the University Library Hall on Monday, 30 September 2019.



Old Mutual Financial Advisor, Vhahangwele Nevhuramba

Old Mutual Financial Advisor, Vhahangwele Nevhuramba gave UNIVEN staff members savings tips as the big five secrets of money management that UNIVEN employees can work on to be financially safe. He said that one of the tips is to save first and spend later. "Spending for the present wants without saving first for future needs, is like eating your dessert before your food. If you do that too much, your financial health will suffer. At least save 10% of your net salary for emergencies"

However, Nevhuramba also informed UNIVEN staff that they should budget on how they are going to spend their salary. "if you don't budget, you will spend recklessly". UNIVEN staff members were guided that they must use the four pillars of an employee's saving tips as having vision, goal, plan and then budget.

Another tip was the use of debt. He outlines on the bad and good debt. In good debt he mentioned the debt repayment of assets that increase in value such as home, debt used for education and that generates income.



Careways Facilitator, Ntsundeni Mulaudzi

Careways Facilitator, Ntsundeni Mulaudzi explained to UNIVEN staff members the importance of Conflict Management and Emotional Intelligence. She gave the details on what conflict is and how conflict can occur in a work place. "it is important to work as a team to produce fruitful results and take responsibility for relationship with other people, especially in the workplace."

She said that, in order to maintain a healthy relation with peers, employees need to negotiate and work on resolving disagreements, fairness and collaboration, boosting cooperation and lastly calmness.

"In Conflict Management, as an employee you need to examine yourself. Have a private conversation with the person whom you are at conflict with. Explore your experiences with trusted friends or colleagues. Involve others, such as your supervisor and manager. If all fail, try to limit the difficult person access to you," said Mulaudzi.



Nkhangweleni Mudau, UNIVEN Employee Health & Wellness Officer, commended the speakers for the information they shared with UNIVEN staff. When addressing the attendees, she emphasised that it is vital to evaluate their spending so that they could save for the future. She appreciated all staff who attended the workshop.



UNIVEN staff members participate in Employee Wellness Day to stay healthy



UNIVEN employees participating on aerobics

"I would firstly want to commend the Directorate of Human Resources for ensuring that the University of Venda (UNIVEN) host Employee Wellness Day annually," said the Director Communications and Marketing, Dr Takalani Dzaga while giving welcome remarks and purpose of the day during wellness day that was held on Tuesday, 22 October 2019 at the University Sports Hall.

Below is a video link where staff members were dancing Haka Matorokisi as part of exercising.

To view go to: <https://youtu.be/yRD7HHGyIL8>



Director Communications and Marketing, Dr Takalani Dzaga addressing the audience

Dr Dzaga stated that this Wellness Day makes the University staff members to be aware of the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. He continued to express that a healthy lifestyle ensures productivity and the University believes that wellness and health enhance employees' productivity and minimise sick leave applications.



Mr Lawrence Machete from Bonitas Medical Aid

When giving the importance of wellness screening, Mr Lawrence Machete from Bonitas Medical Aid outlined that they saw a need to be present at this Wellness Day because they want to impart the knowledge about healthiness to all UNIVEN employees. "Healthy lifestyle starts with us as individuals and we should know our health status regarding our blood pressure, level of glucose, cholesterol, height and weight as they are important on our daily life. It is advisable that once in a year you should go and test," he said.

"Knowing your health status means you will be able to know when and how to control your cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure." He advised staff members to make use of the opportunity on the day by screening for various illnesses.



Gym 4U Sales Manager, Daniel Charema

UNIVEN staff members had a privilege to be educated about some of the advantages of exercising and living a healthy lifestyle from Gym 4U Sales Manager, Mr Daniel Charema who told them that it is very important to exercise on daily basis. "Make it a custom and at least exercise three times per week because it helps with weight loss and can help reduce your risk of chronic diseases."



Vhembe District Department of Health's Nutritionist, Mr Tovhowani Netshiongolwe

Vhembe District Department of Health Nutritionist, Mr Tovhowani Netshiongolwe advised UNIVEN employees to avoid eating too much without exercising. "Eating enough food while exercising will ensure that you don't suffer from diseases such as diabetes. Our ways of eating are the main course of the problems that we are currently facing."

He added that on a daily basis, people should at least eat starch and proteins to build healthy bodies. "Make sure that you eat fruits and vegetables to have healthy skin and helps with digestion. Drink lots of water to avoid body dehydration," he said.



Ms Merry Maluleke of Careway

Ms Merry Maluleke of Careway urged UNIVEN staff members to make use of the services offered by Careway to assist with health Personal problems and work-related problems. "Having problems hinders the progress of your work which results in most staff member not being productive. We offer financial advice on how you can manage your finance and your spending unnecessary," she said.

UNIVEN staff members participated in various activities including fun walk, aerobics and wellness services that were rendered by Campus Health, Biokinetics, Nutrition, Bonitas Medical Aid, Bestmed Aid, Old Mutual Financial Services, Optometrist, Dietitian and Alexander Forbes.



Vuwani Science Resource Centre hosts a successful renewable energy workshop

The Department of Physics, Vuwani Science Resource Centre under the school of Mathematical and Natural Sciences of the University of Venda in collaboration with the Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Studies of the University of Stellenbosch hosted the renewable energy workshop at Vuwani Science Resource Centre on 26 September 2019. The workshop aimed at supporting educators in initiating new ideas to the learners on different energy technologies and projects to mitigate climate changes. The workshop provided information on different types of energy technologies starting from the fossil fuel energy generation towards the renewable energy generations. Some of the topics focused on the advantages and disadvantages of energy supply. The emphasis was based on learning more about different aspects of green economy.

Eighty (80) educators from different schools in Vhembe East District attended the workshop. Since the focus of the workshop was on energy and its sources, different sources of electrical generation such as coal stations, Hydroelectricity, Solar energy, Wind energy, Biomass, Geothermal, etc. were discussed. The educators also had the opportunity of visiting the renewable facilities that are available at Vuwani Science Resource Centre, like the PV plant, SAURAN weather station, Eddy Covariance Flux Measurements Station, etc.

More of the discussion was based on the renewable energy technologies like Biomass, Photovoltaic, Wind and Geothermal. Currently the most suitable technology in our region is the Solar Energy. A typical photovoltaic system employs solar panels, each comprising several solar cells, which generate electrical power. PV installations may be ground mounted, rooftop mounted, or wall mounted. The PVs may be fixed or use a solar tracker to follow the sun across the sky. This technology is currently one of the technologies which can be used in our region due to high availability of solar radiation throughout the year.



Participants at the weather station at Vuwani Science Resource Centre

Mr Simnikiwe Gulwa as a facilitator engaged the educators with discussion on several renewable energy technologies which are currently used in South Africa. He further mentioned different plants available in different provinces of

South Africa, like the wind farm in the Eastern Cape, Solar plants in the Northern Cape and different other provinces like Limpopo, etc. He further indicated that Photovoltaic plants are the future of energy supply in South Africa.

With the help of Dr Sophie Mulaudzi and Dr Eric Maluta, the discussion about different stations at Vuwani Science Resource Centre were carried out. Some of the educators were amazed to see the technology and research around the science centre. Most of them developed interest on having a small solar plant for their household.



The solar plant with different types of solar panels for research purpose at Vuwani Science Resource Centre



Mr. Simnikiwe Gulwa (Centre for renewable energy and sustainable studies-SU) during the tour around the solar plant at Vuwani Science Resource Centre



Some of the workshop attendees listening to Dr Maluta as he was explaining the purpose of the Eddy Covariance Flux tower at Vuwani Science Resource Centre

Vuwani Science Resource Centre hosts a successful renewable energy workshop continued



Workshop attendees and UNIVEN staff members posing for a group photo at Vuwani Science Resource Centre

As most of the researchers in the department of Physics are focusing on the renewable energy research, the workshop plays an important role in the department as part of renewable energy awareness and community engagement. The workshop is crucial since it was also part of skill transfer where the

department of physics could also engage the public on generation and energy supply based on renewable energy technologies. Since the world is more concerned about climate change, renewable energy awareness also gives the platform of deliberating about climate change and its effect.



Eddy Covariance Flux Tower and the Solar Plant Available at Vuwani Science Resource Centre

Tshepang & Mukondeleli are crowned Mr & Miss UNIVEN 2019



Miss UNIVEN 2019/20, Mukondeleli Anemone Mathabi

The new Mr and Miss University of Venda (UNIVEN) 2019/20 were crowned during a glittering event that took place on Friday, 04 October 2019 at the University's Auditorium. During this event, UNIVEN male and female students competed wherein Tshepang Gilbert Phaswana (19) and Mukondeleli Anemone Mathabi (19) emerged as the new faces of UNIVEN.

Miss UNIVEN 2019/20 Mukondeleli Anemone Mathabi is a first entering student, studying Bachelor of Education Further Education and Training. She said that the feeling is just amazing and overwhelming. "This is the year that the Lord has made for me and I feel so honoured to be the reigning Queen of one of the biggest institutions of higher learning. I thank the almighty God for everything."

She added that it was a very tough competition but more of a battle for her as she had to work even more harder.

Mathabi started modelling in 2017 when she was still doing her grade 12. "I first developed the love for modelling when I was still young, but I was too scared and had less confidence."

Her first pageant was Miss beauty in Christ where she made it to the top 6 and Miss teen Venda where she made it to the top 5. "I got my first victory this year as the reigning Queen of Miss Nzhelele Valley which is one of the biggest achievements that motivated me to keep going until I joined miss UNIVEN," said Mukondeleli.

She outlined that she aspires to rise to a great plan and a worthwhile mission of bringing change around the campus. "I want to influence other young girls like me. They should always bear in mind that they can still rise and achieve any goal despite their fears and weaknesses. I want to see myself as Miss South Africa and I am confident that I will achieve and fulfil this dream."

"This is the year that the Lord has made for me and I feel so honoured to be the reigning Queen of one of the biggest institutions of higher learning. I thank the almighty God for everything."



Mr UNIVEN 2019/20, Tshepang Gilbert Phaswana

After being crowned Mr UNIVEN 2019/20, Tshepang Gilbert Phaswana, a first year Bachelor of Arts in International Relations student, said that he is very happy. "Although the pageant was up-tight, I had to put extra effort and remain focused. That is how I managed to win this title," said Phaswana.

This 2019/20 UNIVEN pageant was his first competition but he previously used to participate in fashion shows. Phaswana made a commitment that from his first crown he will start donating food parcels and Uniform to disadvantaged schools and hopefully his impact will be recognised.

"Although the pageant was up-tight, I had to put extra effort and remain focused. That is how I managed to win this title,"

We would like to hear from you!

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