



University of Venda

SEPTEMBER 2015

# Nendila

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

## Brand new community skills development centre for Univen

A new skills development centre, courtesy of the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA), was recently opened on campus.

"Since Univen is rapidly expanding its research infrastructure, the CETA is strengthening its partnership with the university to create an optimum learning environment for students who largely come from disadvantaged, rural backgrounds," says the CETA Chairperson, Raymond Cele.

Officially opening the centre Cele said the CETA intended to use this partnership as a model which other setas may consider as a benchmark.

"The partnership contributes towards human resource skills development in the country and will assist in curbing drop-out by students due to financial problems," said Cele.

In 2012 the CETA committed R22 million towards various projects at Univen. This includes the construction of the community skills development centre and of a laboratory and workshop. It also includes programme development for a bachelor's degree in construction technology and bursaries for capacity building, a number of which were awarded towards masters and doctoral degree programmes, locally and abroad.

"The university takes particular pride in its many community-driven initiatives and programmes that range from engaged-research to skills transfer projects," said Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana.

"Through the CETA's support, Univen was inspired to pursue the development of new programmes in the built and engineering environment. I am confident that this new facility will greatly enhance capacity to offer quality training to members of our communities in a dignified and conducive environment," said Mbatlana.

The Acting Executive Mayor of the Vhembe District Municipality, Lucy Mulaudzi, expressed government's continued support towards empowering rural-based institutions of higher learning to serve as progress agents of change.

Mr Kennedy Maimela, a member of the Univen Council, commended the CETA and the university for truly building a legacy to the benefit of current and future generations.

The community skills development centre comprises two lecture halls, two workshops, three store rooms, six offices and a reception area, covering 750m<sup>2</sup>. The lecture venues and workshops are for learnership and various skills training programmes

for the community, including municipal based-programmes. A SETA office will be established in the building, which will serve as a satellite office for its operations in the region.

During the official opening, the acting Chief Executive Officer of the Service SETA, Ms Liesel Kostlich, confirmed an additional commitment of R30m towards deepening the partnership between the CETA, the Services SETA and Univen.

The MTN foundation donated 60 desk top computers for the centre.

*Open for business - Mr Raymond Cele and Prof Peter Mbatlana officially launching the Skills Development Centre.*



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## Centre for Continuing Education awards over 700 certificates

A total of 721 graduandi who had successfully completed training in various fields of study were recently awarded certificates from the Univen Centre for Continuing Education.

"The National Development Plan requires South Africa to shift from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy by 2030," says Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana. Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Mbatlana said this will only be achieved "when we have a pool of

highly skilled individuals who will serve as catalysts for the realisation of this vision. The commitment of the Construction Education and Training Authority, the Local Government Sector Education Training Authority and other sponsors in this regard, is commendable," he said.

Graduandi were awarded certificates in competencies like animal production and plant production, higher education and financial management, geographical information systems, school governing

bodies, bricklaying, welding, entrepreneurship skills development, local economic development, catering and food preparation, multi-stakeholder processes, new venture creation learnership programmes and secretarial skills. These programmes were funded by the Education, Training and Development Practices SETA.

This is a collaborative initiative between Univen, the Vhembe Technical Vocational Education and Training College, the Madzvhandila College of

Agriculture and the SETAs.

"It is essential to foster these strategic partnerships to address the skills needs of our communities," said Local Government Sector Education Training Authority Administrator, Mr Nqandela.

"We are proud to be in partnership with Univen, various municipalities and colleges and pledge our continued commitment to the project."

"Quality training programmes empower South Africans with appropriate skills that make them more employable or to be entrepreneurs," said the Education, Training and Development Practices SETA Provincial Manager, Mr Isaiah Mphaphuli.

"This leads to job creation, directly contributing to economic growth and the development of our communities. The qualifications allow students to fill gaps in their knowledge and gain particular skills that may be needed for work or promotion. The short courses today are regarded important to bridge the gap between formal education and meaningful employment," he said.

*Rewards for hard work.*





# Tourist destinations must be accessible and safe – Tourism Minister

“Tourism is an integral part of the South African economy - let us build quality infrastructure to promote accessibility and create a flamboyant atmosphere in our tourism destinations.”

This is according to Tourism Minister Derek Hanekom. The Department of Tourism chose Limpopo to launch Tourism Month 2015, themed ‘One billion tourists, One billion opportunities’. The event was hosted on the Univen campus.

“Let us prioritise domestic tourism. My department is working hand-in-hand with the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that international tourists feel welcome in South Africa. Adventure is a crucial element in ecotourism. Let us not litter our tourist attractions. Let’s keep the environment neat and clean and safe. Remember that tourism destinations are national assets,” said the minister.

“Vhembe is one of the most underrated tourist destinations in South Africa,” said Deputy Vice

Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.

“It is commonly agreed that tourism surpasses all other sectors of the South African economy in its ability to create sustainable employment, ensure the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources and to add commercial value to the beautiful landscapes and the rich cultural heritage of our region.

“Welcome to this beautiful corner of South Africa. We hope you enjoy your visit and that your brief visit inspires you – if you are not Vhembe born and bred - to return again and again as tourists.”

“For South Africa to be in the top 20 tourism destinations in the world by 2020, we need to re-examine our competitiveness in terms of the environment, travel and tourism policies, infrastructure as well as natural and cultural resources,” said Prof Berendien Lubbe of the University of Pretoria.

“It is important for South Africa to constantly

examine the uniqueness of its product offering, safety and security, mobility and ease of access, public perception as well as value for money as far as tourism is concerned.

“Tourist consumption is radically changing. There is an increasing need to match up a range of interests and activities within each trip. To rediscover some of what we may have lost, we should ensure that our vision serves our uniqueness, we must work on the important barriers, we must overcome misconception and unify in pursuit of tourism growth,” she said.

The event was attended by officials from the Department of Tourism, provincial offices, South African Tourism, academics from other institutions of higher learning, municipalities, the National Research Foundation, media houses and Univen staff members and students. The launch was preceded by a tourism student seminar.

# Education the tool to intellectual skills - Chancellor

“Education remains a critical tool to equip humanity with the intellectual and cognitive skills that enable us to understand our world and social experiences to change the human condition for the better.”

This is according to Univen’s Chancellor, Kgalema Motlanthe.

Officiating at the recent spring graduation ceremony, Motlanthe said over the years the work of the university has contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of not only the region, but the entire nation.

“The university has produced alumni that today

occupy significant positions in both the public and private sectors.”

“Apart from being a day of celebration for all of us, graduation is also a day of reflection for the university community on how we are faring with our mandate to advance society,” said Univen’s Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.

“We carry this mandate with clear reference to the National Development Plan, which emphasises that we shall only achieve the level of economic growth required to create employment and lift our people

out of poverty if we become a knowledge-based economy”.

“We contribute to the knowledge economy not only through the transmission of knowledge, through teaching and learning, but also through the creation of new knowledge, through research and innovation, and through direct engagement with the communities we serve.”

A total of 431 qualifications were awarded to graduates from the Schools of Agriculture, Education, Environmental Sciences, Law, Health Sciences, Management Sciences, Human and Social

Sciences as well as Mathematical and Natural Sciences. Of the 431 graduates, 301 were awarded diplomas and bachelor degrees, a further 54 were awarded honours degrees and 69 were awarded masters’ degrees. Of the 17 PhD degrees, seven were awarded to female candidates.

One of the 17 doctoral degrees was a PhD in African Studies conferred to Dr Dean Alunamutwe Enos Rannditsheni.

Rannditsheni’s study investigated ritual murders in the Vhembe District of Limpopo, using interpretative phenomenological analysis.



“Univen produces alumni that today occupy significant positions in both the public and private sectors” - Motlanthe



All of 17 PhD's.



Investigating ritual murders – Dr Dean Alunamutwe Enos Rannditsheni.



“We shall only achieve the level of economic growth required to create employment if we become a knowledge based economy” – Crafford.



Univen Chairperson of Council Mr Serobi Maja (far right) with members of Council and senior and executive management during graduation.



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# Doctoral degrees awarded

Dr Dean Alunamutwe Enos Rannditsheni - *"Investigating ritual murders in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province"*.

Dr Luruli Rudzani - *"An Improved Model for provision of Rural Community-based Health Rehabilitation Services in Vhembe District of Limpopo Province"*.

Dr Masekoameng Mosima Rachel - *"Patterns of Food Accessibility, Availability and Utilisation in Selected Rural Households of Limpopo"*.

Dr Anyasi Tonna Ashim - *"Nutritional profiling and effects of processing on unripe banana cultivars in Limpopo Province, South Africa"*.

Dr Katsande Simbarashe - *"Efficiency of protein utilisation of forage legumes for milk production in goats"*.

Dr Omolola Adewale Olusegun - *"Effect of oven and microwave drying methods on the drying kinetics and physical properties of two banana varieties in Limpopo province, South Africa"*.

Dr Maluleke Mzamani Johannes - *"A study of the academic writing proficiency of level one students at the University of Venda"*.

Dr Ramaite Mafadza Patricia Elelwani Anna - *"A Sociolinguistic Enquiry into Indigenous Protest Lyrics in Women's Musical Performances with Special Reference to Vhavenda Women in Vhembe: A Perspective of a Kind of Activism"*.

Dr Raphaelalani David Tshinetise - *"The impact of the Customary Marriages Act (Act 120 of 1998) on the prevalence of divorce among the Vhavenda in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province, South Africa"*.

Dr Gonye Jairo - *"Representations of dance in Zimbabwean literature, post-1960"*.

Dr Bhebhe Sithuliswe - *"Mentoring as a teaching practice strategy in music at Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Polytechnic, Zimbabwe"*.

Dr Maila Ntshengedzeni Lineth - *"Managing a school with migrant learners: Pursuing success for all in rural settings"*.

Dr Muthambi Salome Kolobe - *"Implications of peer tutoring as a multi-grade teaching and learning strategy for learner performance in selected schools in Vhembe District of Limpopo Province"*.

Dr Ncube Dingindawo - *"Towards gender equality and equity: Challenges and opportunities for women advancement to senior educational management positions. A case of Matebeleland South region of education in Zimbabwe"*.

Dr Lerato Nare - *"Evaluation of community water quality monitoring and management practices and conceptualisation of a participatory model: A case study of Luvuvhu Catchment, South Africa"*.

Dr Ndou Nthomeni Dorah - *"A model to support Professional Nurses Caring for patients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS related illnesses in Tshwane District, Gauteng Province"*.

Dr Muzhinji Kizito - *"A class of efficient iterative solvers for the steady state incompressible fluid flow: A unified approach"*.

# Dr Ndebele was like a father - Univen salutes an icon

"I wish there is more I can do to make him stay," said Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana when the university recently said goodbye to Dr Clever Ndebele, Director of the Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning.

"We wish you well in your future endeavours. Thank you for sharing your expertise and leadership skills with us. We enjoyed working with you."

Dr Ndebele joined Univen in 2010 with the responsibility to establish the centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning. The centre is among others, responsible for building the capacity of academics to improve their skills in teaching. He played a pivotal role in the establishment and effective functioning of the centre.

The centre's Dr Nancy Mutshaeni said: "Dr Ndebele

was like a father to us. He strived for excellence and always encouraged us to work as a team. We will miss your guidance and humour. The entire team wishes you well."

"It is time to move on. I also would have loved to stay but I have to go. I am happy about my achievements at the centre and for that I thank Univen for its support," said Ndebele.



"Thank you for sharing your expertise and leadership skills with us" – Mbatlana.



"He was like a father to us" – Mutshaeni.



"I am happy about my achievements and for that I thank Univen" - Ndebele.

# Univen is improving the quality of teaching and learning

Univen Council members, led by the Chairperson of Council, Mr Serobi Maja, recently visited university projects on and off-campus.

The projects included student and staff accommodation, the recently completed infrastructure projects and projects under construction like the student administration building, the E-Lecture halls, the Life Sciences and Chemistry building, the female student residence, the campus health clinic, the School of Agriculture, the CETA Community Skills Development Centre, the security control room and the student entertainment centre.

When visiting one of the private student residences, council members met

with a second year student in the Bachelor of Education Foundation Phase programme, Ms Francinah Mpedi. Asked how she feels about staying there, she said she is happy - she was busy preparing for a test but interacted with council members who visited her room.

Members of Council expressed their appreciation and were positive about the state of the projects they had visited.

The tour was led by the Deputy Vice Chancellor: Operations, Dr Jannie Zaaiman, assisted by the Acting Director of Facilities Management, Takalani Phosiwa and the Projects Manager, Ronald Tshitangano.



# 1st Univen-Walter Sisulu University international research conference

International and local delegates from 17 universities attended the 1st Univen-Walter Sisulu University international research conference in East London recently.

Themed 'Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development and the Transformation of Society', delegates from universities as far afield as the Botho University, the Cape Peninsula University, the Durban University of Technology, the Midlands State University, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Rhodes University,

the Tshwane University of Technology, the University of Cape Town, the University of Fort Hare, the University of Ibadan, the University of Johannesburg, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Zululand and the Walter Sisulu University, as well as research councils such as the Agricultural Research Council, attended.

In total 2 401 oral presentations and 95 posters under eight sub-themes were registered.

These were research, teaching and learning in higher education, indigenous knowledge systems, public health, HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections and law, security, governance and conflict resolution.

The other sub-themes were climate change, food, water and energy security, appropriate technologies and entrepreneurship, functional multilingualism in Southern Africa and E-skills for rural development. These presentations were made in ten parallel break-away sessions.

"We salute Univen's executive and senior management for their leadership support towards the successful realisation of the conference," said Univen's Director of Research and Innovation, Prof Ekosse.

"We also salute Univen's researchers and postgraduate students for their excellent presentations. The same goes for the responsiveness of the entire Univen community in advancing the research and innovation mandate of the university."



**Comparing notes** - Vice Chancellors Prof Mfenyana of WSU and Prof Mbatlana of Univen at the official opening.



**Listening attentively** - Deputy Vice Chancellors Prof Crafford of Univen and Prof Songca of WSU during the plenary session.



**Directors of Research** - Prof Ekosse of Univen and Dr Cisse of WSU.



**Truly a meeting of minds** - conference delegates.

## Large scale knowledge dissemination

### Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Prof Peter Mbatlana

Large scale knowledge dissemination characterised the 1st joint Univen-Walter Sisulu University International Research Conference.

I would like to thank the organisers and delegates of the conference for being part of this unprecedented collaborative intellectual effort undertaken by the research communities of our two partner universities.

Exploring novel ways of knowledge sharing, evaluating research results and using intellectual and interdisciplinary discourse for the incubation of innovative ideas which will form the basis of future research are of critical importance to developing universities. This is particularly important at a time when South Africa is moving from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy.

This conference included a strong focus on mentoring the next generation of scholars. It assisted greatly in developing many of our senior students and junior researchers who were given the opportunity to present and have their work critiqued by experts in their fields. Developing research capacity through offering

opportunities for active participation in the academic discourse is widening the worldview of many of our young intellectuals.

Connecting our emerging researchers to the global world of knowledge is one of the lasting achievements of this conference.

The successful joint organisation of this conference by two developing universities has highlighted that we can reach beyond the perceived limitations of our past as historically disadvantaged universities when two or more developing universities work together. We intend to build on the success of this partnership in the future by strengthening research collaboration, co-promoting doctoral candidates, developing joint degree programmes as well as student and staff exchanges and other forms of collaboration in the core business fields of our universities.

I particularly look forward to the next joint international research conference which will be held at Univen in 2016.

## Research to benefit communities

Durowoju Olatunde, a PhD candidate at Univen, presented his research titled 'Seasonal variations of hydrochemical parameters from Siloam and Tshipise geothermal springs, Limpopo Province, South Africa' at the 1st Univen-Walter Sisulu University International conference in East London.

Geothermal springs are natural geological phenomena that occur throughout the world and South Africa has about 74 known geothermal springs. Siloam and Tshipise springs are found in rural settlements where there is no adequate water supply - hence the spring is used as alternative source of water, especially at Siloam.

Little research has been done on the physicochemical properties of these springs, but none has shown the seasonal variations. Siloam recorded 67.7°C in winter and 68.6°C in summer - the hottest in the country - whereas Tshipise recorded 54.6°C in winter and 55.7°C in summer. There is approximately 1°C difference in the temperature of the geothermal spring at both sites.

This thermal difference is responsible for the seasonal variations of the hydrochemical parameters analysed. The chemical compositions of the geothermal springs have shown high Fluoride, Nickel, Lead and SAR at both springs - high pH-value at Siloam and high TDS value at Tshipise. At each study site, there is a significant difference in the trace element concentrations in different seasons. These factors have made the geothermal spring water unfit for drinking, particularly because of its high fluoride content and pH values. In addition, it is not suitable for irrigation, owing to its high SAR value.

The hydrochemical parameters of springs were also assessed - the Siloam spring has a constant water type sodium chloride in both seasons and the Tshipise spring has a sodium bicarbonate water type in winter and a calcium-sodium bicarbonate water type in summer.

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# Genes were the name of the game

Thirty selected life sciences postgraduate students from ten different South African universities participated in the recent two-week theory cum practicum course - genes expression and biotechnology - on the Univen campus.

Organised by the Univen HIV/AIDS and global health research programme, the training covered aspects of genes and gene expression, genomics, RNA polymerases and the genetic code and protein synthesis.

It also covered the mechanism and control of translation, mRNA transcription and processing and post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression. Non-coding RNAs and RNA editing, nucleic acid sequencing and bioinformatics also received attention. The workshop format comprised

lectures, small group discussions and laboratory work.

Officially opening the workshop, Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlali said sound human capacity development in the life sciences is essential to drive the bio-economy of South Africa and the Southern African region.

Academics included Prof Pascal Bessong, Head of the HIV/AIDS and Global Health Research Programme at Univen, Prof Alan Christoffels, Director of the South African National Bioinformatics Institute at the University of the Western Cape and Prof David Rekosh and Prof Marie-Louise Hammarskjöld of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology at the University of Virginia in the USA.



Prof Alan Christoffels, Director of the South African National Bioinformatics Institute instructing at one of the bioinformatics sessions.



"Sound human capacity development drives the bio-economy of South Africa" – Mbatlali.

The course is organised with support from the Department of Science and Technology and directed by Prof Bessong. Since its inception in 2010, over 100 students have benefited from the training. The participation of the University of Virginia is part of Univen's flagship international collaboration with this American university.

## The Univen Strikers goes to Pretoria

Univen's cricket club, known as the Univen Strikers, travelled to Pretoria to participate in the Jaber Sports' autumn pro-20 tournament at the Eersterust Cricket Grounds recently.

Five teams participated - Univen, the Tshwane University of Technology Soshanguve campus, the Centurion Academy, the Reserve Bank Cricket Club and the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

The Univen Strikers played their first match against Centurion Academy, which proved to be too much for them – they lost by ten wickets, Univen won the toss, elected to bat first and managed to score 115 all out in 18.2 overs. The academy needed 116 to win from 20 overs, they chased the total in 11.5 with no loss of wickets.

On day two the Univen Strikers played against the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and beat them by three wickets. Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University won the toss and elected to bat first and scored 97 all out in

12.4 overs. Univen needed 98 to win from 20 overs. During the batting innings, Univen did not start well but the middle order batsmen managed to calm things down while keeping their wickets, leading to Univen beating the opponents by three wickets with three balls remaining of the innings.

On day three - the final day of the tournament - Univen was scheduled to play two matches, one in the morning and the second match in the afternoon. The morning match was against the Reserve Bank Cricket Club. Univen won the toss and elected to bowl first, the overs were reduced to 18 because the match had started late.

The Reserve Bank scored 134 runs in 18 overs with one wicket in hand. Univen started off slowly but managed to pick up the score in the later stages of the match, managing to successfully chase 134 in 16.2 overs with one wicket in hand.

The second match was against the Tshwane

University of Technology. Univen won the toss and elected to bat first, but to show sportsmanship the decision was reversed to allow TUT to bat first as their food arrived late.

The opponents scored 136 runs from 20 overs with three wickets to spare. Though the players appeared a bit tired from the match in the morning, Univen managed to pull through and beat TUT by three wickets.

Although the Univen Strikers won three matches beating the Tshwane University of Technology, the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and the Reserve Bank Cricket Club, it wasn't enough to win the tournament but good enough for a second place behind the Centurion Academy who won all of their four matches.

It was a big day for the winners, as both best wicket taker and best batsman awards went to them, together with the winner's trophy. The Univen Strikers received silver medals as the tournament's second best team.

## Ritual murders in the Vhembe District of Limpopo

A Doctor of Philosophy in African Studies conferred to Dean Alunamutwe Enos Rannditsheni at the Univen graduation in September, investigated ritual murders in the Vhembe District of Limpopo.

Rannditsheni is the Dean of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa, Devhula Lebowa Circuit.

Rannditsheni conducted in-depth interviews with stakeholders and family members of victims of ritual murders. The results reveal that murders are still very rife in the area, although most of the incidents are reported as 'inquest murder'. The research findings indicate that people involved in ritual murders are traditional leaders, traditional healers,

business people, politicians and religious people.

The reasons for those murders include the desire to attain power and authority, increasing support and membership of their organisation or practices, attracting wealth, improving socio-economic status in the community as well as for traditional and cultural practices. There were also claim that the provincial government, as reported by the standing task team on ritual murders in Limpopo, uses local police officers to take bribes from the perpetrators or offenders of ritual murders.

Intervention includes, among others, community-led responses by traditional leaders, religious leaders

and communities as well as the establishment of task teams. However, all these efforts are ineffective in combating ritual murders. The research study developed a value-based training manual centered on a community change process approach to educate people to change their values, attitudes and practices towards ritual murders. It is envisaged that the manual will be used in other countries to challenge ritual murder practices.

Rannditsheni did his undergraduate, honours and masters at Univen. He also did a degree which is equivalent to an honours in Switzerland and a diploma with the Lutheran College

# Absa supports Univen's Soccer League with R350 000

Tuesday, 15 September 2015 was a great day in the history of the University of Venda, when Absa's Provincial Head - Business Banking, Cobus Wells, handed a cheque of R350 000 towards the Univen Soccer League.

"It is only with partners such as Absa that higher education institutions can constructively engage with students, both in-class and out-of-class," says Univen's Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni.

"Through soccer you are helping us to nurture a sense of community where people become each other's keeper. You have enabled us to offer an environment that is conducive for a healthy mind in a healthy body. Through the Univen Soccer League

we will succeed through nurturing, development and growing. Absa is traveling the journey of creating future leaders with us," said Nesamvuni.

"As a result of the sponsorship, all 12 registered teams received equipment and are looking very good - getting underway in style," said Univen's Director of Communications and Marketing, Mr Takalani Dzaga.

The sponsorship was conceptualised in 2012 when Absa committed R100 000 per year towards the league and a further R50 000 towards the university's entrepreneurship programmes like the 'student in free enterprise' project. To date, Absa has invested R350 000. ABSA made further

commitments to assist students to access graduate programmes, learnerships, bursary schemes and skills development programmes. It also works with the university through alumni structures to assist top graduates who seek employment opportunities, particularly those who are in possession of qualifications in commerce.

The official cheque handover was preceded by the official launch of the soccer tournament between Vicking's FC and Black Burn FC. The score was 3-2, with the Vicking's winning the match.

The soccer coaching clinic was facilitated by the local Absa Premier team, the Polokwane City Football Club.



*"It is only with partners such as Absa that higher education institutions can constructively engage with students" - Nesamvuni.*

*Let the games begin!*



## Ha-mutsha village leaves a mark at Univen sports day

**Rofhiwa Mayimele**

A wet spell and heavy rainfall did not stop Univen from hosting its annual sports and casual day recently. The theme this year was 'supporting people living with disabilities'.

Officially opening the sports day, Univen's Director of Student Affairs, Dr Selepe, said: "Today we are celebrating important events and more so South Africans living with disabilities."

Sporting codes that participated included aerobics, athletics, soccer and tug of war. However, the showstopper was the soccer match between Univen FC and Tsianda Clinic Old Age, which is a Ha-mutsha village team of older people. One would have mistaken the village team as an Absa premier league team with their antic display of skills and drills on the

field. They scored four goals past the opponent's goal minder and in response the hosts only managed a consolation goal. The villagers were cheered by their noisy supporters who clearly showed the home crowd a thing or two about what support really is about.

The Tsianda team was established by the Ha-mutsha village clinic. These members visit the clinic for constant check-ups and as per doctors' suggestions, they engage in fitness programmes - thus the formation of the soccer team.

After the match Coca-Cola provided refreshments and entertainment in the form of shavha mbevhva, duvheke and river bank.



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