



University of Venda  
Creating future leaders

## UNIVEN confers a total of 64 Doctoral degrees during 2019 academic year



PhD graduates of first session posing for a group photo in front of Life Sciences building

"Our doctoral degree output for this Spring graduation ceremony is the highest number of doctoral degrees ever produced by this University. We are very pleased about this achievement and would like to thank academic, administrative and service staff for their hard work," said the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni during the University of Venda (UNIVEN) September Graduation Ceremonies that was held in the University Auditorium on Friday, 20 September 2019.

During this Spring Graduation Ceremonies, UNIVEN has conferred 650 qualifications, comprised of three undergraduate Diplomas, two (2) Postgraduate Diplomas, 223 Bachelor's degrees, 174 Professional Degrees, 118 Honours Degrees, 86 Masters Degrees and 44 Doctoral Degrees.



UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that it should be a matter of pride for Limpopo Province and Vhembe district to have an institution that has developed and contributing

to the economy of the country since its establishment regardless of the challenges faced by the Institution from time to time. He told the audience that UNIVEN continues to be on an upward trajectory regarding its research output. "Our recent 2017 journal publication output units by index has also improved compared to our 2016 Journal publication output. The number of our National Research Foundation (NRF) Rated Researchers continues to grow."

He said UNIVEN staff with doctoral qualifications has increased to 41% which is above the national average of 37% in the entire higher education sector. "We look forward to maximising this numerical advantage by producing more research articles in high impact journals and providing more supervisory capacity for our students."

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## UNIVEN confers a total of 64 Doctoral degrees during 2019 academic year cont...



PhD graduates posing for a photo after second session



PhD graduates posing for a photo with members of council after first session



Photo of some of the undergraduates of 2019 September graduations ceremonies

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford said UNIVEN is immensely proud of these young people whose hard work and perseverance we celebrate and reward today. "Our students have had to overcome considerable odds to arrive at this day. Especially our postgraduate students have seen a steady decline in the availability of postgraduate funding, to the extent that it

has become a matter of national concern." He continued to say that, despite this, almost 40% or 248 out of the 650 graduandi today are postgraduates.

"It is worth noting, Vice-Chancellor, that the ministerial target for PhD outputs by the University of Venda for 2019 was 40. After today we shall have awarded 64 PhD's for 2019, which shows that the University of

Venda truly punches above its weight when it comes to knowledge production."

Prof Crafford said it is important that UNIVEN continues to define and redefine the type of graduates we wish to produce. "We want our graduates not only to be employable, but we also want them to become employers themselves, through instilling a spirit of entrepreneurship in all students who

pass through our gates. We also want our graduates to have intercultural competencies that will allow them to engage with a diverse and complex world with confidence and a keen sense of self-worth. Above all we want our students, during their time on our campus, to internalize the institutional values that we espouse, chief amongst which is the quintessential African value of ubuntu."



# UGO plants Five trees to celebrate Arbour Day

The Universal Greening Organisation (UGO) in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (VBR) and Vhembe District, Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) celebrated Arbor day by planting five trees at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) on Monday 02 September 2019.



*Thabelo Ramarumo welcomes the students and invited guest*

In an official event that took place at the University School of Environmental Sciences CAD-LAB, the School's Secretary Thabelo Ramarumo welcomed the students and invited guests at the Arbor Day celebration. When outlining the purpose of the celebration, he said that September is regarded as Arbor month and on this month, they want to create an awareness on the importance of the tree. "This is our event and I urge all students to fully participate in this event and also ask questions where you need clarity," said Ramarumo.



*Phistos Shoroma from SANBI Thohoyandou*



*UNIVEN Students planting trees during 2019 Arbor Day*

Guest speaker, Phistos Shoroma from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) in Thohoyandou touched on the origin and history of Arbor Day. He indicated that Arbor Day dates back to the early 1870s in Nebraska City, Nebraska. "In South Africa, Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1983. The event captured the imagination of people who recognized the need for raising awareness of the value of trees in our society. Collective enthusiasm for the importance of this issue in South Africa, inspired the national government in 1999 to extend the celebration of Arbor Day to National Arbor Week," said Shoroma.

His advice to the University of Venda Environmental Sciences students was that they should make it a habit to plant trees every time. "You shouldn't wait for Arbor day to plant trees because without trees, there is no life," he said.

Shoroma added that trees are sources of building material, food, medicine, and simple scenic beauty. Trees play a vital role in the health and well-being of our communities.

"To increase awareness of our beautiful indigenous tree species, two trees are highlighted each year as Tree of the Year, one common and one rare species. The Common Tree of 2019 is the *Sclerocarya birrea* (Marula Maroela), with the uncommon one being the *Philenoptera violacea* Apple-leaf, (Appelblaar)," concludes Shoroma.



*Miss UNIVEN 2018/19 Thamathama Ratshili planting a tree*

Miss UNIVEN 2018/19 who is also a student at the School of Environmental Sciences, Thamathama Ratshili said that she is excited to be part of the 2019 Arbor Day. "It pleases me that as an environmental sciences

student I have made a mark that before I leave the University, I have also planted a tree which will also provide the entire University community with life and also helps to reduce soil erosion."

**"You shouldn't wait for Arbor day to plant trees because without trees, there is no life."**



*UNIVEN students pose for a photo with stakeholders during Arbor Day*



# MEC Thandi Moraka encourages South Africans to continuously teach their children about our history, culture, heritage and tradition

"The month of September is a month in which South Africans are encouraged to celebrate our culture and the diversity of our beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all of its people," said Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms Thandi Moraka during the Public Lecture on The International Year of Indigenous Languages. The Public Lecture was held on Tuesday, 17 September 2019 at the University of Venda (UNIVEN), Senate Chambers. The Public Lecture was organised by MER Mathivha Centre for African Languages, Arts and Culture, under the school of Human and Social Sciences.



MEC Moraka continued to say that languages play a crucial role in our daily lives. They are not only our first medium for communication, education and social integration, but are also at the heart of each person's unique identity, cultural history and memory.

MEC Moraka further said that more than half of the world's population speak only 23 languages. She highlighted that the ongoing loss of indigenous languages is particularly devastating, as the complex knowledges and cultures they foster are increasingly being recognized as strategic resources for good governance, peace building, reconciliation, and sustainable development. "More importantly, such losses have huge negative impacts on indigenous peoples' most basic human rights." The International Year of Indigenous Language will strive to preserve, support and promote indigenous languages at the national, regional and international levels. "We should continue to utilize our indigenous languages in the province as a way of embracing and protecting them from dying. We need to continuously teach our children about our history, culture, heritage and tradition. This is important because the identity of a person starts with one's understanding of own culture, language and tradition."

**"We need to continuously teach our children about our history, culture, heritage and tradition. This is important because the identity of a person starts with one's understanding of own culture, language and tradition."**

The MEC concluded her talk by advising the audience that there is a need to go back to basics as Africans and speak our own home languages, eating our indigenous food and wearing our cultural attire. Cultural heritage is the only inheritance that we should preserve. She encouraged people to visit our museums and cultural heritage sites available in Limpopo Province.



When delivering a Public Lecture on 'The International Year of Indigenous Language', Dr Mathole Motshekga said this public lecture must help to bury tribalism and xenophobia that were witnessed by this country recently. He said Africans are good, welcoming people and he was surprised by recent actions and behaviours of South Africans. He advised students to treat foreigners and all tribes the same way they would like to be treated. "The languages that we speak today are dialects of one language. We are one nation as Africans." He spoke about historical development of Africa and how African continent was divided and given names by the colonizers.

He said President Oliver Tambo wanted to rename South Africa the Republic of Maluti because South Africa is not a name but just a direction. Our languages are rich and they have meanings. "Even today I still support President Tambo's idea of renaming this country." He was also provocative about the name Limpopo. Dr Motshekga said the name Limpopo was taken from the name Lebombo and Lebombo is on the other side of Kruger National Park. He also argued that Kruger National Park should be named Thulamela Park.

When responding to some of the questions, Dr Motshekga said we are today speaking English so that all tribes can understand each other. As Africans, we need one common African language spoken across the whole continent of Africa so that we can get rid of foreign languages.



In his welcome message, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said he was pleased that this celebration is being hosted here at UNIVEN. "UNIVEN is proud to partner with the Limpopo's Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and we commit ourselves that we will play a meaningful role in preserving our culture and heritage."

Dr Nthambeleni said initiatives like this Public Lecture calls us to learn, as an institution. He continued to say that he is proud to announce that UNIVEN has theses and dissertations that were written in South African languages and they are preserved in libraries, including our own library at UNIVEN. "We take indigenous languages very serious. It is through a language that we can be able to identify culture as a nation."



Mr Amos Mulaudzi, from the National Heritage Council representing Advocate Sinwabile Mancotywa said, they are partnering with the Limpopo Provincial Department of Sport Arts and Culture. Mr Mulaudzi said a person's ethnic origin, heritage and culture are part of what makes mankind distinct from the animal world. He said mankind has been given the ability to develop complex, and intelligent works of art; intellectual and scientific discoveries as well as spiritual achievements. He said however, each ethnic group has gone about this in their own ways that have grown out of geographical positioning, necessity and inspiration.

Mr Mulaudzi highlighted that the NDP 2030, especially outcome 14, puts more emphasis on the arts, culture and heritage sector's potential role in the creation of jobs, poverty alleviation, and more significantly the achievement of the elusive social cohesion, nation building and national identity. "for all these to be achieved we first need to know who we are and where we come from as people."



When introducing the guest speaker, Prof Mokgale Makgopa said UNIVEN will appeal for support to ask the Office of the MEC to provide Work Integrated Learning (WIL) for UNIVEN students in the School of Human and Social Sciences particularly, those in the language practice field. "What we teach as a University should be relevant to the history of our country and should speak to the future of this country." He continued to tell the audience that UNIVEN is busy with the strategic plan 2021-2025 and this new strategic plan will give us the direction as to how to restructure the curriculum to be relevant to our history and speak to the future of this country.



In his vote of thanks remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford said it is important that we put what we have been talking about into practice. There is a need to decolonize our education curriculum. He thanked all speakers, staff members, guests and students for honouring the invitation for this public lecture.



## MEC Thandi Moraka encourages South Africans to continuously teach their children about our history, culture, heritage and tradition continued...



A delegation from partnering organisations posing for a photo in the Vice-Chancellor and Principals Office



Councilor Rose Mathukha from Vhembe District Municipality when introducing the MEC.





# Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage 2019/20 crowned



L - R: Vision Ndou President of Stopthespot Youth Organisation, Prince of Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage Munyai Gudani Tshikhawe, King of Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage Monyemoratho Ignicuous Majiwe, co-founder of Stopthespot Youth Organisation Mercy Ramphalalani, Queen of Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage Sphiwe Linda Sihlangu, Princess of Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage Debbie Shirindzi and Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage public choice Ms Makhuvele Daisy Makhanani.

"Winning Miss UNIVEN Heritage feels great even though I wasn't expecting it, because I was there for fun doing what I love which is art," said Sphiwe Linda Sihlangu after she was crowned the queen of Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage 2019/20 on Friday night, 06 September 2019 at the University Sports Hall. The event was organised by the Stopthespot Youth Organization and mainly intended for the University of Venda (UNIVEN) students.

Ms Sihlangu, a second level Bachelor of Arts in Language practice (BALP) student at the University of Venda said that she is not a model but tried her best to be herself and doing what she loves most. "I ensure that I stick to the context of the whole event which is to promote culture and I believe that it is up to our generation to educate the upcoming generations about the diversity of our cultures and to embrace them. I see myself creating the new generation of people who embrace culture and tradition," she added.

The proud newly crowned Mr UNIVEN Heritage, Monyemoratho Ignicuous Majiwe expressed that believing in himself, confidence and embracing his cultural values are the things that saw him winning the competition. "The competition was tough because all the contestants were as good

as any tribe, showing each other how proud they are about their culture and how well they know their roots, but I have managed to beat them all."

The runner up of Mr UNIVEN Heritage is Munyai Gudani Tshikhawe who was crowned as the Prince. Debbie Shirindzi was crowned as the Princess and the public choice was scooped by Ms Makhuvele Daisy Makhanani.

The event was aimed at re-educating and re-emphasising the importance of heritage amongst the youth and was hosted under the theme: 'Different languages, One Nation'.

The co-founder of Stopthespot Youth Organization Mercy Ramphalalani, mentioned that she is glad that the organisation managed to host first ever successful Mr and Miss UNIVEN heritage 2019/20. "We wanted to ensure that we celebrate, understand and protect the unique value of our African culture, to protect our rich heritage from perishing, promote and pay respect to South African diversities," Ramphalalani added.

She further alluded that Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage gave contestants the opportunity to embrace themselves with their cultures and about where they originate from through cultural dances and cultural attires.



Newly crowned Mr and Miss UNIVEN Heritage 2019/20 photographed with the runners up.



# ABASA launches a student chapter at UNIVEN

On Friday, 06 September 2019, the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants of South Africa (ABASA) launched its Student Chapter at the University of Venda (UNIVEN). The launch took place at the University's Auditorium and was coordinated by the Department of Accountancy.



UNIVEN's Senior Lecturer who also serves as Education Committee Member of ABASA Limpopo branch, Mr Tshikovihi Ambani CA (SA), on behalf of the Deputy Dean of the School of Management Sciences, welcomed students and guests from the University of Limpopo (UL), Absa, Auditor General - South Africa, ABASA and UNIVEN staff and students. He said this event is significant because most graduates lack knowledge, experience and skills, most importantly, they don't know where to go after graduating. "This will assist you to know where to go from here," he told the audience.



Ms Mokgadi Lekota CA(SA), Assistant Audit Manager at Ngubane & Co, who is also the ABASA Limpopo Interim Deputy Secretary, outlined the purpose of ABASA. She explained that ABASA is an organisation that provides a platform for sharing information in the accounting field. "ABASA strives to create awareness and produce as many black accountants as possible." She continued to say that the purpose of launching this chapter at UNIVEN, is to make sure that UNIVEN students can also benefit from ABASA initiatives.



ABASA UL Student Chapter Public Relations Officer, Rotenda Tshivhula, said being an ABASA member is very important and beneficial. He encouraged UNIVEN accounting students to join ABASA for their own benefit and for the benefit of other learners and students who will benefit from them. "Do what is best for UNIVEN by joining ABASA and focus more on the positive things that will change your life and the life of other people."



UNIVEN Representative, Ms Mutondi Mashamba CA (SA) told UNIVEN accounting students that the UNIVEN Accountancy Department acknowledges the launch of this chapter at UNIVEN. "Our accounting degree is SAICA accredited, and it only took us 5 years to get full accreditation. This means within the next 5 years a lot can be achieved and everything is out of hard work and determination." Ms Mashamba mentioned that there are many people coming from this area who are doing well out there. She therefore encouraged students to follow their footsteps. She assured the students that ABASA will ensure that UNIVEN students occupy more prominent positions in higher offices with the skills that they would have acquired from ABASA. "Choose to be wise and apply skills that ABASA will be giving you. Do not allow other people to define you; set your own standards. Do not live according to other people's expectations. Be an original of yourself." She encouraged and assured students that UNIVEN Accountancy Department is fully behind them and will support them until they reach their goals.



Ms Shiela Rhangani, Absa Private Banking Manager in the Vhembe Region, thanked ABASA for this launch and further congratulated ABASA and applauded them for choosing to launch this chapter at UNIVEN because it will also contribute to the communities of Venda. She told them to go on and continue making change in the lives of other citizens of this country. Rhangani encouraged students to be part of this chapter so that it could improve their performance and boost their career. "We value this launch because this will bring your dream to a reality. We are fully behind ABASA for what they are doing."



UNIVEN SRC representative, Ms Musingadi Murunwa, said she appreciates this launch at UNIVEN because it will make UNIVEN students aware of the implications and expose the students as to what to expect in the workplace. She advised students to join ABASA and learn a lot for their future benefit.



ABASA Limpopo Interim Chairperson who is a third year Trainee Accountant at Crescent Consulting, Mr Mangena Ludwig, told students that ABASA is in support of women, mainly black female students. "We believe that ABASA will empower our students with various skills at different levels. He believes that UNIVEN prides itself in creating future leaders and those future leaders are students. When you are a UNIVEN registered student you are a leader already." He continued to say that leaders don't need only academic qualifications but also other skills such as communication and leadership skills, and how to approach, overcome challenges and make sound decisions from what you are faced with.

**"Choose to be wise and apply skills that ABASA will be giving you. Do not allow other people to define you; set your own standards. Do not live according to other people's expectations. Be an original of yourself."**



## ABASA launches a student chapter at UNIVEN continued...



ABASA Limpopo Interim Treasurer who is also a Senior Financial Accountant at Lepelle Northern Water, Mr Stanley Ramalatso CA (SA), thanked UNIVEN for allowing them to launch ABASA student chapter. He also thanked Absa representatives for supporting the launch. He said Absa is partnering with ABASA in making sure that the movement achieves its intended goal. "Help this committee to achieve goals and make transformation. Support each other and look for someone that you can help. Go out to our secondary schools and assist learners while they are still at secondary level. This is the first step that you took and avail yourselves and acquire as much skills as you can to complement your qualification," He told students.



L-R: Mr Muhali Ndou - UNIVEN; Ms Caroline Shavhani CA(SA) - UNIVEN; Dr Arthur Reynolds - UNIVEN, Mr Ambani Tshikovhi CA(SA) - UNIVEN, Mr Masilela Sebenele Bethuel - UNIVEN, Mr Nakana Rotshidzwa - UNIVEN, Ms Mutondi Mashamba CA(SA) - UNIVEN, Mr Bernard Pfunzo - UNIVEN; Ms Precious Mathevela - UNIVEN, Ms Shiela Rhangani - ABASA and Ms Ramuntshi Muofhe - UNIVEN.



ABASA Interim Stakeholder Sub-Committee Representative who is also an Audit Manager at Auditor General of South Africa, Polokwane Office, Mr Disego Debeila CA(SA), told students that as students they should be able to balance their studies and extramural activities. Make sure that ABASA do not negatively affect your academic performance.

The elected Interim Committee is comprised of Mr Bernard Pfundzo Phaswana as the Chairperson; Ms Precious Mathevela as the Deputy Chairperson; Mr Masilela Banele as the Treasurer; Mr Rotshidzwa Nakana as the Secretary and Ms Muofhe Ramuntshi as the Deputy Secretary.



Accounting students listening to speakers during ABASA student Chapter launch



L-R: Mr Masilela Sebenele Bethuel- Treasurer; Mr Rotshidzwa Nakana- Secretary; Mr Phaswana Bernard Pfunzo-Chairperson; Ms Precious Mathevela- Deputy Chairperson and Ms Ramuntshi Muofhe Deputy Secretary are UNIVEN ABASA Interim Committee



L-R :The newly appointed ABASA UNIVEN Student Chapter Interim Committee with UNIVEN Senior Lecturer and also ABASA education committee member - Mr Tshikovhi Ambani CA (SA), Mr Stanley Ramalatso CA (SA) – ABASA Limpopo Interim Treasurer, Mr Masilela Sebenele Bethuel – ABASA UNIVEN Treasurer, Ms Ramuntshi Muofhe – ABASA UNIVEN Deputy Secretary, Mr Rotshidzwa Nakana – ABASA UNIVEN Secretary, Mr Mangena Ludwig – ABASA Limpopo Interim Chairperson, Mr Phaswana Bernard Pfunzo – ABASA UNIVEN Chairperson, Ms Precious Mathevela – ABASA UNIVEN Deputy Chairperson, Rotenda Tshivhula – ABASA UL SC Public Relations Officer, Mr Disego Debeila CA(SA) – ABASA Limpopo Interim Stakeholder sub-committee representative and Ms Mokgadi Lekota CA(SA) – ABASA Limpopo Interim Deputy Secretary.



# Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter paves way for UNIVEN Law students to legal fraternity

On Friday, 23 August 2019, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Law students were privileged to be exposed to different career paths that they can pursue after completing their studies at UNIVEN. This happened during the Law Careers information session hosted by the Law Students' Council and the Black Lawyer's Association Student Chapter at the University Sports Hall.



Dean of the School of Law, Prof Lonias Ndlovu

Dean of the School of Law, Prof Lonias Ndlovu, appreciated the work done by the UNIVEN Law Students' Council and the Black Lawyer's Association Student Chapter in organising a career fair for law students. He said that an event like this is vital because it prepares and paves way for students on what they should expect in the workplace and what they must do to access the legal profession. "As the University of Venda is on its new plan to position itself for impact, it is important that we as the School of Law interact and engage with the relevant professional stakeholders, who may from time to time come and equip our students with knowledge so that we can go and make an impact in the societies where we come from," he said.



Ms Queen Gopo, the Principal of the Polokwane School for Legal Practice

The Principal of Polokwane School for Legal Practice, Ms Queen Gopo said the primary benefits of attending the School for Legal

Practice is that law graduates gain a full spectrum of skills and knowledge they may not gain as candidate attorneys during their tenure of articleship. She said the aims of the school are to ensure that the candidate attorney will, after completion of the course have a basic knowledge of the learning areas that have been identified; have the necessary expertise to solve a given legal problem with the minimum supervision; be able to integrate various skills and apply these particular skills in the execution of various tasks; be able to develop their basic skills further in practice; have a knowledge of the correct approach and the ethical norms that are required of an attorney and be able to apply these in practice. "The aims include the nurturing of constitutional imperative values that will promote the image of the profession," she said.



Catherine Mothibithibi, Legal Aid South Africa

Catherine Mothibithibi of Legal Aid South Africa in Thohoyandou highlighted to the UNIVEN law students that the only way to start one's law firm after articles with Legal Aid South Africa is through the pool of lawyers/ legal practitioners that they create. "It doesn't matter whether you have completed your degree or not, we can call you and follow all the protocols through interviews and if you pass, we will put you through our pool wherein we will be waiting for your qualifications. That means the interview doesn't guarantee you a job but works for legal aid or the country to have a pool of lawyers on standby in case of emergency." She explained.



Victor Mavhidula, Head of Human rights commission in Limpopo

Victor Mavhidula, Head of the Human Rights Commission in the Limpopo Province, outlined that law students should equip their minds with information before they leave the institution so that they can be useful after leaving the university. "Law students should expose themselves to the latest issues happening around them. You should behave and act like a professional lawyer while you are still a student." He added that there are many social issues that affect the communities and law students should advocate ways to solve such issues to better the life of societies out there.



Mashudu Nekhumbe, National Prosecution Authority (NPA)

Mashudu Nekhumbe from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in Thohoyandou added to what Mavhidula had said. She said that at the NPA, students go through a training programme so that they can qualify as prosecutors. "You can't be a prosecutor if you don't have a vision and reasons why you want to be a prosecutor and you also need to be a qualified law practitioner," she said.



Tebogo Munyai and Fumanekile Makamu from Makamu & Munyai Inc

Tebogo Munyai and Fumanekile Makamu of Makamu & Munyai Inc shared steps that students should follow when they want to open their own law firms. They further shared the journey of how a student or learner can be admitted as a conveyancer. Tebogo Munyai mentioned that candidates need to register for certain modules, write exams and engage in research.

Fumanekile Makamu urged students to be very selective when it comes to people and friends that they associate themselves with. She further told them to be careful of who to socialise with because those around them should be able to inspire and motivate them in supporting them realise their dreams. He added that students should worry more about being admitted as attorneys because that will be the only way to pave their way to start their own law firms.



Constance Mabasa, member of the UNIVEN Law Students' Council

In giving the vote of thanks, Constance Mabasa thanked all the invited guests who took their precious time and honoured the invitation to come and talk to UNIVEN Law Students. "We have also noted the presence of students and your participation throughout this career guidance." She thanked students for attending.



Black Lawyers Association team photographed with School of Law staff and invited guests



# Dr Edwin Madala wins a prestigious NRF award as an Emerging researcher of the year



It was during the NRF Awards Ceremony that took place on 12 September 2019 at Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, Cape Town, when Dr Ntakadzeni Edwin Madala was awarded a prestigious NRF award for Early career/emerging researcher of the year. Among his research works, Dr Madala dedicated most of his time conducting an in-depth biological and chemical characterization of active naturally occurring isomers of plant metabolites with various properties against diseases such as HIV/AIDS and cardiovascular disease.

He said "this award validates my ambitions of becoming a world-renowned analytical biochemistry and it gives me pleasure to see scientists from historically disadvantaged institutions being recognized by reputable national structures such as NRF. I wish the award could encourage my colleagues here at UNIVEN to regard quality over quantity when it comes to research activities."

Dr Madala's research focuses on analytical methods for the extraction and precise identification of metabolites from plants with known medicinal applications. He specialises in the development of separation techniques for precise identification of structurally related natural products (isomers). He obtained his PhD in Analytical Biochemistry from the University of Johannesburg in 2012 and immediately initiated a research group at the same institution. This research group

has developed mass spectrometric methods to differentiate isomers in collaboration with the CSIR, the PNNL (USA) and the University of Surrey. This led to the development of advanced analytical methods to discriminate biological active isomers with anti-HIV properties isolated from plants. Dr Madala's research achievements led to the development of two makeshift instruments. The first instrument is used for isolation/extraction of plant derived pharmacological compounds without the use of organic solvents. The second instrument, UV photochemical reactor, allows for artificial amplification of metabolites through UV-induced geometrical isomerization of photo-switchable drug candidates in plants. Dr Madala joined the University of Venda (UNIVEN) in 2018 as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry. To date, he has published numerous research articles, book chapters and conference proceedings in internationally renowned journals. UNIVEN prides itself with Dr Madala's achievement.

The University of Venda's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni congratulated Dr Madala on this significant achievement. "I encourage other staff members, especially young academics to follow the footsteps of Dr Madala. The University of Venda is so grateful to have academics and researchers of Dr Madala's competence, said Dr Nthambeleni.



Dr Edwin Madala (Second from left) holding a trophy awarded to him for his achievement with Dr Blade Nzimande (Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology) (middle) and Dr Molapo Ghebela (Chief Executive Officer of the National Research Foundation).



# Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science honours the late Prof Lateef Amusa

"I am grateful to be one of those who had an opportunity to work and interact with the late Prof Lateef Amusa while he was still alive," said the Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi during Prof Lateef Amusa's Memorial Lecture. The memorial Lecture was held on Friday, 30 August 2019 at the University Sports Hall.



Dean of School of Health Sciences, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi

Prof Mulaudzi continued to say that this lecture is an annual event which provides an opportunity for reflection on the current state of the three fields which are Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport. "This event was changed from an ordinary event to honour the great work and dedication that has been done by the late Prof Lateef Amusa while he was still alive. He ensured that the centre grows."



The guest lecturer, Prof Hans de Ridder from the University of North West

The guest Lecturer, Prof Hans de Ridder from the North-West University reflected on how he met Prof Lateef Amusa back in 1994 when they were in one of the conferences. He said that was the time they became close friends and sports buddies. Prof Riddler expressed that it was through the late Prof Lateef Amusa's hard work that he (De Ridder) drew inspiration from.

In his presentation under the topic 'Modern Athletes: Are we breeding giants and what are the health consequences?', Prof de Ridder outlined that there is a huge search of the size and shape in athletes and in the sports world. They are spending their money on the sports and size of players. "Although, many people don't believe that size and shape does matter in sports. But in most sporting codes such as Basketball, Rugby and Cricket just to mention a few, the size and shape of the body is vital and important as they are not easy to challenge," said Prof de Ridder.



Dean of the School of Health, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi, Head: Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science Dr Cebisa Nesamvuni, Pfarelo Mudzunga, Kgomoiso Malepe, Lufuno Madzivhandila and Prof Hans de Ridder posing for a photo

He further reflected on the health consequences that most athletes especially those who are tall and the giant. He said that some of them (athletes) do suffer from obese and they get overweight after retirement. "This is because after retirement, some of those athletes no longer exercise." He explained that people find themselves involved in illegal behaviours to get the required size.

"Believe me, no matter how you look at it, using drugs is a risky business."

Prof Hans de Ridder concluded his talk by sending a message to the young generations to move with time and use lessons that is taught at the university during their studies.

During the same event, the centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sports Science used the opportunity to award some of the students who are academically doing well in the field of sport.



Pfarelo Mudzunga obtained position two (2) posing with Prof Hans de Ridder



Kgomotso Malepe who obtained position one (1) posing for a photo with Prof Hans de Ridder



Position 3: Lufuno Madzivhandila pictured with Prof Hans de Ridder



UNIVEN Students and Staff interacting with Prof Hans de Ridder



# “Department of Justice and Correctional Services should partner with universities to create ethical leaders”

*Minister Ronald Lamola*

“It is with great sense of humility that I return to my Alma Mater with a new role in the society. I must admit it would be hard to rebut against the notion that Universities mantra, creating future leaders, has found some expression through my newly found responsibilities. I should be first but hopefully not the last to acknowledge the contribution of this incredible institution in my life, both from an academic and social perspective,” said the Honourable Ronald Lamola, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services. Honourable Minister Lamola said these words during the Public Lecture that took place on Friday, 13 September 2019 at the University of Venda (UNIVEN).



Minister Lamola stated that UNIVEN holds a special place in his heart. The theme of this Public Lecture was ‘The Justice System Since 1994’. Honourable Lamola expressed that the government of South Africa has to date spent R356 Million not on the provision of water, but on a mission to understand how ethics failed to prevail when the country

needed them the most. “The mission I am referring to is the State Capture Commission of Enquiry under Justice Zondo.” He said if our respective professionals were truly ethical and committed to black excellence, he has little doubt that we would be in the situation our country finds itself in today. “Our budget deficit is higher than it has ever been, and our business confidence ratio resembles that of Apartheid South Africa during the tenure of PW Botha.”

Honourable Lamola said universities must not just create leaders, they must create ethical leaders. If we fail to create ethical leaders, our society will crumble to a point where we will have a failed state. “There are examples that show that education without ethics only benefits a select few. When we do not have ethical leadership, it is the poorest of the poor that feel the brunt of our actions as professionals.”

“Corruption is not done only in the hands of politicians; it is aided by a very sophisticated hand of professionals. But most importantly, the effect of corruption has a human face, it is that of old women begging for their pensions. It is torn feet of the mother with a baby on her back walking far to access water, even though billions were set aside from the fiscus to ensure that a dam gets built.”

He told the audience that students are members of the communities before they are students. Minister Lamola continued to tell students that the knowledge that they obtain here must reshape our communities for the better. “The knowledge you obtain here should have direct bearing on our communities. It is for this reason that I believe the Department I lead should partner with universities across the country. We need universities that have a curriculum which is endorsed by professionals who practice the profession.”

He also said the Department of Justice and Correctional Services should be able to analyse the people who frequent our facilities and understand their psychology. “We should be able to understand what makes men in our society to be so violent. Good partnerships with the universities will help us to obtain this data as government and this will enable us to plan and respond better. This is what will help us to respond to crime and crimes against women in a dialectic manner. Universities must have a direct impact in society.”

Minister Lamola also spoke about Law and order in governance. He said it is the legal regime of this nation that has held this country very close together despite numerous attempts to pull the country to a point of no return. He continued to tell the audience that before the advent of democracy in 1994, there was little justice in the justice system for the majority of black South Africans. It was a system of injustice which upheld and defended the apartheid state. It is painfully ironic that it was the apartheid justice system which resulted in the denial of justice for the majority of our people and flouted virtually every aspect of international human rights law,” he said.

He concluded his lecture by mentioning that we must look ahead and follow all the monies that were looted from the state through corruption and maladministration and make sure that as leaders, we are preoccupied with serving our people and not enriching ourselves. “We can look ahead by making education fashionable so that the youth of our country will know that there are no short-cuts in life, but only hard work and dedication will contribute to more jobs that our country is so much in need of.”



When welcoming the Guest Speaker, Council members, visitors and students, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said UNIVEN prides itself with the achievements and the appointment of Honourable Ronald Lamola as the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services. He said this is a clear sign that indeed Univen creates future leaders because Minister Lamola is a UNIVEN alumnus. “Minister Lamola was also a UNIVEN SRC President in 2005.”



In his vote of thanks message, Dean of the School of Law, Prof Lonius Ndllovu thanked Honourable Minister Lamola for the Lecture that he has delivered at UNIVEN. He thanked him for the wisdom that he has shared with the University community and said the School of Law has two departments that are striving for the prevention of crime both on campus and within the surrounding communities. He further mentioned that the School of Law will have a session with its alumni early next year. He made a call for the Minister to support the initiative.





# Netshivhambe represents Ghana at Asia Youth International Model United Nations Symposium in Malaysia

From 25 to 28 August 2019, Zwivhuya Netshivhambe represented Ghana on the UNISDR council after being sponsored by University of Venda SRC through the office of the SRC President. Netshivhambe represented Ghana at Asia Youth International Model United Nations Symposium (AYIMUN) that was hosted in Putrajaya, Malaysia.



Netshivhambe said the AYIMUN 2019 provided grand symposium with the theme 'Human Security Agenda in The Globalized World' which was conducted by outstanding speakers that discussed recent international issues regarding the topic in each council. He thanked the University of Venda for giving him this opportunity to attend the symposium of this caliber. "We have learned a lot and amongst the things that I have learned is how to implement an idea of solving or approaching a problem." Netshivhambe said some of the benefits from this symposium includes getting recognition globally; experimental learning to be future diplomat; meeting and networking with the best youth leaders from all over the world.



Netshivhambe attending committee session



Frederika Alexis Cull, (Puteri Indonesia 2019) at the Grand Symposium

## Prof Natasha Potgieter is the recipient of the CEO Global's Pan Africa's Most Influential Woman in Business and Government AND Titans



August is a month for celebrating women's achievements and their role in society.

During a ceremony which took place at the Hilton Hotel, Sandton on 23 August 2019, Professor Natasha Potgieter, Dean of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, received an award as a country winner (in the category Education: Academics) in the CEO Global's Pan Africa's Most Influential Woman in Business and Government AND Titans: Building Nations – SADC South 2019.

The mission of the awards is to identify and recognize Africa's most influential male and female leaders. The awards are the leading African recognition programme honouring excellence in the private and public sector. The Programme covers 23 economic sectors and has for the past nineteen years independently recognized those leaders who are at the pinnacle of their industry.

All nominees undergo a rigorous multi-tiered judging process and those individuals who have been recognized as winners in their fields can be assured that they have truly excelled. This recognition looks at 8 regions on the African continent and in each region, country and regional winners are identified. The judging panel comprises leading figures from the business and public sector that have excelled in their own right and understand the demands made upon contemporary leaders. The judging process consists of three tiers and is comprised of 24 representatives from across Africa. Broadly speaking, the judges look for candidates who have made an impact on the profitability/sustainability of their organization or that of their employer; played a leading role in the development of their sector; willingly developed those around them and invested of themselves in the upliftment of communities.



# International Relations Directorate Hosts Buddy Programme Groups

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Directorate of International Relations through the Buddy programme in collaboration with, Struu Artzz Entertainment, Priscah's Closet, Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP), UNIVEN Arts Society, and Woke Culture had people's lips moving when they recently introduced the first ever Diversity, Inclusivity and Innovation Social Market at the University Cafeteria Lapa.

The event commenced with welcome remarks from Mr Malapi Morifi who also gave the purpose of the day and emphasized on the importance of social cohesion as well as embracing the diverse cultures in society. It was an event aimed at celebrating women's month while promoting entrepreneurship. The event featured various activities around the theme of diversity, inclusivity and innovation.

The Social Market featured exclusive pop up shop from Priscah's Closet and stalls from young, pulsating, rising designers and entrepreneurs from the University of Venda as a way of promoting student entrepreneurship to aid in improving their entrepreneurial skills.



Malapi Morifi

**"We are beautiful in every kind of way, we are exceptional, and we are strong and courageous. Be who you want to be, do what you want to do and let that aspiration come to life, because you're worth it."**



Lindokuhle Zwane

Believing in yourself was further emphasized by the poetic words of Ms Lindokuhle Zwane, who rendered a poem that highlighted that although we celebrate women's month in jubilation, we should also reminisce on what the women from the previous generation had to go through for the women of today to be where they are now and what they are doing with the platform created for them.

The market also featured entertaining performances from the UNIVEN Arts Society which gave a vivid outline of the aims of the social market one of them being to initiate social cohesion amongst students within the vicinity. This was done as a way of educating

the audiences with their artistic work.

The event was also graced by the presence of the reigning Miss South Africa Plus World 2019/20 Tondani Sikhwari, who expressed words of inspiration to women. She emphasized that they should not undermine and body shame themselves. Believing in themselves should always be at the core of their character. "We are beautiful in every kind of way, we are exceptional, and we are strong and courageous. Be who you want to be, do what you want to do and let that aspiration come to life, because you're worth it. No man should tell you what you can and can't do," said Sikhwari.



Miss South Africa Plus World 2019/20, Tondani Sikhwari



# UNIVEN FM celebrates Twenty-Two years of broadcasting



Thursday, 05 September 2019 was a joyous moment as the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Community Radio Station known as UNIVEN FM was celebrating its 22 years of existence. The celebration took place at UNIVEN FM Studios.

The Station has been in existence for over twenty-two years since its inception on 05 September 1997. It is attached to the Department of Communications and Marketing of the University. The Station provides quality on-air programming that is both informative and educational to

the community around Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo Province.

UNIVEN FM is a Campus Community Radio Station located at the University of Venda in Thohoyandou under Thulamela Local Municipality in Vhembe District Municipality and can be reached on frequency modulation of 99.8 MHz.

It is the only campus community Radio Station in Vhembe District that broadcast in four South African official languages which are English, Tshivenda, Sepedi and Xitsonga.



One of this Station's primary mandates is community development and communicating University information while striving for excellence and offer a very diverse and comprehensive content through onair programming line-up.

The Director of Communications and Marketing, Dr Takalani Dzaga paid tribute to UNIVEN FM by stating that "the Station continues to empower Media Studies students and members of the community by giving them practical work experience. He said the station has so far produced many

radio and television presenters who are doing wonders in the media industry. "The station has also identified young people who are talented in broadcasting who are now with well-established radio and television stations."

The Director further urges members of the community to continue supporting UNIVEN FM in producing quality seasoned broadcasters for many years to come.

UNIVEN FM 22nd birthday celebration was proudly sponsored by Spar Sibasa and Spur Thavhani Mall.

## Ndivhuho Luvhengo scooped the Best African Jazz Song Award at the SATMA14



Mr Ndivhuho Luvhengo, a University of Venda (UNIVEN) Bachelor of Music honours degree graduate has won the Award for Best African Jazz Song during the South African Traditional Music Awards 2019 (2019 SATMA14 Awards) that was held on Saturday, 28 September 2019

at Mmabatho Convection Centre, Mahikeng, in the North West Province.

He thanked the University staff and students who voted for him.



"I am also happy to announce that I am one of LIMA3 (Limpopo Music Awards 2019) Nominees in two Categories, for Best Tshivenda Song and Best Jazz Album. The awards ceremony will be held at Meropa Casino Hotel on Saturday, 19 October 2019."

He is optimistic that he will scoop these two other awards and he is requesting the same support from UNIVEN staff and students. To vote for him on the Best Tshivenda Single SMS: 105 To 47048 and Best Jazz Album SMS: 52 To 47048.



# The impact of digital media towards print media has cost media companies losses in both sales and revenue

## Dr Mathata Tsedu

On Wednesday, 18 September 2019, the University of Venda's School of Human and Social Sciences held a Guest Lecture titled the 'Impact of digital media on the operations of traditional media (Print) in society during the 4th Industrial Revolution'. This Public Lecture was delivered by Dr Mathata Tsedu. It took place at UNIVEN's Art Gallery.



"When I was the Editor of City Press, we used to sell a newspaper for about R5 per copy, but we calculated the entire production costs from story conceptualization to a copy in the hand of a willing customer. The total amounted to somewhere between R30 and R35. So, it became clear that the cover price does not come anywhere near paying for the copy that is sold in Thohoyandou at the same price as in Joburg, where it was printed," said Dr Tsedu delivering a public lecture.

He continued to say that the rest of the costs were absorbed by advertisers paying for the 'eyeballs' that will see their adverts and hopefully be moved sufficiently to buying the product from them. Dr Tsedu said this is important when we look at the impact of digital media on print.

"The digital media production cycle, on the other hand, once the journalistic part is done, is the technical upload of content, whether text, video or audio onto a server that has enough bandwidth to allow for multiple log-ons by readers, viewers, listeners without slowing down the process too much to make the client move away." He said the encoding and uploading can be done by one person depending on the volume of content to be uploaded at any given time.

"Once that is done, everything is on autopilot – no printing presses, no delivery trucks, no newspaper sellers on street corners and indeed if you live in real suburbia, no scooters crisscrossing the city delivering at the gates of the privileged who don't even want to walk to the corner shop."

Dr Tsedu told the audience that, digital is the way to go if you are into the media business. "It is cheap, and any media entrepreneur would consider going that way." However, he said printed copies lost sales which resulted in loss of jobs. Less printing means loss of jobs for the people who were working for that media company. He highlighted that although digital media makes readers instant readers and allows them an opportunity to even comment on what is happening at that time, the impact of digital towards print is devastating and has cost media companies heavily in both sales and revenue.

In April 2019, Dr Mathata Tsedu was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga by President Cyril Ramaphosa, a prestigious award for those who have excelled in the fields of art, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport.



UNIVEN staff members posing for a photo with Dr Mathata Tsedu

Dr Tsedu has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate (DPhil in Arts) by the University of Western Cape for his work in the media. He was an Adjunct Professor at Wits University from 2016 to 2018.

The following are the prestigious positions he has held in the past:

- Executive Director of the South African National Editor's Forum (SANEF) 2014
- Chairperson of the continental body of editors, The African Editor's Forum (TAEF)
- Editors of City Press, the Sunday Times and Deputy Chief Editor of SABC News; Deputy Editor of the Star and the Sunday Independent



When welcoming the audience, Dr Memory Mabika said this guest lecture will assist UNIVEN Media Studies students to be relevant in this era. She advised Media studies students to learn as much as they can and to apply what they have learned to advance their careers in the media industry.



HoD of Communications and Applied Language Studies, Dr Bevelyn Dube said they saw a need to bring Dr Mathata Tsedu to UNIVEN as he has been in the field for many years and has seen a lot of transformation in the media industry.



A Lecturer in the School of Human and Social Sciences, Dr Masindi Sadiki gave a vote of thanks. She thanked Dr Tsedu for sharing his knowledge with UNIVEN students and staff members. She said that she believes students got something that will boost their knowledge that they always learned in class.



UNIVEN staff members and media studies students posing for a group photo with Dr Mathata Tsedu



# South Africa needs to be proactive rather than reactive

*Minister Ronald Lamola*

"Government alone cannot address the challenges faced by the country. We need organisations like Black Management Forum (BMF) and Institutions of Higher Learning like University of Venda (UNIVEN) to help the government to address these challenges," said Hon. Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Ronald Lamola during the gala dinner organized by BMF in partnership with UNIVEN. This gala dinner took place on Thursday, 12 September 2019 at Khoroni Hotel.



Hon. Minister Lamola was addressing the audience on the topic 'A Perspective on Ethical Leadership and Transformation of the Judiciary in South Africa'. He said UNIVEN has played a very important and influential role in the lives of many people in both Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces, including international students from other African countries. "We are where we are and who we are because of UNIVEN." Hon Minister Lamola said a partnership between UNIVEN and BMF is a very constructive one and it will address most challenges, especially in creating future entrepreneurs and leaders. "We need to deal with prevention of these issues before they can happen. We should not wait for things to happen before we can act. We need to be proactive rather than reactive."

When addressing the issue of ethical leadership, Hon. Minister Lamola, said the nuclear of good leadership is serving and being a selfless leader. "In South Africa we have a lot of challenges like other countries, including maladministration, high unemployment but to overpower these challenges, we need leaders with good leadership skills, people who are selfless. We need an input, creative thinking from black professionals to unravel what has happened in all state-owned companies." He said this country needs yourselves as leaders, black people, small businesses owners in order to restore and take this country forward.

"BMF should also re-imagine a new developed South Africa. South Africans have a bigger role to play in making this country to be where we want it to be and how we want it to be. I hope this partnership of UNIVEN and BMF will also involve research in order to deal with issues on how to restore our economy." He encouraged members of the society to engage with the government in order to navigate on resolving the issues that the country is faced with.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations, Dr Robert Martin represented UNIVEN on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni who could not attend the event due to other University commitments. Dr Martin said, UNIVEN is proud of the appointment and achievements of the Honourable Minister Lamola. "This demonstrates that UNIVEN is indeed capable of creating future leaders. We are confident that under your leadership the country will be a peaceful and safer place for all."

Dr Martin continued to highlight that UNIVEN cannot operate in isolation, it needs organisations and structures like BMF. "UNIVEN is working on the strategic plan 2021 - 2025 and has decided to give an opportunity to all stakeholders to make inputs in its strategic plan." Dr Martin continued to express that the BMF can play a great role on the strategic plan. He further said, that he is a product of BMF and has in the past occupied important positions in the BMF. "As a University, we will continue to impart knowledge into our students and empower them to create jobs for themselves and for others, in this way, we will be dealing with the challenge of unemployment." He also mentioned the UNIVEN is committed to actively participate in research activities at local, national and international levels.



In his welcome remarks, Director Communications and Marketing, Dr Takalani Dzaga said this event, hosted by UNIVEN and BMF is also aimed at honouring the achievements of the Honourable Minister Lamola. "Our partnership with BMF evidently demonstrates that UNIVEN works well with its strategic stakeholders."

He said Honourable Minister Lamola is not new to us at UNIVEN and Vhembe district. Minister Lamola is a former UNIVEN student and his achievements are our achievements." He said Minister Lamola obtained his undergraduate LLB degree from UNIVEN. The Minister is also the Chairperson of UNIVEN Gauteng Alumni Chapter. We are grateful and proud of the Honourable Minister's achievements and UNIVEN prides itself with his achievements and his appointment as the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services. "We are indeed creating future leaders as his achievements are in line with the University's motto," concluded Dr Dzaga.



BMF Provincial Chairperson, Ms Angy Ramaipadi gave a brief background on BMF. She said as BMF, they feel honored to host an event of this magnitude, particularly the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services. "BMF is about black partnerships." Ms Ramaipadi indicated that BMF stands for the development and empowerment of managerial leadership and the creation of managerial structures and processes that reflect the demographics and values of the wider society. "This organization was started by black people who wanted to see change in the South African corporate landscape." Ms Ramaipadi concluded her talk by highlighting that BMF is 43 years old.



UIGC CEO, Dr John Mudau gave words as a sponsor of the event. In his message, he said UIGC is happy to be associated with BMF. "UIGC is strategically positioned to respond to the challenges in this area. We have the biggest training Unit outside UNIVEN where both students and community members are benefitting from this company." Dr Mudau continued to explain that UIGC has taken over Barotta Farm with the aim of creating job opportunities for our community members. He shared with the audience all the entities of UIGC and UIGC's plans for the next 5 years.

"We are not in existence to compete with other companies but to address the challenges faced by the country. We are inviting BMF to come and work with us in making a future for the people of Vhembe and the people of Limpopo Province," he said.



BMF President, Mr Andile Nomlala said Bantustan communities were able to do things for themselves, respecting each other with the spirit of Ubuntu. He said during those days they were able to do things on their own. He made a call for young men and women to make use of the opportunities that they get. "Strive to make impact in the communities where you come from."



Cllr Avhashoni Tshifhango, Mayor of Thulamela Municipality welcoming the keynote speaker, Hon. Minister Ronald Lamola



When introducing the Keynote Speaker, Executive Mayor Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Dowelani Nenguda said we are proud to host the Minister in our District. This District has produced leaders and we pride ourselves with the appointment and the achievements of the Honourable Minister.



BMF Provincial Secretary, Mr Mpho Motsei, gave a vote of thanks. He thanked UNIVEN for this partnership. "With this kind of partnerships, we will be able to achieve our intended goals. We need to start producing businesses with ethical corporate governance. He thanked all speakers, sponsors, unions and all attendees for honouring the invitation of this gala dinner."



# Sport and Recreation Unit bench - marking tour paves way to develop UNIVEN sports



*UNIVEN delegation with Members of Staff at Cape Peninsula University of Technology*

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Sport and Recreation Unit and the student's Representative Council (SRC) has on 01 - 07 September 2019, embarked on a benchmarking tour and visited Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture Department at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and University of Western Cape (UWC) in the Western Cape.

The purpose of the visit was to benchmark for best practice regarding good governance and operations management of student sport, recreation, arts and cultural

programmes as well as sharing of successes at the respective institutions.

UNIVEN delegation was led by Mr. Ndiafhi Percy Mugwedi (Sports Administrator).

The student leadership was represented by the SRCs Minister of Arts, Culture, Recreation and Religious Affairs, Ms Boitumelo Hlapa and Minister of Legal Policies and Constitutional Affairs, Mr Rabelani Ramutshila, Chairperson of Sports, Recreation and Cultural Council (SRCC), Ms Rebecca Ramphabana and Mr Anzani Mululuma – Project Officer.



*UNIVEN Delegation posing for photo at the UWC Stadium*



*UNIVEN delegation with Members of Staff at the University of the Western Cape*

Ndiafhi Percy Mugwedi, UNIVEN Sports Administrator said that part of discussions was the turnaround strategies in profiling the sport development plan of the

University of Venda, the institutional benefits of qualifying to play in the Varsity Sports which UNIVEN endorsed in 2015 as well as the role of student leadership structures in promoting participation as campus sport, recreation, arts and culture at both national and international competitions.

The benchmarking visit also paved way for reviewing UNIVEN policy on sport and recreation to meet the growing demands of

students concerning sport, recreation, arts and culture events and competitions.

"We find it vital that as UNIVEN, we must have stakeholders' support both internal and external. Strengthening of support will take UNIVEN sports from one level to the other," said Mugwedi.

He added that they will have to establish a sport council comprising of Student Housing Committees responsible for residences, Facilities Representative and UNIVEN Sport and Recreation must have nominal membership payment and affiliation for each sport club.



# UNIVEN bids farewell to University Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni

In the evening of Thursday, 19 September 2019, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held a farewell function for the University Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni. This farewell function took place at Khoroni Hotel.



The University Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni, in his response message said Student Centered services is a function of the whole University in its horizontal and vertical structures. He said the Registrar Academic Committee (RAC) was an assembly of all directors in the quest to deal with policy, procedures and snag list of administration, management and operational matters to deliver functional services. Prof Nesamvuni thanked all directors, past and present in their portfolios for their cooperation and dedication to their work. "you have made my task to report to SENEX very easy."

He continued to say that he has worked hard with the SRC and colleagues from all spheres of the University but had to learn to deal with pain to grow and develop students in their unique demands and needs. Prof Nesamvuni explained that it was during this period that he worked with six different SRC Presidents, their cabinets and broad parliament. "I would like to thank the SRC as a body, present and the past for their contribution and cooperation at times under very difficult circumstances." He said it was a reward for him and the Division at large when they experienced the joy of seeing SRC graduates increasing in number over the years not only to graduate but also to articulate towards postgraduate studies. He thanked his wife and family members for their support, Council members, Chairs of Council Committees, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Members of Executive Management Committee, DVCs and Senior Management of the University for working well with him since he joined the University.



The Director of Communications and Marketing, Dr Takalani Dzaga directing the programme.



Chairperson of Council, Mr Serobi Maja said this University is very proud to have had a competent Council. He thanked the Vice-Chancellor and Executive team for their hard work and for steering the University towards the right direction. Mr Maja told Prof Nesamvuni that his character and manner in which he does things are exceptional. "We will miss your abilities and the manner in which you handle situations." He said UNIVEN has in the past years excelled in terms of stability. "This Council has been very stable, and they supported each other on many instances." Mr Maja concluded his talk by mentioning that UNIVEN will continue to be among the best universities in the country and internationally. "I hope and trust that we will keep producing responsible future leaders."



Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said, it has been a pleasure for him to work with Prof Nesamvuni for many years even while he was serving as a member of Council. Dr Nthambeleni thanked Prof Nesamvuni for the role that he has played as a senior leader at UNIVEN and for the contribution he has made at the University. "We enjoyed very good moments together at UNIVEN. UNIVEN has achieved many goals under him." He expressed that the achievements that he has brought since he joined the University are countless. He said Prof Nesamvuni has really contributed a lot to the University. "The team is what it is today because of your leadership. 'I have enjoyed working with you.' Dr Nthambeleni wished Prof Nesamvuni well as he was taking another step in his life. "We will surely miss you and your collegiality. Wherever you go, you will have to contribute towards the development of this country."



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford said, it feels like only yesterday when Prof Nesamvuni joined UNIVEN. "Over the past 30 years I have always known Prof Nesamvuni in academia and in government departments and he has always been a very good hearted, calm and understanding person." Prof Jan Crafford wished Prof Nesamvuni well in his future endeavors and said this should not be the end of communication with his colleagues at UNIVEN.



SRC President, Mr Tsundzuka Hakamela said this is a difficult time because we are bidding farewell to one of our own, our father as UNIVEN students. Under his leadership, we have opened several infrastructure including recent male and female student residences and Student Centre Building. Mr Hakamela said when they had challenges, Prof Nesamvuni would never take them for granted but would listen to them and advise what to do to overcome such challenges or even assist us on many occasions.

"This should not be the end of the journey, you still have the responsibility of developing the country with the experience, knowledge and skills that you have. Mr Hakamela told Prof Nesamvuni to go out there and shine because when he shines there, the whole University shines. "The University will remember you with the efforts you have put in everything you were doing."



Vho Thovhele MPK Tshivhase giving a vote of thanks



When representing the University staff, Mr Alfred Mutoti said, it is very painful to speak during the farewell function of Prof Nesamvuni. "When I heard that Prof Nesamvuni is leaving the University, it sounded like a joke or I was dreaming, but indeed, it is true that he is leaving." Mr Mutoti continued to express that when he first met Prof Nesamvuni, he saw that this is a man who will bring a lot of contributions and positive changes to UNIVEN. "It is very painful that he is leaving UNIVEN, but I think we should have asked him to withdraw his decision to resign and continue working for the University."



The Director of Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning, Prof Nancy Mutshaeni, speaking on behalf of Senior Management, said she has worked closely with Prof Nesamvuni at Senior Management Committee. She also said that during Prof Nesamvuni's tenure, the Registrar Academic Committee (RAC) was established and it continues to do very well. She continued to describe Prof Nesamvuni as a person who has been the champion of Business Process ReEngineering which cuts across the University. "Under his leadership, UNIVEN introduced online application and registration system. It is time to also celebrate his contributions to the University, especially the work he has put in towards the governing structure at the University and student-centeredness." Prof Mutshaeni continued to tell the audience that Prof Nesamvuni's leadership skills and spirituality are the two outstanding qualities which makes him Unique. "he has admirable leadership qualities."

"We all know that he participated in many decision-making committees of the University and helped the University administration to come up with correct solutions during many predicament situations. You will always hold special place in our hearts." She said they will miss his invaluable contribution at all levels, particularly at Senior Management meetings. "Our wish is that the years ahead will bless you with good health, bring you joy and happiness."



# UNIVEN Protection Services gives safety tips to students on how to prevent crime activities



UNIVEN Protection Services, Thohoyandou SAPS and UNIVEN Students CPF pose for a photo.

On Tuesday, 03 September 2019, the University of Venda Department of Protection Services together with the Thohoyandou South Africa Police Services and the University students CPF embarked on crime prevention awareness campaign to the University students at Cafeteria Lapa.

UNIVEN's Acting Head of Protection Services, Mr Solomon Mathanya indicated that they find it vital as the Department to give and inform UNIVEN students about crime prevention. He said that the recent crime statistics prompted this kind of campaign as it shows the rapid increase of crime activities that are aimed at students.

"It has come to our attention that most of our students are not aware of some of the safety tips that could be used in order to avoid being the victims of crime," said Mathanya. He alluded that before students seek protection from the Protection Services, they need to be informed or well-equipped on how they should protect themselves against perpetrators.

Mathanya urged students to refrain from walking alone at night. He advised them not to carry expensive assets such as laptops during the night and not to leave their windows open because such actions could attract criminals.

Below are some of the Safety Tips for students:

- Do not give your student card to anybody, if stolen or lost, report it immediately;
- Do not open the turn's stile for anybody;
- Do not leave your property unattended and your door unlocked even for a brief moment;
- In case of an emergency of whatever kind on campus, inform the nearest security guard and strictly follow their advice if any is given;
- Do not leave valuable items at exam room entrance as somebody might deliberately or mistakenly take them;

Tablets, laptops and cell phones attract criminals, therefore, you need to take precautionary measures.

Students were also furnished with the emergency contact numbers that are as follows:

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS	
Thohoyandou SAPS	015 960 1054
Main gate	015 962 8120
Control Room	015 962 8193
CCTV control Room	015 962 8603
New Administration	015 962 8820
Fire Brigade	015 962 4155
UNIVEN students CPF contacts details:	
Chairperson Mashimbye Oanky	
079 8577 656	
Supervisor Alfred Matloa	
078 7109 052	



Kagiso Mashilli, a member of UNIVEN students CPF giving safety tips to students.





# Univen's Participation In The National Research Foundation's Customised Intervention Grant Project

The NRF Customised Intervention Grant Project was launched at UNIVEN on 10 June 2019. The purpose of the grant is to assist in the development of the Research Capacity of Early Career Academics focusing solely on Black (African, Coloured, Indian/Asian) Women Researchers. An oversight committee comprising of the Director of Research and Innovation and Chairperson (NRF C1 rated) (Senior Professor Georges Ekosse), all the NRF rated female researchers at UNIVEN (Dean of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, NRF C2 rated, Professor Natasha Potgieter; Professor of Nursing Sciences, NRF C3 rated, Professor Sonto Maputle; and Senior Lecturer in the School of Agriculture, NRF Y2 rated, Dr Marizvikuru Manjoro), and Research Professor, School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, NRF C1 rated, Professor Pascal Bessong were responsible for the successful execution of the project. The members of the oversight committee equally served as mentors. At the inception of the project at UNIVEN, 66 black female researchers with doctorate degrees were identified to participate in it. During the mentorship interviews, 43 of the 66 identified black female researchers actively participated.



*The first group of some female researchers who attended the Customised Intervention Grant Mentorship Interviews*



*The second group of some female researchers who attended the Customised Intervention Grant Mentorship Interviews*



*Senior Professor GE Ekosse, Director of Research and Innovation and Chairperson of the Oversight Committee of the Customised Intervention Grant Project.*

Prior to the interviews, participants were given the singular opportunity for over two months to work closely with their mentors in developing mock applications for NRF rating. Based on submissions received from participants, several research and research-related matters were discussed as part of the feedback during the mentorship interview sessions.

Some of the topics discussed during the sessions included quality of publications and research outputs, H-indices, citation index, impact factor of journals, best research outputs in the last 5 to 8 years, publications with students and other colleagues, internal and external collaborations, academic qualifications and fields of specialization, research grants, supervision and promotion



*ABOVE: Some members of the Customised Intervention Grant's Oversight Committee and resource persons*

of postgraduate students, and ongoing and planned future research activities. The findings during the interview sessions served as platforms in guiding the participants to become excellent researchers and/or working towards their readiness in obtaining the NRF rating through its Evaluation and Rating process.

It should be noted that the mentorship interviews were held from 26th – 28th August 2019 at the Boardroom of the Directorate of Research and Innovation.



# UNIVEN students participate in Huawei recruitment road show competition



UNIVEN students and Huawei students pose for a group photo

The University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s ICT Department in collaboration with the Huawei ICT Academy embarked on a roadshow to recruit UNIVEN students to register and participate in the Huawei Competition. The recruitment took place at the University cafeteria Lapa on Monday, 09 September 2019.



Huawei ICT Talent Manager Tsholofelo Llale

The Huawei ICT Talent Manager, Tsholofelo Llale outlined that through Huawei ICT Competition, Huawei aims to provide students with a platform to compete and acquire certification in order to enhance their ICT knowledge, practical and application skills, and raise their innovation awareness. "The competition is also a platform that facilitates connections between international talent as well as the collaboration between Huawei Partners, Institutions of Higher Learning, thus promoting the education, growth, advancement of ICT talent and promote employability of our students," she added.

She continued to express that the Huawei ICT Competition plays an extremely important role in motivating students to push themselves and demonstrate determination, commitment and perseverance to overcome challenges. "The Huawei ICT competition aims to develop a platform for government organizations, Higher Education Institutions, training partners, enterprises and students to support ICT education." This competition does not only recognize and reward student achievements in technology, but also provides guidance for future career development.

Llale further said that Huawei ICT competition means much more than a challenge. "It is a journey to explore the latest technologies and to understand the latest industry trends. Students now have a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding on the technological world of today and tomorrow."



Patience Munzhelele, a UNIVEN Media Studies student

One of the students who entered the Huawei competition, Patience Munzhelele said that when a door is open, you become the first to enter before it closes because you don't know the opportunities that you might find in that opened door. "The telecommunication world is growing at a faster rate with fewer females within the programming department or inventors," she said.

Below are UNIVEN Huawei ambassadors who were assisting students to register for the competition:



**We would like to hear from you!**  
Nendila is your communication channel.

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