

### **An Abridged Profile of Muchaku Shadreck**

Dr. Muchaku is a researcher and a rural development practitioner. He holds a Ph.D. in Rural Development from the University of Venda. Previously he worked as an advisor to the CEO for Madz company. As an Administrator, he later served as a project manager for the Legendri company. He is currently serving as the national coordinator for FESJA. Beginning his journey as a leader, Dr. Muchaku Shadreck served as a member of parliament in Univen's SRC for two terms and is the first University of Venda's graduate Chairperson. He also represented postgraduates at the University of Virginia in the United States in 2013 during which the two universities shared their experiences particularly on graduate support and the role of convocation. He was also the of the delegation during the launch of the Univen-Zim Alumni chapter launch. He was subsequently elected to represent the Univen-Zim Alumni chapter as an Events Officer, a position he holds up to today. Throughout this, Shadreck has consistently facilitated exhibitions and milestones despite limited resources.

He is widely recognized as having a consistent, open, and collaborative approach that is inclusive, constructive, and respectful of the views of others. He believes and has demonstrated that effective decision-making is based on clear strategic thinking and a sound understanding of all relevant issues, views, and evidence. This approach has characterized his work over the last ten years both as a Chairperson for Postgraduates and as an active member of many other global groups, including the FESJA. As a member of the Convocation, he would fulfill his obligations in this same proactive, informed, and positive way.

One of Dr. Muchaku's great strengths is our international reach, our diversity, and our ability to discuss our differences within a safe and constructive environment. The office Convocation's decision-making processes need to reflect, foster, and accommodate this. They should relate to our University's vision and mission, be guided by our original principles and be communicated clearly. As an Executive Member of Convocation, he would work to ensure we are guided by our overarching shared objectives, rather than acting for a specific constituency or in pursuit of a single issue.

He has vast experience in teaching and research after serving as an educator at Mukula Integrated School. In 2015, he also worked as a research assistant in the DVC-Academic office. His skills do not end with his research activities. He has been involved in several community engagement works and rural development projects. In the community, he goes out of his way to help people in need by organizing charity drives every year. Making a difference and being heard; are the reasons he joined the Institute for Rural Development. His passion for social justice, making a tangible difference in the community, and resolving people's problems makes me the ideal candidate for a demanding position in Convocation.