



## UNIVEN hosts the 3rd Strategic Risk Leadership Conversations on Higher Education Conference for the First time



Institutions of higher learning and organisations from different spectrums, convened for the first time at the University of Venda for a Two – Day Hybrid Conference under the theme ‘Risk-based transformative leadership strategies for excellence and innovation in the Higher Education Sector. This prestigious occasion was graced by the presence of world-class strategic leaders who shared their enlightening insights, thoughts, best practices, challenges, and most fundamentally the transformative strategies that have and will undoubtedly continue to shape risk leadership excellence in promoting the future we envisage.

The conference that was officially opened by the University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, took place at the University Auditorium from 30 November 2022 to 01 December 2022. UNIVEN is the third institution to host this remarkable conference.



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said the success of any conference is dependent upon the calibre of speakers, the level of engagement and the quality of papers presented. “I do not

doubt that this conference will be a great success.” The Vice-Chancellor and Principal saw this as an opportune moment for the University of Venda to host a conference of this magnitude. Dr Nthambeleni found the theme of the conference very relevant for a University that is celebrating 40 years of existence.

UNIVEN has matured and has weathered a few storms in the past. Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that “the road we have travelled may have been foggy at times, meandering and marked by long detours of hardships and steep hills. The fog, the dust, the curves, and the hills, may have obscured our vision in our teens. However, all of that has been wiped out by lived experiences. Our destiny is clear, and our goal is nothing short of greatness.”

He informed the delegates that the University commenced its Enterprise Risk management journey in 2019 with the full understanding that “risks and opportunities, strategy, business model, performance and sustainable development are all inseparable elements of the value creation process”. This required an approach to ensure that UNIVEN’s strategy, performance and risk management were aligned and integrated.

Dr Nthambeleni went on to say that “we are fully aware that risk maturity is not an event but a journey towards the full integration of Enterprise Risk Management in all activities, processes, and planning. Most importantly it is the cultural change to become a risk-aware organisation where all decision-making is based on sound risk intelligence and an awareness of the integrated nature of risk.”

“UNIVEN is committed to ensuring that Enterprise Risk management continues to play its critical role in ensuring that we deliver on our credo “Creating Future Leaders,” added the Vice-Chancellor and Principal. The environment in which higher education operates is very fluid, characterised by a plethora of external and internal risk factors. He alluded that “Whilst the external risks are very common and cut across all institutions, the extent to which institutions grapple and cope with some of these risks is dependent on historical factors.”

Dr Nthambeleni further pointed out that the economic outlook of the country has an impact on the risks we encounter. The country’s credit ratings affect the institutions of higher learning as well. “We are part of the global community and need to assist each other in surviving challenges. The deflecting resources of our students who depend on NSFAS to fund their studies. We need to be active to strengthen the throughput of our graduates.”

He spoke of another major external risk that we face which is the quality of the students we receive from the schooling system. Most students come to universities underprepared to cope with the demands of higher learning. Their chances of success are very limited with a high number of them dropping out or taking longer to complete their studies. This risk can manifest itself in low throughput rates, which in turn, affect our funding and subsidies from the government.

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When setting the tone, the Chief Risk Officer from the Durban University of Technology, Mr Sikhuthali Nyangintsimbi said this is the 3rd Higher Education Institution to host a conference of this calibre. "We saw it fit to be hosted by UNIVEN because of the 40th anniversary". He spoke of how the deliberations of this conference will help build a database for mentors for mentorship that is required. It is about us deliberately elevating our conversation, and deepening our deliberations," highlighted Mr Nyangintsimbi.



The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) was represented by the Chief Director for Higher Education Policy and Research, Mr. Mabhuzi "Chief" Mabizela. He spoke on the topic Evolution of University systems in South Africa: Lessons for the future. Mr Mabizela said change is the only constant in life.



Mr Tendayi Gondo, Lecturer in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture at UNIVEN spoke on the topic of Responding to the unexpected (Business Continuity Strategies: A case study of UNIVEN).



Prof Jan Crafford and Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane



Mr Thabo Dikgale, Mr Wiseman Jack, Ms Orla Quinlan and Prof Nonceba MbambaKekana

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane was the Chair of Session of panel 1, where the panellists consisted of Prof Jan Crafford, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Teaching and Learning (UNIVEN); Prof Francis Petersen, Rector and Vice-Chancellor (UFS) who joined virtually and Dr Britta Zawada, Director Institutional Audits (CHE) who was also on the virtual platform, addressed the topic Strategies in Curriculum Change and processes for improved graduateness. Both members of the panel presented on respective aspects of the curriculum change and graduateness. Of critical importance was the concern about outdated curricula in the institutions of learning that needed to change or be renewed to align with the job market. After the panel members' presentations, Prof Kanyane in his capacity as Chair of the session raised a 'big question' about why there is a high level of unemployed graduates which is a cause for concern in the country. The session took another turn to labour on decoloniality and decolonisation of the curriculum to respond to the dynamics of the education landscape and the job market.

This was followed by panel 2 where the panellists presented on Managing Risks and Vulnerabilities Associated with Linkages, Partnerships and Internationalisation. The panellists were Mr Wiseman Jack, President International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA); Prof. Nonceba Mbamba-Kekana, Director of International Affairs, University of Limpopo and Dr Lavern Samuels, Director of International Education and Partnerships, Durban University of Technology, elected President of IEASA and Ms Orla Quinlan, Director Internationalisation, Rhodes University. The panel was chaired by Mr Thabo Dikgale, Partnership Officer, International Relations, UNIVEN.



On the virtual platform was Ms Nejolla Korris, the CEO of Interveritas International, USA International Speaker, who took the conference by the toes when presenting about "Words Never Lie but People Do; Detecting Deception in Everyday Communications." The presentation was quite interesting, informative and vibrant. It was found that lying is one of the biggest risk factors for leadership.

Day one of the conference was closed by the University of Venda's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza. "If we want to make sure that higher education keeps leading, we must stop encouraging lies", says Prof Feza."

The first day was also blessed by the presence of the Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Cllr Sarah Rambuda.



The conference saw Dr Nalini Maharaj, Risk Management Committee Chairperson (UNIVEN) welcoming the delegates on day two.



UNIVEN's Chief Financial Officer, Mr Botwe Kraziya was the Session Chair of panel 3. Mr Julius Mojapelo, CEO Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa (IIASA), and Mr Kganki Matabane, CEO of Black Business Council presented on the Collapse of the SA Economy as a Reality: Impact and Options for Higher Education Institutions.

Panel 4 was chaired by Dr Lawrence Diko-Makia, Senior Lecturer Department of Earth Sciences, UNIVEN. Members of the panel, Mr Tonderai Makoni, Programme coordinator Vhembe Biosphere Reserve and Dr Christopher Whittle, Associate Director: Governance and Risk. PKF Octagon addressed the topic of Environmental Stewardship and Governance.



In addressing the topic of Aligning Risk Management with Research Strategy to Enhance Research Outputs for Innovation and Impact was UNIVEN's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza. She spoke of aligning risk management with a research strategy to enhance research output for innovation and impact. Prof Feza further talked of research and innovation being the knowledge generated by research as the basis of sustainable development which requires that knowledge be placed at the service of development, be converted into applications and be shared to ensure widespread benefits. She further emphasised the point of financial management for quality productivity. She said research space is facing the reality of scarcity of funds.

The Director of Internal Audit and Risk, UNIVEN, Mrs Diana Makwarela chaired the session that addressed the topic Risk-Based Transformative Leadership Strategies. Mr Christopher Palm who is the Chief Risk Advisor, at the Institute of Risk Management South Africa (IRMSA) presented the Global risk update, on the other hand, Dr Levy Ndou, a Political Analyst and Lecturer, at Tshwane University of Technology briefly highlighted Excellence and innovation in the Higher Education Sector, while Mr Phillip Rakgwale, President of South African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA) shared the Information Systems Risks and Data Ethics Risk factor with the participants.



Dr Lawrence Diko-Makia, Mr Tonderai Makoni and Dr Christopher Whittle

# UNIVEN hosts the 3rd Strategic Risk Leadership Conversations on Higher Education continued...



Mr Tsietsi Telite, Coach3sixty, Mentor, Time to Think Facilitator, Enneagram Practitioner facilitated an interactive Session.



Mrs Motlanalo Koko Khumalo, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann and Dr Robert Martin



Panel 6 on Developing An Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and Culture, was chaired by Dr Lindiwe Mulaudzi, Director: Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning (CHETL), UNIVEN. The panellists of this session were Dr Robert L Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, UNIVEN; Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann, Director: Mamelodi Campus, University of Pretoria and Mrs Motlanalo Koko Khumalo, CEO, Motlanalo Chartered Accountants and Auditors Inc.



In his vote of thanks, the University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani declared the fact that the 2022 Strategic Risk Leadership Conversations on Higher Education Conference was a success and it ended on a high note. He thanked and appreciated all the esteemed speakers of the conference and guests for availing themselves for all two days. Most importantly, he commended members of the Local Organising Committee and Risk Champions for a job well done.



The conference ended up with a glamorous and glittering dinner held at the Kalahari Waterfront, Nandoni Dam. The keynote speaker at the gala dinner was Prof Dovhani Thakthathi from Fort Hare University, Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management and Commerce. Prof Thakthathi addressed the delegates on the topic of Moving from bureaucracy to revocracy: the role of managers and leaders in accelerating strategic risk management.

The conference was a success through the sponsorships and exhibitions from ABASA; ADAPT IT; SAIGA, Microsoft and Chapu Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors.



At the closing of the conference was the Chairperson of the UNIVEN Council, Mr Juneas Lekgetha. He advised that people must keep an eye on the trends that are emerging around us. On behalf of the University, he appreciated the guests and congratulated the participants for attending a successful 2022 Strategic Risk Leadership Conversations on Higher Education Conference which was hosted by the University of Venda for the first time. He further indicated that after such an eyeopening conference, we are going to make sure that we are not only involved in students' day-to-day activities but also in what happens outside.

Mr Lekgetha mentioned that UNIVEN is committed to the course of this country and it believes whatever we do will bring change to this world. Universities are there to change people's lives and this conference was made for that too.



Some of the delegates pose for a photo at the gala dinner



Programme directors of the conference were the Director of Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga (left) and the Director of Community Engagement, Prof Vhonani Netshandama (right).



Delegates also enjoyed rousing performances by UNIVEN student traditional dancers as well as South African Idols 2022 Season 18 winner and UNIVEN alumnus, Thapelo Molomo.



Shonisani "Ashifashabba" Muleya was the programme director of the conference Gala Dinner.



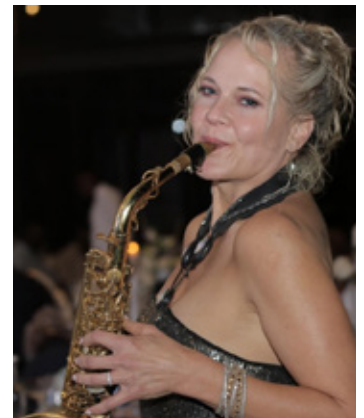
Delegates also enjoyed rousing performances by UNIVEN student traditional dancers as well as South African Idols 2022 Season 18 winner and UNIVEN alumnus, Thapelo Molomo.



Malende dancers



Xibhelani dancers



A spectacular African Essence performance by Cathy Delmei

# Makhado Municipality officially hands over 30 hectares of land to UNIVEN for the establishment of a Makhado Satellite Campus



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (right) shaking hands with Cllr NS Munyai in front of the land donated by Makhado Municipality

On Monday, 28 November 2022, Makhado Municipality officially handed over 30 hectares of land to the University of Venda (UNIVEN). These 30 hectares of land will be used to build a UNIVEN Satellite Campus.

In his address, the Mayor of Makhado Municipality, Mr Cllr NS Munyai said Makhado is donating this land to the University of Venda and will be utilised for lecture rooms, offices, and practical centres as a satellite campus of the university of Venda. The project will change the face of this town and will assist the government to advance the agenda of this area. He mentioned that Makhado and UNIVEN are leading the way in the establishment of the Smart City. "UNIVEN will benefit from the extension of its footprint in the country."

He thanked Dr Nthambeleni, his team and the University community for accepting this land to advance and improve other people's lives.



Mayor of Makhado Municipality, Mr Cllr NS Munyai



Some of UNIVEN and Makhado Municipality officials posing for a picture after the land was officially handed over including UNIVEN SRC



Dr Nthambeleni

In his acceptance speech, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said it is such a huge joy to witness this momentous occasion. He said this initiative is part of the University's Strategic Plan 2021-2025. "We want to make sure that we become a partner who addresses issues faced by our communities." Dr Nthambeleni spoke about the relevance of the four strategic thrusts where he was linking them with the new satellite campus. "This will put UNIVEN on the map. As we are celebrating this day, we need to see the picture beyond this agreement. This should not be just a ceremony, we need to make sure that it becomes a success." He said a convention Centre will also be built on this campus.

## UNIVEN officially opens Makhado Business Advisory Centre

On Monday 28 November 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) officially opened Makhado Business Advisory Centre. This business Advisory Centre is based at Makhado Crossing (Mall) and will benefit the communities of Makhado.



Vice-Chancellor and principal Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said we are mindful of the transformation agenda that the university will play. This business advisory centre will provide the required information to the public. This is about time when we will be known outside our province and make impact out there.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin said the new strategy also supports this initiative and with this initiative, we are taking the UNIVEN to the next level. Dr Martin Mentioned that UNIVEN is the first University to open a business advisory centre in a mall and this is a unique initiative. "We will provide business advises to the public. This office will provide our services to the people. Our role is to roll out business centres all over Vhembe District and we will transform UNIVEN into a University town." He thanked Dr Mike Nkuna for opening their doors for the UNIVEN to establish this initiative.



Attendees posing for a photo in front of the UNIVEN Business Advisory Centre



Mr Timothy Phiri of Makhado Crossing said we see this as an impactful initiative and will assist the University to fulfil its dream of creating future leaders. The involvement of the university in the form of this kind of centre will enable both the University and communities to come together and

address many challenges. Mr Phiri said they are committed to open another Business Advisory Centre at the Smart Town that Masingita Group of Companies will be building. "We support your initiative of the university because this will change most people's lives."



Chairperson of Council, Mr Juneas Lekgetha thanked Masingita Group of Companies for giving UNIVEN this space in one of their malls. He said this centre will assist the current and generations to come.

# UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor advises graduates to remain ethical in their conduct and abhor bribery and corruption

Thursday, 10 November 2022 was a joyous day as the University staff, students' guardians, and different sponsors and stakeholders gathered at the University Auditorium to celebrate the achievements of UNIVEN graduates. This graduation ceremony was held as part of the University of Venda's 40th-anniversary celebration. During the winter graduation ceremony on 14 and 15 July, 3 314 students graduated, and in this spring graduation ceremony, the University celebrated the success of 366 graduates which brings the total of 2022 graduates to 3 680, which is the highest number of graduates at UNIVEN in a single year. The graduates received their degrees from the faculties of Health Sciences; Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education; Management, Commerce and Law as well as Science, Engineering and Agriculture. During the November graduation ceremony, 19 doctoral degrees were conferred, and half of the 19 doctoral degrees were conferred to females.



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof. Jan Crafford said "UNIVEN is a University where women lead and show the way, watch the space". He said this when welcoming the guests during the UNIVEN November graduation ceremony. Prof. Crafford stated that this graduation ceremony was particularly memorable in that the University of Venda conferred honorary doctoral degree of two remarkable individuals with their roots firmly in the red soil of Venda, but with a stature that transcends all boundaries and is celebrated internationally. He further indicated that it is their natural and international stature that the University of Venda honoured them, but we shall not hide our pride in the fact that they are the sons of the soil.

During this memorable graduation ceremony, by the University of Venda honoured the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala who received an honorary Doctoral Degree in Sciences while. Dr. Dean Tshenuwani Farisani received an honorary Doctoral Degree in Theology."

He mentioned that UNIVEN is proud to look back at the year 2022 proudly as there are a lot of research outputs. He emphasised that all these successes are because of the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr. Bernard Nthambeleni.



Dr. Tshenuwani Simon Farisani in his acceptance speech mentioned that this doctoral degree is too heavy for him to carry alone. He said the doctoral degree he received belongs to the traditional leaders, doctors, pastors, his family, and employees who kept and took care of him during the struggle of Apartheid. Dr. Farisani encouraged the graduates to make use of the degrees that they have received and that these degrees should serve the people. Dr. Farisani thanked the University of Venda for honoring him.



*Dr. Bernard Nthambeleni and Prof Tshilidzi Marwala*

The outgoing Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UJ, Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala who is also the incoming Rector of the United Nations University from 01 March 2023, said he is honoured to receive the honorary doctoral degree from the University of Venda.

He mentioned that an honour from the University of Venda is the most remarkable and unique to him and special to them all. He said the honorary degree is special because the University of Venda and its emergence in 1982 stood as a beacon of promise, hope, and a better future which is education.

Prof. Marwala stated that he feels happy to be honoured here in Venda where he was born and bred. He paid tribute to the graduates who walked the stage on this notable graduation. He urged the graduates to work hard in their respective fields and contribute positively to the country's socio-economic development. Prof. Marwala further advised the graduates to go and change the world for the better."



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Prof. Bernard Nthambeleni, expressed his deepest gratitude and celebration to both Prof. Marwala and Reverend, Dr. Farisani for accepting the Honorary Doctoral Degrees at the University of Venda. Dr. Nthambeleni alluded that the Honorary Doctoral Degree recipients are the individuals who contributed profoundly to the progress of human society and academic research. Both Reverend, Dr. Farisani and Prof. Marwala had made immense contributions to the development of our country, continent, and the world.

When conveying his congratulatory message to the graduates, he said "we are immensely proud of your achievements, your unique experiences, and the life stories that each of you brought to our University. Over the past few years, we have seen you grow and flourish despite many challenges and obstacles that characterised our national Post School Education and Training sector.

He thanked graduates for choosing the University of Venda as their preferred partner of choice in their quest to attain higher education qualifications.

"We are confident that the knowledge and life skills that you have acquired during your stay at this University would enable you to make a great difference to your respective communities," he added.

Dr. Nthambeleni advised the graduates that as they leave UNIVEN, they must remain ethical in their conduct, and abhor bribery and corruption. He congratulated the academic, administrative, and service staff for guiding and offering tremendous support in the graduates' journey. Dr. Nthambeleni pointed out that Universities must be catalysts for building inclusive societies. Universities such as UNIVEN should play their role as key institutions in the processes of social change and development.

As per the University of Venda's motto "Creating future leaders" there is no sector in this country where you would not encounter a UNIVEN graduate.

"As one of the six Comprehensive universities in South Africa, the University of Venda continually strives to deliver robust teaching, cutting edge research, and impactful community engagement of the highest quality for our citizens."

He highlighted that the University of Venda is one of the fastest-growing universities in Southern Africa in terms of the depth of its academic staff, students' output, throughput, and quality of research output.

"Despite many challenges that confront our country and its Post School Education and Training system, the University of Venda has relatively remained stable and is a well-managed institution of higher learning which adheres to prudent financial management principles."



## UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor advises graduates to remain ethical in their conduct and abhor bribery and corruption continued...



Group photo at the Life Sciences Building



UNIVEN EMC pose for a photo with Dr Tshenuwani Farisani (2nd from left) and Prof Tshildtzi Marwala (2nd from right)



Dr Tshenuwani Farisani, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Prof Tshildtzi Marwala



UNIVEN Choir

# Dr Bernard Nthambeleni is amongst the four scholar honourees who received Tshivhase Dynasty Awards



On Saturday, 26 November 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni was formally recognised as one of the scholars who have made a mark globally who comes from the Tshivhase Dynasty.



When rendering the purpose of the event, Khosi Vho-TN Shavhani said the purpose of the event was to honour leaders who have made a mark in other people's lives locally and globally. "We are gathered here to honour scholars for their outstanding works." He said this is a great moment of its kind. It is his majesty's wish that it is not your aptitude that determines your future but your attitude that will lead you towards achieving your goals. Nothing is impossible with God. This was the first time the Tshivhase Royal house was hosting that kind of event.

His Majesty MPK Tshivhase mentioned that these honourees are true innovators, discoverers, and leaders. "These are world class leaders who are doing wonders globally. We are very happy for these scholar honourees.

"Well done and keep your light shining for all. Do more and encourage others to do likewise. Let's fight poverty and job scarcity. Receive this award as a symbol of recognition. Those who received this light shall not walk in darkness. Let your light shine upon all."

He said the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Bernard Nthambeleni was honoured for being the first Vice-Chancellor and Principal from Tshivhase Dynasty to lead the University of Venda since the University was established in 1982.

Other people who were honoured were Prof Mashudu Tshifularo who is the first black Otolaryngologist and is also coming from Tshivhase Dynasty, Dr Vhutshilo Netshituni-Leoff who is the first black female Paediatric Oncologist in South Africa, and Prof Tshilidzi Marwala who is the first African Rector to lead the United Nations University coming from Tshivhase Dynasty.



*Congratulatory messages were rendered by the Chairperson of the Vhembe District DS-National Education Collaboration Trust, Judge J Raulinga; Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Northwest University, Prof Bismark Tyobeka; Tshivhase Dynasty and Development Foundation Trust, Khosi Vho-Muelekanyi Tshivhase and Hon Mavhungu Maureen Lerule-Ramakhanya.*



From the Tshivhase Dynasty, Khosi Vho-Muelekanyi Tshivhase said they are happy and proud that their own people are top scholars and are adding value to this continent and the whole world. He congratulated the awarded top scholars and said they have made the Tshivhase Dynasty very proud.

In his acceptance speech, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni wished that these awards would change the mindset of our people who say education won't change anything. He said education should be able to give a solution to all our challenges.

"I accept this award not on my behalf but also on behalf of lot of people who have also contributed in me being where I am today. I feel honoured to be one of the award recipients." He said his grandmother and the family has encouraged him to be where he is today.

"We attain different types of education so that we can serve our communities. He appreciated the responsibility tasked to create future leaders. As institutions of higher learning, we need to provide relevant solutions to the challenges face by societies. As leaders we carry responsibility who don't only excel in their field but those who contribute towards finding solutions for our people." He thanked the leadership of Tshivhase Dynasty for honouring him and others with those awards.

Prof Mashudu Tshifularo was represented by the younger sister to accept the award on his behalf.

Hon Minister Mamoloko Kubayi, congratulated awards recipients and said these awards recipients have left the mark in their respective fields. "These recipients have proved that we cannot be spectators while people from other countries are doing wonders. The achievements of these awards recipients are not only for Vhavenda but for all Africans and the global village." She told young people to learn from these awards recipients. This makes us proud as government. You are a treasure from which our people will draw wisdom from.

In his Keynote Address, Tshwane University of Technology Vice-Chancellor, Prof Tinyiko Maluleke congratulated the awardees. He said Prof Nthambeleni has a rare distinction who has graduated his PhD cumlaude. "Today the Tshivhase Dynasty has done something that does not happen frequently. The four scholar leaders deserve this honour. These four scholar luminaries are spiritual children of Prof Victor Ralushai. The four honourees give us the courage to even achieve more, to achieve things that we never thought we could achieve. Tshivhase Dynasty has done a rare thing of beauty. The future belongs to all these scholar Honourees." Said Prof Maluleke.

**"The achievements of these awards recipients are not only for Vhavenda but for all Africans and the global village."**



# UNIVEN, the World Food Programme, and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development commit to fight hunger through Rural Transformation

The University of Venda (UNIVEN), World Food Programme (WFP) and Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) jointly hosted a Food Security Information Day under the theme 'Fighting hunger through rural transformation'. The event was held at the UNIVEN Sport Hall where smallholder farmers were given an opportunity to display and sell their fresh and processed produce. Stalls were set up outside though they extended all the way into the foyer of the Sport Hall. The major highlight of the day was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNIVEN and the WFP.



Welcoming guests during the briefing session, the UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni reiterated UNIVEN's deep commitment to dealing with sustainability issues. "As a University, we assume relevance when our work impacts communities and societies positively." Dr Nthambeleni noted that the theme of the Food Security Information Day was well aligned with what UNIVEN does on a daily basis. "The University belongs to the communities. Let us work together to change the dire situation our people find themselves in," he added.

The Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture Prof Jude Julius Owuor Odhiambo was the Programme Director during this event. He stressed that the Information Day was organised to showcase the interrelated roles that the university plays and establish how, collaborating with other key players, it could contribute to the attainment of food security in our country.



Dr Tiwonge Machiwenyika delivered the keynote address on behalf of the World Food Programme Regional Director for Southern Africa. He revealed that it was an immense privilege for the WFP to partner with UNIVEN, which was celebrating its 40th birthday. He highlighted that the event presented the WFP with a rare opportunity to discuss with UNIVEN, which is rural area-based, and work together to address the food and nutrition security threats facing Southern Africa. "Food production is one of the most important challenges for everyone." This challenge is partly due to the fact that there has never been much progress in addressing the nagging issue of land availability. Africa is the biggest continent in the world and should be making land readily available for farmers. As Africans, we need to address our challenges. We need to be determined in dealing with hunger within our continent. Food security is everyone's business. Over the last year, the WFP had the opportunity to meet key stakeholders to discuss the issue of food security."

Clr Avhashoni Tshifhango, representing Vhembe District Municipality, said the District and Local Municipalities were prepared to work hard to make land available for those who want to cultivate it. This would enable local people to effectively fight poverty. Cllr Tshifhango said the Covid-19 pandemic, which worsened food scarcity, affected every country in the world. He indicated that the war between Ukraine and Russia made the situation even worse. "Today as we speak, food prices are extremely high due to skyrocketing fuel prices caused by the war in Ukraine. We have many emerging farmers here who need support for them to produce better. They are doing a lot and we have to give them the necessary support. Entering the market is also another challenge that confronts smallholder farmers. The issue of water worsens the challenges that the farmers face." Cllr Tshifhango promised that Municipalities would play their roles with the aim of ensuring that the challenges were addressed.



Some farmers displaying the products that they were selling



However, he revealed that water and land scarcity were twin challenges that continued to hamper farming. As he delivered his message of support, Mr Mathidi noted the need for the government to make sure that it availed land to those who wanted to farm. "Also, as farmers, we need water, there is no farming that can be successfully conducted without water. Nowadays, we cannot rely on rain because of climate change. Due to climate change, we need to change the kind of crops that we are growing. Without support, farming will be difficult for farmers. We really need both the government and community to support us," he emphasised.



Some UNIVEN staff members buying fresh vegetables from farmers

Mr Hlalanathi Fundzo, the Special Advisor to the WFP Director for the Southern African Region said that the World Food Programme wanted to make sure that everyone had enough food to eat every day. "No one should go to bed hungry. That is why we are partnering with UNIVEN to address the challenge of food scarcity. We are here to make sure that we reinforce harmony as we confront hunger." He called for research and technology that boost the production of food.



Discussing how to become a poultry farmer

Presenting the context of food and nutrition security in Limpopo Province, Mr ML Mariba, the Acting Vhembe District Director, LDARD explained that food security only existed when everyone had all the means to access food. As the LDARD, "We are more focused on water saving technology that is needed to boost production. We strive to use less water and produce more food. We need academics to come to the party and assist in addressing the challenges that farmers face on daily basis. We are moving towards the times when everything becomes digitised. We are confident that through partnerships like this, these challenges will be addressed."



Mr Tshiane Mathidi, the Chairperson of the Vhembe District Farmers Association, expressed the view that the information day was an incredibly significant milestone.



Some vegetables on display and sold during the Food Security Information Day



# UNIVEN, the World Food Programme, and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development continued...



Ms Mulalo Maumela, the Deputy Chairperson of the UNIVEN Postgraduate Studies Committee, delivered a message of support. She applauded the birth of the partnership between UNIVEN and WFP, indicating that it was an important achievement because of its potential to assist farmers to produce more food and give them access to markets. She stressed the importance of strengthening research in efforts to address the challenges that farmers continued to face. "Postgraduate students must be given opportunities to contribute solutions to food and nutrition insecurity through research that leads to action."



Ms Sephiwe Lubisi, representing the Directorate of Legal Services at the University of Venda facilitated the signing of the MoU.



The Director of Community Engagement at UNIVEN, Prof Vhonani Netshandama,

delivered the vote of thanks. She indicated that the signing of the MoU excited her especially in light of the fact that UNIVEN was striving to enhance its relevance and have impact in society. In this regard, it was crucial

for UNIVEN and the WFP to work together to finding solutions to the numerous challenges that smallholder farmers, most of whom operating in the deep rural areas of Southern Africa, face.



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UNIVEN) and Dr Tiwonge Machiwenyika (representing the WFP Director for Southern Africa) signing the MoU



Prof Nosisi Feza, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies, was elated to see such a broad range of people and organisations gathering to develop mechanisms aimed at addressing food security. Noting that food scarcity was a global challenge, she pointed out that "We need to produce quality food. This region produces a lot of food. It is important to make sure that what we produce is quality because of health challenges that the world is facing. Let us fight for quality rather than focusing on just quantity."



Some of the attendees at the UNIVEN Sport Hall

**"This region produces a lot of food. It is important to make sure that what we produce is quality because of health challenges that the world is facing. Let us fight for quality rather than focusing on just quantity."**



A group photo taken before the event

# Convocation launches UNIVEN Gauteng Alumni Chapter

Mr Lufuno Godfrey Tshikhudo is elected unopposed to lead the Chapter

On Saturday, 12 November 2022, the University of Venda alumni from different social strata and regions of Gauteng gathered at the Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History in Pretoria to launch the UNIVEN Gauteng Alumni Chapter. This august occasion was graced by the presence of high-ranking officials, namely the Chairperson of Council, Mr Juneas Lekgetha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Teaching and Learning, Prof. Jan Crafford, the President of Convocation, Mr Sylvester Motadi, the University Registrar, Adv. Edward Lambani, Chief Financial Officer, Mr Botwe Kraziya and the Director of Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga, which makes the launch historical in the University's 40 years of existence. The honourable Justice Tshifhiwa Maumela of North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria was among the luminaries of the University alumni who attended the launch. The donors and sponsors who supported and continue to support the University were also among the guests who attended the launch.

"The University is proud to have produced luminaries among its graduates who live and work in Gauteng Province. Almost all UNIVEN graduates come from a difficult and disadvantaged past, but others made it possible - parents, families, alumni, sponsors, and donors in the last 40 years. As we build and make UNIVEN sustainable for the next 40 years, UNIVEN alumni should donate to help struggling students finish their studies."



The Chairperson of the Council, Mr Juneas Lekgetha, who attended the alumni event for the first time, welcomed the guests. In his welcome address, Mr Lekgetha pointed out that the auspicious occasion allowed every graduate to meet their new University management team. He indicated that the graduates attended the launch of the Gauteng Alumni Chapter because they wanted to see and help their University grow.



When setting the scene, the President of Convocation, Mr Sylvester Motadi, who was also the programme director, shared the purpose of the launch, which aimed at deepening relationships between the University and its alumni and uniting all classes of alumni from 1982-2022 who live and or work in Gauteng Province. The relationships envisaged are long-lasting and mutually beneficial, especially to help struggling students succeed in their studies.



As the University celebrates 40 years of existence in 2022, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Teaching and Learning, Prof. Jan Crafford, took alumni down memory lane of UNIVEN conception in 1981 and culmination in opening its doors for learning from 1982 to 2022. Prof. Crafford briefly shared with the alumni the thrusts and objectives of UNIVEN Strategic Plan (2021-2025). He also shared with alumni how they can give back to their alma mater to continue the University's journey into the next 40 years.



Other speakers include Ms Shonisani Masutha, former UNIVEN SRC Speaker of Parliament and current Convocation EXCO member who encouraged other graduates to show commitment to helping others to access the education they've attained and continuing to live the UNIVEN ethos of giving back to their University in monetary or in kind. She advised alumni who were to be elected into the Gauteng Alumni Chapter committee that they have a task to make sure that the institutional vision, mission, and values are realised.



Giving a message of support, Prof Maiwashe, the chairperson of UNIVEN Agricultural Alumni Association (UAAA) said, "Without the University, we are probably nothing. The University relies on us as its graduates. When they need us, we have to avail ourselves. We are the ambassadors and must advocate for this beloved University". Prof Maiwashe encouraged alumni to be committed and make sacrifices for their alma mater.



Mr Moudy Mudzielwana, the Managing Director of Tshikovha companies and the convener of the task team for the launch of the Gauteng Alumni Chapter, highlighted the Strategic Plan of the Convocation and where they want to see the structure going forward. He advised the new committee to lead by example.

During the discussion, question and answer session, several issues were raised: nurturing student talent, improving alumni relations database management, alumni donations, human capital development, attracting investors and making student financial assistance information available.



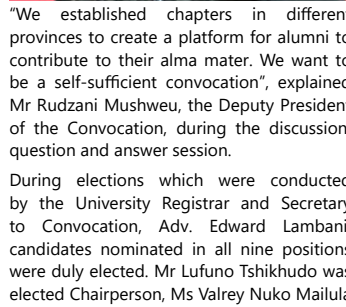
as the Deputy Secretary, Ms Jane Mufamadi as the Treasurer and additional members are Mr Ndivhuwo Nedoboni, Ms Ntji Angy Shavhangu, Mr Phumudzo Mathidzha and Ms Gugulethu Mkhabela.



In his acceptance speech, the newly elected chairperson, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo committed that he is ready to serve and as a collective, they must be philanthropists. Mr Tshikhudo made an undertaking that as a committee, they understand the task that lies ahead and will play a meaningful role of being a game changer.



The University Registrar, Adv. Edward Lambani when conducting the elections



Ms Rhuu Tshikovha, an alumna of UNIVEN, entertained the guests



Front row: Mr Eddie Gumede (Deputy Secretary), Dr Fhatuwani Mutuwhi (Secretary), Ms Jane Mufamadi (Treasurer), Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo (Chairperson), and Mr Phumudzo Mathidzha (Additional Member)  
Back row: Ms Valry Mailula (Deputy Chairperson), Ms Ntji Shabangu (Additional Member), Ms Gugulethu Mkhabela (Additional Member) and Mr Ndivhuwo Nedoboni (Additional Member)

# Supply Chain Management and Expenditure Department educates the University suppliers during the Supplier Open Day

On Tuesday, 15 November 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Supply Chain Management and Expenditure Department held the first ever UNIVEN Supplier Open Day as part of educating and creating awareness. This was an information sharing session where amongst others, the University and several stakeholders shared some processes about vendor onboarding, procurement processes and Payment, TAX matters, CIDB, CSD and other reforms. This event took place at the University Stadium and was attended by the University's current and prospective suppliers, contractors, and service providers.

Key institutions such as the South African Revenue Service (SARS), Construction Industry Development Board and the Limpopo Provincial Treasury, Banks, Accounting and Audit Firms and many other companies attended this event to also give guidance and provide services to current and prospective suppliers who were in attendance.



The General Manager Provincial SCM from Limpopo Provincial Treasury Department, Mrs B Rakubu spoke about Supply Chain Management Reforms where she highlighted ways to bid with government SCM reforms. She highlighted that, in order to do business with government, prospective suppliers and contractors should choose the right method of procurement for their business and register for tender opportunities on the E-Tender Portal that is available on the National Treasury website.

Mrs Rakubu advised business people to do registrations for themselves, they should not ask other people to register for them because most of them do not submit all necessary documents needed while others don't capture information as requested. She urged the suppliers and contractors to always make sure that they fill in their forms correctly.



Mrs Beauty Mutheiwana, Director: Supply Chain Management and Expenditure at UNIVEN spoke about how to conduct business with the University of Venda. She explained the process of registering as suppliers and applying for tenders at UNIVEN. Mrs Mutheiwana also advised suppliers to use the system on the website to register on the university database.



When welcoming and acknowledging guests, Director: Financial Management and Reporting, Mrs Mavis Madzhe said UNIVEN was hosting this event for the first time.



When giving an overview of the Supplier Open Day, UNIVEN CFO Mr Botwe Kraziya said UNIVEN saw it fit to organise this event because there was a need they wanted to meet with suppliers and organisations such as the South African Revenue Services to educate the suppliers and contractors on how to make sure that their paperwork is in good standing more especially the tax compliance.

Mr Kraziya mentioned that UNIVEN spends more than 600 million annually through procurement and expenditure. He further mentioned that UNIVEN takes care of its people hence it empowers its suppliers. "We are ethical, we don't want people who take bribes or who come here to bribe officials or staff members in exchange of tenders or any supplying job."



Some of the suppliers who attended the event seated in the tent during the event

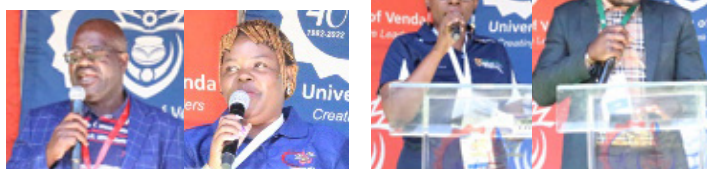


Mrs Mutheiwana with some staff members and prospective students and suppliers during the activation day

Other speakers who spoke during this event were: Mrs. M Setati from SARS who spoke about Tax education; Mr. Mornay Schafer, Director: Infinite Tax 101 spoke about Tax and Tax Compliance; Mr T Makananise presented safety rules; Mr. S Tshivhase, Growth Area Manager: ABSA spoke about ABSA Supplier Development Programme; Mr. KE Mabelebe, Provincial Manager: CIDB spoke about Compliance to the regulatory requirements for contractors bidding for construction works; Mrs. R Ramala, Director: Valuable Consulting spoke about Company Financial Record Keeping and Audit; Mr. T. Mampuru, Contract Manager: PURCOSA spoke about PURCOSA operations; Mrs. T Tshamaano, Stakeholder Relations: Makhado Musina

SEZ spoke about Economic opportunities; Ms Nokokwane from UIGC spoke about Contractor / Supplier Development Programmes; Mr. HC Madzhiabada, Chairperson: Vhembe Business Forum gave a message of support; Mr. FA Matshili, AFASA also gave a message of support from Vhembe Association of Farmers; Mrs. T Ramulondi, the Acting Director: Revenue and Financial Aid at UNIVEN gave a vote of thanks message while Dr TV Dzaga, Director Marketing, Branding and Communication directed the programme.

This University Supplier Open Day started with an activation at Mutsindo Shopping Centre where UNIVEN FM was broadcasting live from the shopping centre.



UNIVEN FM presenters posing with other UNIVEN staff members during the activation

# The University of Venda bids farewell to Director of Research and Innovation Senior Prof Geoges Ekosse



The University of Venda Vice hosted the first Vice-Chancellor's Valedictory Lecture under the theme 'Make it Happen: Shumela UNIVEN, Shumela Africa' by Director of Research and Innovation Senior Prof Geoges Ekosse who is a Senior Professor in Applied Clay Mineralogy and Environmental Geology.

Prof Ekosse further spoke about his services as a senior professor in applied clay mineralogy and environmental Sciences, also about his milestones in the past ten years during his time in UNIVEN. He thanked univen for creating the space to excel in what he loves most.



When delivering the Valedictory Lecture under the theme 'Make it happen: Shumela UNIVEN, Shumela Africa,' Senior Prof George's Ekosse, Director Research and Innovation and senior professor in applied Clay Mineralogy and Environmental geology said he has dedicated ten years of his life to the University of Venda, and he dedicated his love to the University of Venda and all his colleagues. He spoke about the 10 years he spent at UNIVEN.

Senior Prof Ekosse explained that Valedictory lecture is an academic term for the highest performing academic departing from an academic institution. He said, "I am not leaving the University of Venda, I am leaving the position. He mentioned that he will forever be an adjunct research Professor at the university of Venda because the University has been very kind to him.

Amongst other things, Senior Prof Ekosse spoke about NRF rated researchers, Adjunct professorship, matters pertaining to ethics, research projects, research publications, national conference support, 771 researchers were funded to attend international conferences during his tenure as the director research and innovation. Research publications output, UNIVEN Technology Transfer, research leadership activities, Limpopo Research Forum, Provincial and national services, networking, partnerships and collaborations, continental service as a leader of the African academy of science, services as an Adjunct professor.



In his welcome message, DVC Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford said Prof Ekosse is a distinguished African scholar with leadership in research on the African continent. Prof Crafford mentioned that the term Valedictory has only been used by academics in American and English universities as a final word of advice from a departing academic he is now glad we as Africans are using it now. Prof Crafford explained Senior Prof Ekosse as a scholar who contributed to African science writings.



When introducing Senior Prof Ekosse through contributions to higher Education in Africa, DVC Teaching and Learning from University of KwaZulu Natal, Prof Sandile Songca said it is his honour to be addressing the audience during Senior Prof Ekosse's Valedictory Lecture. He spoke under the theme research leadership in clays and clay minerals in Africa, Prof Songca said Prof Ekosse introduced him to the research on soil which published books on clay minerals in Africa. He said these milestones were achieved with the

contribution of Senior Prof Ekosse. Today these books are being read globally and has benefited Africans in finding solutions about clay soil. "I am really enthused by the capacity of forward thinking by Prof Ekosse".



When speaking about research leadership in clays and clay minerals in Africa, President Geological Society of Africa Prof Gbenga Okunlola said the valedictory lecture is a celebration of a fulfilled career. He mentioned Prof Ekosse is the most prolific clay researcher in Africa, also that Prof Ekosse remains one of the highest leaders in clay research. Prof Gbenga mentioned that Prof Ekosse has been so well recognized by a lot of African organisations bodies, as he is also a member of many African research organisations.

Prof Gbenga further said Prof Ekosse has also shown research leadership in the fields of clay research collaborations. Many of his publications are co-authored by many African scholars. Prof Gbenga mentioned that Senior Prof has been supervising and grooming young clay researchers across the African continent. "He is the great son of Africa. We congratulate senior Prof for all his contributions and achievements"



When speaking about leadership in Pan African International Research, Prof David Norris, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Botswana mentioned that the new knowledge must be from research at its core. He spoke about research and innovation value chain. He said researchers need to engage at local level before they can even go to the national and international levels. "We need to empower our local communities. We need to impact lives".



On the behalf of Prof Otlotletswe Totolo, Vice-Chancellor, Botswana international university of Science and Technology, Prof JJ Olodum spoke on the continental Leadership in Higher Education Leadership and Management. In his address, Prof Olodum thanked the University of Venda's

Vice-Chancellor for organising the event of this calibre for Senior Prof Ekosse. Prof Olodum explained Senior Prof Ekosse as someone who is very passionate about the tasks given to him. He said Prof Ekosse is a very dedicated fellow who performs his work with care and with the professionalism it deserves. He referred to Prof Ekosse as having walked across borders to make sure that the academic sphere is filled with information that will educate and enrich future generations. "Prof Ekosse believes in communication". He spoke.



In his farewell message Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said this is a momentous event. This farewell lecture by Prof Ekosse comes at the time when the university of Venda is celebrating 40 years of existence. Dr Nthambeleni described Prof Ekosse as excellent at leading research. He said under Prof Ekosse's leadership, the number of rated researchers at UNIVEN has grown and that he has played a very pivotal role in the development of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

Dr Nthambeleni mentioned that Prof Ekosse also played a very impressive and important role in senior management committees. "We cannot celebrate 40 years without putting an accolade to you as a leader in research at Univen". Dr Nthambeleni described Prof Ekosse as a forceful person. He mentioned that this legacy will remain and be embedded in UNIVEN system. This is one amongst may lectures at UNIVEN, he concluded.



When giving a vote of thanks message, DVC Corporate Services, Dr. Robert Martin said when he joined UNIVEN, Prof Ekosse was one of staff members who warmly welcomed him. Structuring the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 was not an easy task but Senior Prof Ekosse has assisted in making it easier for other staff members. He said, "It has been a great joy to have worked with Senior Prof Ekosse".



Programme director, Dr TV Dzaga, Director Marketing, Branding and Communications

# CHETL Honour and Celebrate the hard work of Academic Staff and Students

On Friday, 04 November 2022, the University's Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning (CHETL) in the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning held the Teaching and Learning Day at Kalahari Waterfront to honour, celebrate and recognise academic staff members. This Teaching and Learning Day was held under the theme 'Digital transformation for sustainable teaching and learning scholarship in a comprehensive university.'



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford indicated that this Teaching and Learning Day did not take place in the past four years due to COVID19 lockdown challenges and the University saw a need to continue with it this year. Prof Crafford said during COVID-19 pandemic, the University was doing well because like many other universities, UNIVEN shifted its teaching to virtual platforms. "During COVID-19 pandemic, we have learned a lot of things of which we were not even aware. The University is now on the multi-modal teaching approach, but some modules can still be taught online. Online teaching implies engaging with students. Do not just put material online and expect students to do everything by themselves." Prof Crafford said that teaching and learning is one of the aspects of the core business of the university and it should be taken serious like any other core businesses of all universities.



Director CHETL, Dr Lindiwe Mulaudzi said this event was to recognise those who teach and make sure that students are taught and learn. She said her office applauds those who are doing well in the academic field. "We are here to celebrate our lecturers who do their work diligently despite many obstacles. We are also here to celebrate our students who soldier on despite the unfamiliar territories and the challenges that they encounter. Studies illustrate a higher degree of emotional and psychological challenges among our students since the COVID-19 impact. The next question could be: What do we do when we celebrate?"

Dr Mulaudzi said they look back and appreciate where they come from and where they are.

"We introspect our students and lecturers in the programme that will assist us in this regard. We plan forward: We need to remind ourselves of what Alvin Toffler says about the illiterates of the 21st century. He says Illiterates of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read or write but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

It is our duty to learn, relearn and unlearn as we plan, and our guest speakers are here to assist us in this regard. We need to appreciate the journey we travelled and where we are today." Dr Mulaudzi invited attendees to imagine where they want to be in the next 15 years.



Ms Munyayi represented students living with disabilities. In her message of appreciation, Ms Munyayi said the most challenging issue for people living with disabilities at UNIVEN is that there are lot of buildings that are still inaccessible on campus. She said the biggest challenge and the University can assist people with disabilities by addressing these challenges but again some of the old buildings were built without people with disabilities in mind. She said recent buildings accommodate them and are easily accessible.



Other students who spoke during the event included Mr Tanganedzani Musandiwa who highlighted the importance of mental-health issues students struggle with. Mr Musandiwa indicated that students come from diverse backgrounds with different challenges such as depression, suicidal thoughts amongst many other mental conditions, which often lead to students resorting to substance use and abuse. Furthermore, he indicated that dealing with mental health issues often requires consistency, patience, and willingness to receive the help on the part of students. He further showed his appreciation for services rendered by SCCDU to support students in need of such assistance.



Maswanganyi Matimu Cavin was among other students who were given an opportunity to speak about their experiences at UNIVEN. These students appreciated the

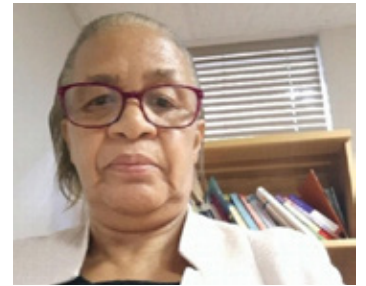
presence of teachers in class. They said this has made their lives easier. They further indicated that tutors should also be taken care of because they contribute towards creating future leaders.



Dr Cebisa Nesamvuni representing Teaching Advancement at Universities (TAU) Fellowship participants indicated that TAU Fellowship currently has seven members. She said TAU Fellowship started in 2015/2016 and takes the form of residential and distance learning and runs from July to June. She outlined all operations of TAU where she indicated that TAU Fellowship project has aligned itself with the academic programme of the University. Its focus is on student support, curriculum development and other academic activities. Only academic staff members with PhD and extensive experience in teaching and learning can be nominated into this programme.



Prof Paul Prinsloo from Unisa said the transformation process in higher education is to redefine educational services. He further indicated that the full potential of these technologies is yet to be discovered, but their impact on teaching and learning is expected to be huge. "This means higher education sector might be affected more than other sectors and education sectors need these technologies earlier than other sectors. We rent these spaces that we use to teach and learn." He indicated that there are owners of these spaces. "We are renting all these online teaching and learning platforms, we don't own them, and we also need to know what is in it for them." Amongst other things Prof Prinsloo discussed the use of social media in the academic spaces.



Prof Sheila Matoti from Central University of Technology (CUT) virtually presented about the scholarship of teaching and learning. Amongst other things, Prof Matoti spoke about Centre for Scholarly Teaching (CST); Scholarship of Teaching and Learning; Challenges in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and creating communities of practice. She proposed collaboration between UNIVEN and CUT on teaching and learning projects.



Mr Willie Xazela presented E Learning awards. Head of E Learning, Mr Willie Xazela said nominees had to meet certain standards before they could be nominated into these awards. Mr Xazela said those who made it to the minimum average were awarded according to e-learning policy. He explained categories for selecting users. "We also looked at the consistencies of users until end of the 2022 first semester.



In her vote of thanks message, Head: Disabled Student Unit, Dr Tshifiwa Mbuvha indicated that these E-Learning awards ceremony was held for the first time at UNIVEN.



Awards winners

# Faculty of Health Sciences hosts the first Oath-Taking of 187 Health Professionals in Training



The Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Venda hosted the first Oath-Taking ceremony outside the University graduation. The faculty, guests from different hospitals, parents and other sister institutions, witnessed 187 students undergo oath-taking.



"These changes have afforded our faculty to design the ceremony in the best way we feel it will enhance the confidence of our students joining the various institutions after completion of their studies. The ceremony also serves to remind our outgoing students of their respective responsibility over the patients, clientele, and communities that they will be serving", these were the words by the Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi. The Oath-Taking ceremony took place on Thursday, 08 December 2022 at the University Auditorium.

When the Acting Executive Dean delivered the welcome speech, she indicated that the faculty received approval that the Oath-Taking ceremony should take place outside the graduation ceremony. Furthermore, she alluded that this would enhance serious conscience amongst our students and ensure that they are fully prepared to take up placement and job opportunities immediately after completion.

Prof Mulaudzi informed the guests that they decided to extend oath-taking not only to the nursing students but also to include other allied health professions such as Psychology, Nutrition as well as Biokinetics. She said "We trust that this approach will not be only a mere show-off, but an opportunity for our students to reflect on the responsibilities before them. As she continues, she mentioned that these groups are continuously regulated by professional bodies to ensure discipline among their members. Prof Mulaudzi highlighted that our country and its people deserve committed and ethical leaders and we should be

motivated by our University's motto "creating future leaders". She called on students to refrain from corruption, illtreatment of patients and clients which should be the order of the past. She concluded her welcome remarks by saying "Africa should begin at UNIVEN through Ubuntu practices". She called upon everyone who is a product of UNIVEN to commit to all possible human ethical and professional integrity.



The Interim Deputy Dean of Teaching and Learning, Dr Lindelani Mushaphi outlined the purpose of taking the oath which is to make the students understand their duties and responsibilities as professionals. After this solemn ceremony, it is expected that the students will have greater confidence in caring for their patients and the communities they will serve. The reason for implementing the pledge as an honorable oath for the nurses was to make sure that the ideal nurse is created in front of all so that they can follow the ethical grounds of the field of nursing.

The ceremony was decorated by dignitaries from the University of Venda, representatives from various hospitals, parents as well as students. Prof Sonto Mapatle from the Faculty of Health Sciences at UNIVEN made an introduction to the guest speaker.



The guest speaker Ms Aluwani Esther Manenzhe, Acting Allied Health Manager at Tshilidzini Hospital presented a thought-provoking address. She highlighted the significance of the attitude the students should develop towards nursing the sick.

She advised the students that they will be professionals in training for their entire life. She told the students that when they formally enter the world of health scientists, they should remember that they are in the field of science where they solve problems. "We are innovative, and we evaluate the environment and appropriateness of our service", she said. She referred them to the year 2020 which has been a roller coaster year for the whole world. "We have all been in a space where fear, isolation, and threat became a norm, but students had to adjust to new learning methods, studying alone and meeting deadlines". In this process, they dealt with real-life situations such as ESKOM blackouts, connectivity, and online exams. She indicated that in this profession, they served when everyone went into hiding. Healthcare services responded to the health needs of 2020. She further encouraged students to be there when people need them. Ms Manenzhe emphasised that the oath that they are taking symbolises that they will take charge of the challenges they face. "Our success is measured on two things only, how well we respond to the needs and how well our clients experience our service", said Manenzhe.

Ms Manenzhe finally advised the students of a few things when entering the working environment. She talked about the attitude that may impact personal ability to adapt to new environment. Talking about confidence, she encouraged them to always regulate their confidence. "The common saying is that you need to be confident; however, be aware of how your confidence comes across to those you serve and work with. Humility goes a long way in balancing your confidence and competence. You need to build an unquestionable reputation", continued Ms Manenzhe. When it comes to respect, she said, "put value on the client's time and trust. By the time you seek help you will have tried different things. Your client's experience of service will determine how successful your practice is as a professional. It is an honour to welcome you to the health fraternity in South Africa. Be the change you want to see. Serve those you lead, and they will make you their leader", concluded Ms Aluwani Manenzhe.



Mr Hulisani Makhado, a final year student for Bachelor of Nursing responded on behalf of the students. In his response representing the junior professionals to be, he thanked the UNIVEN family, the Faculty of Health Sciences in particular, for nurturing their career since day one. Hulisani also acknowledged mentors from different hospitals for giving them practical guidance. Mr Makhado indicated that they have had trials and tribulations along the way like COVID-19 that made them adjust to the new way of learning, which was not conducive, but they made it this far. In his conclusion, he said "When going out in the working environment, let us be the leaders that UNIVEN has created."



The programme was facilitated by Mr Takalani Nyelisi who is the Faculty Manager.



The Head of Public Health, Prof Ntsieni Mashau in her vote of thanks, thanked all who participated in the success of the oath-taking event and made it a memorable one. She appreciated the students for coming in numbers considering the fact that they were coming from different provinces.

**"When going out in the working environment, let us be the leaders that UNIVEN has created."**

## Faculty of Health Sciences hosts the first Oath-Taking of 187 Health Professionals in Training continued...



# Staff members attend the Workshop on Capacity Development on One Health in Action

The Human, animal, and environment interface is very important to predict upcoming human and animal diseases (e.g., Coronavirus and Ebola). One Health in action aims to clearly define roles and responsibilities shared by all the collaborating parties including the University of Venda (UNIVEN) on how to manage human and animal diseases as well as environmental health to be a step ahead of future threats to human, animal, and environmental health as well as pandemics.

Prof N Potgieter, Prof AN Traore, Dr JP Kabue, Dr S Obadire, Dr J Netshipale and two Postdoctoral fellows, Dr E Ledwaba and Dr M Rikhotso, represented the University of Venda during the ERASMUS ELEPHANT project workshops held in the Netherlands and Italy as part of the capacity development of staff and postgraduate students on ONE HEALTH. Workshop topics covered the interface between Animal, Human disease, and Environmental health. The workshop on Capacity development on One Health in Action took place in Europe from 01 – 15 October 2022 in Utrecht (Netherlands) and Bologna (Italy). The workshops were attended by international participants from five (05) institutions in South Africa (Universities of Limpopo, Pretoria, Mpumalanga, and Fort Hare, and the Southern African Wildlife College), and 2 European institutions (Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and the University of Bologna in Italy).

In both workshops, staff and students were divided into interinstitutional multidisciplinary teams, who worked together on issues about: i. adequate collection of information/samples, ii. completion of checklists for the assessment of environmental and management health and welfare risks, iii. Interpretation of collected data and performing a health risk analysis and performing associated comprehensive assessments, iv. identification and evaluation of animal health and welfare,



Workshop participants (University of Utrecht, Netherlands)

and associated environmental issues, v. conducting field/farm visits and using the knowledge generated to design case studies, vi. designing a Public Awareness Campaign, vii. analysing international funding calls, gathering necessary information, identifying relevant stakeholders and advisers, identifying collaborators, and preparing the documents for submission, and viii. analysing the degree of 'One Healthiness' of scientific research. The information and knowledge gained through this opportunity enhanced the way the One Health research group at UNIVEN designed their research projects to obtain information during research projects.



Participants from UNIVEN at Hotel de Biltsche Hoek, Utrecht



Some of the workshop participants (University of Bologna, Bertinoro, Italy)



# UNIVEN Student Counselling and Career Development Unit appreciates Peer-helpers



The University of Venda's Student Counselling and Career Development Unit hosted Peer-helper appreciation day. This event took place at Porche-Villa Hotel on Monday, 07 November 2022.

SCCDU. The appreciation ceremony is key as celebrating Peer-helpers being part of the SCCDU extend the services to many students. She applauded them for being excellent leaders within the UNIVEN community.



In her welcome message, Dr Gloria Dama said the event was a token of appreciation for peer helpers who were working restlessly to make sure that the needs of students are met. "We appreciate you for the good work that you have done for UNIVEN and yourselves since the beginning of the year."



Dr Refilwe Pila-Nemutandani, Head of SCCDU indicated that this is a time of reflection and appreciation to improve services offered at



In her vote of thanks message, Dr Morongwa Takalani highly appreciated the decent work that they have been doing for the unit and for students.



Ms Sharon Sikhwa who was the programme director also represented SRC. She thanked the Peer-helpers and said, "It is because of you that students know where to go with their mental health issues." She said as the SRC they are thankful that the unit exists and is there to help students deal with problems such as depression. She encouraged that the SCCDU host mental awareness campaigns frequently.



Peer helpers indicated that they have assisted many students this year. Gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity afforded to them to assist many people was highlighted. Peer helpers were given an opportunity to share their experiences, lessons learnt and solutions to challenges experienced throughout the 2022 academic year.



On behalf of CHETL Director, Dr Lindiwe Mulaudzi, Dr Tshifhiwa Mbuva said it was heartwarming to see young people giving their all-in helping others to overcome challenges. She mentioned that peer helpers can bridge the age gap between the students and counsellors. "The peer helpers put some flavor on the SCCDU unit. You tried helping with issues because you also could relate to the problems out there." She said to the Peer-helpers. She wished them well in their future endeavors and encouraged them to always be ambassadors of peer helping. "Go out there to impart the skills you have learnt." She said.

In her closing remarks Dr Pila-Nemutandani said the SCCDU has planted the seed on fertile ground and great leaders are awaited. She appreciated the Peer-helpers for the dedication, respect, maintaining confidentiality, empathy, and challenging work they have shown in helping others. She further indicated that the peer helper demonstrated flexibility and resilience and were able to think out of the box.

Dr Pila-Nemutandani further said this group is ready to face the world, "they have indeed shown that they are future leaders." She advised them to behave and conduct themselves well in their future endeavors and encouraged them to represent UNIVEN well and hoist the University flag high.

# UNIVEN and UL's Faculties of Health Sciences hosted the Second Biennial Health Conference on Sustainable Development

UNIVEN and UL's Faculties of Health Sciences hosted the Second Biennial Health Conference on Sustainable Development Goals under the theme: "Towards the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 3, Agenda 2030"



The 2nd Biennial Health Research Conference was held from the 21st to the 23rd of September 2022. The conference's main purpose was to emphasize and highlight three core functions of the university which are: teaching and learning, research as well as community engagement were said to underpin the purpose and realisation of the conference including strengthening of the collaboration between the two universities.

This conference was also geared towards ensuring that UL Strategic Plan 2019-2023 Goal 5 which is to "Improve University's research Standing and Status" and UNIVEN Strategic Plan 2021-2025 which focuses on "Engaged Scholarship and Impactful research" benefit both universities economically and provide solutions to local communities. These goals are operational at the faculty level of both universities.

The 2022 Second Biennial Health Conference received 64 oral and 13 poster presentations. The accepted abstracts covered the topics aimed at addressing all targets of SDG 3. The theme was designed for attendees to learn, engage, network, and identify concrete opportunities for research collaborations that would accelerate the achievements of the SDG 3 targets.



In her opening and welcome message, DVC Research and Postgraduate studies, Prof Nosisi Feza mentioned that during the most dangerous levels of COVID-19, health researchers were our only hope. She continued to mention that health practitioners risked their lives and families because of the commitment they had made to save lives.

She emphasised that health practitioners have a role in every aspect of every field. Prof Feza continued to emphasise that the greater part of our country is dirty, and therefore, it is the duty of health practitioners to teach people about the danger of garbage piling. She said people need health practitioners to educate them on how to maintain and live healthy lifestyles. She encouraged delegates to engage with the presentations to help people live healthy lifestyles.



The Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi acknowledged and introduced guests. The introduced guests were Prof Tebogo Maria Mothiba, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Limpopo; Mr. Nthambeleni Mukwevho, Limpopo Province Provincial Head, Statistics South Africa; Ms Yvonne Mashele, Director of Statistical Support and Coordination in statistics SA, Limpopo Province. Prof Fhumulani Mulaudzi, Professor of Nursing and SARChI (Ubuntu community model of nursing) at the University of Pretoria. As well as Prof Sphiwe Madiba who is Research Professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Limpopo.

Prof Mulaudzi further acknowledged and appreciated the role that is played by Prof Rachel Lebesse, Research Professor from UNIVEN's Faculty of Health Sciences who spent sleepless nights ensuring that the conference becomes a success.



In his keynote address, Mr. Nthambeleni Mukwevho, the Provincial Head of Statistics South Africa based in Limpopo Province, mentioned that it is an honor for him to be addressing the Second Biennial Health Conference on the Sustainable Development Goal 3 target themed "Towards realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 3, Agenda 2030."

He mentioned that he was delighted to witness the first-hand collaboration between the University of Venda and the University of Limpopo on scientific work to identify opportunities for research collaborations that will accelerate the achievement of targets for Sustainable Development Goal number 3 (SDG 3).

Mr Mukwevho continued to mention that SDG 3 is on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

He further mentioned that the last SDG country report that was published by Statistics South Africa in 2019 indicated that South Africa had made notable progress in reducing the maternal mortality ratio, the under-5 mortality rate, neonatal mortality rate, and the infant mortality rate. Mr Mukwevho highlighted that the number of HIV-positive infections had also slowed down and the incidence of tuberculosis has declined. Despite this significant progress, the reported incidence of HIV and tuberculosis remained significantly high. None of the SDGs can be achieved by any single entity without the full participation of all social partners and without the research work done at universities.



When opening the conference on day two, Research Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at UNIVEN, Prof Rachel Lebesse said people cannot talk about change if they do not include the communities in their SDG plans.



As the keynote speaker on the second day of the conference, Director of Statistics Support and Coordination at Statistics South Africa (Limpopo Province), Ms. Yvonne Mashele, said in 2015 the United Nations decided to revamp the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by introducing the SDGs to close the loopholes that existed in the MDGs and to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and further respond to new challenges identified.

She said 193 countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 goals, 169 targets, and 231 indicators as a framework to guide global development for the subsequent fifteen years.



During the gala dinner and awards ceremony, a Nursing Professor who is also the SARChI Chair (Ubuntu community model of nursing), Prof Fhumulani Mulaudzi gave the keynote address about Africa's readiness to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3 where she asked the question of whether Ubuntu philosophy could be the solution?

Prof Mulaudzi mentioned that SDG 3 aspires to ensure the health and well-being of all, including a commitment to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and other communicable diseases by 2030.

The awards were presented to participants in the following categories as indicated below:

1. Undergraduate oral presentation winners
  1. Chikara AT
  2. Themane KJ
  3. Mudau ZP,
2. Postgraduate Oral Presentation winners
  1. Gause G
  2. Rangwaneni ME
  3. Kgatla MN,
3. Staff Oral Presentation winners
  1. Manganye BS
  2. Maphula A
  3. Rasweswe MM,
4. Postgraduate Poster Winners
  1. Masuwa R
  2. Musekwa OP
  3. Luvhengo M



The programme was directed by the International Relations and Partnerships Officer, Mr Thabo Dikgale.



Award winners

## UNIVEN and UL's Faculties of Health Sciences hosted the Second Biennial Health Conference on Sustainable Development continued...



In her vote of thanks at the gala dinner, Prof Sphiwe Madiba thanked sponsors for making sure that they bring joy to the winners and encourage the winners to work even harder.



On the third day of the conference a panel discussion as well as presentations were undertaken to position the UBUNTU approach within various disciplines.



In her congratulatory speech, Prof Tebogo Maria Mothiba urged participants to trust each other going forward to secure the collaboration. She congratulated all presenters and told them that they are on the right path but not an easy one. She concluded her talk by encouraging presenters to keep doing well-thought research. All universities which participated in the conference were invited to join the collaboration.



In his closing remarks, Prof Lufuno Makhado mentioned that he was delighted with the success of the conference. He further said that he believes that the conference had an impact and insightful interactive discussions and a great chance to share the outcomes of our research.



During this programme, there was a candlelight ceremony facilitated by Ms. Offhani Musekwa from UNIVEN Faculty of Health Sciences. The ceremony was dedicated

to loved ones lost during the Covid-19 pandemic. This session was marked with candle lighting in remembrance of all the departed loved ones and ended with a prayer.

## UNIVEN hosts the Second DAAD DIES National Multiplication Training Workshop 2022

The University of Venda's Office of International Relations and Partnerships recently hosted the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) National Multiplication Training Workshop. This workshop took place from 08-10 November 2022 at the University's Research Conference Centre. This training was a follow-up to a workshop that was held at the University of the Free State on 01 – 03 March 2022. Both workshops were hybrid. UNIVEN and UFS jointly organised the DIES National Multiplication Training (NMT) co-funded by the DAAD, UNIVEN being the lead applicant for the programme. The programme consists of two workshops, as well as work on a specific project of internationalisation by participants. The training course methodologically focuses on the practical aspects of comprehensive internationalisation. The participants learned about 'good practice' examples and then apply the acquired knowledge at their home universities. This training course positions UNIVEN as an emerging leader

in internationalisation within South Africa's higher education sector.

Participants of this workshop were from universities of Venda, Free State, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Zululand, Mpumalanga, Walter Sisulu, Mangosuthu University of Technology, Tshwane University of Technology, and Central University of Technology.



The Acting Director International Relations and Partnerships, Dr Segun Obadire welcomed delegates from various universities

where he mentioned that these universities were not there to compete but to assist each other to solve challenges for the world. Dr Obadire also presented on competencies and key tasks of international Offices to manage mobility programmes. Amongst others, he spoke about relevant competencies required in the Internationalisation space. His presentation further discussed challenges faced by Internationalisation officers in the Higher Education Institutions and other mechanisms on how to recruit international students.



Director for the Office for International Affairs at the University of Free State, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier said the programme is an enriching and fulfilling one, and thanked UNIVEN for hosting it. Dr Hagenmeier further presented about the Internationalisation of office structures and tasks in practice: Case study of the University of Free State. He advised leaders and managers not to micromanage staff. "Invest your time in building your team. Be strategic about international partnerships. We need to be strategic but not be the masters of everything."



When speaking about the scholarship of Internationalisation, Prof Lynette Jacobs advised attendees to be innovative because the world is fast moving from where we were ten (10) years ago into the new space. "If you do not keep up, you will be left behind. There is a need to advance the scholarship of Internationalisation."

All the participants were required to make presentations on the projects that they have worked on, some of which included the following:

- Development of the recruitment strategy at universities;
- Review of the internationalisation policy aligning it to the Policy Framework of internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa;
- Effective, Sustainable, Transformative and Comprehensive Partnerships @ UNIVEN;
- Resourcing internationalisation at home: making it everyone's business;
- Systematic Internationalisation for change through a Sustainable Community of Practice.

The key outcome of the programme is the establishment of an internationalisation Community of Practice, which will be coordinated by the University of Venda and the University of the Free State.



Group photo of some of the attendees

# UNIVEN Celebrated 2022 End of Year in Style



Some of the retirees pose for a photo and show off their certificates

The University of Venda hosted the Annual Year End function on Tuesday, 06 December 2022 at the University Stadium. All staff members gathered to celebrate a successful academic year and bid farewell to 22 retirees who have contributed immensely towards the growth and betterment of the University's core business. Out of the 22 retirees, 13 were male and nine (09) were female.

The University celebrated its year-end function in style where the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni honoured 41 employees (25 male and 16 female) in recognition of their dedication, loyalty and service to the University. Those staff members were awarded long service award certificates. 22 staff members received awards for serving the University for 10 years, while 13 were awarded for 20 years and six (06) for serving the University for 30 years.



During this event, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal appreciated and thanked everyone for all their efforts throughout the 2022 academic year. Dr Nthambeleni said, "the success of our University is built on your efforts as dedicated staff, the many successes we have seen and enjoyed are due to you."

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal shared some highlights of the academic year 2022 which include: Full accreditation of the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting/CTA from SAICA and CHE that will be offered from 2024; Infrastructure development (Health Sciences building, Mvelaphanda Male and Female Residences, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education building). He also reported on the major renovations of the Main Administration building and construction of Punda maria road and gate that will commence in January 2023; Business Advisory Centre in Makhado Crossing Mall, 30-hectare land received from Makhado Municipality for the development of a new satellite campus; inauguration of the first female Chancellor, Adv Mojanku Gumbi; the development and empowerment of women which remains central to our agenda; launch of the Vice-Chancellor's Merit Bursary Fund; launch of the University Advancement Unit; official launch of four New Extramural Research Units by South African Medical Research Council; Vuwani Science Resource Centre's prestigious 2021/2022 NSTF – South32 Award in Science Communication; and many more.

"As this is the last event of the year, ending our 40th Anniversary, I am happy that the Marketing, Branding and Communication

team had considered it necessary to celebrate this day with all staff in this fashion where we have invited artists, in particular our well-known musician, Makhadzi to come and mark the end of 2022 academic year with all of us".

Dr Nthambeleni in his capacity as the Vice-Chancellor and Principal wished all the employees the very best festive season and looking forward to welcoming all staff back, refreshed for what will be an exciting new academic year, 2023.



Dr Robert Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, in his welcome remarks said it would be appropriate that we start by giving thanks and praise to our Lord and Saviour who brought us thus far. He further thanked students for entrusting us with this huge privilege. Dr Martin also thanked and cherished the families for being of service. He thanked the retirees for being able to stay all these years with their loyalty, hard work and dedication. He wished them a blessed new phase in their lives.



When acknowledging the retirees, the Director of Human Resources, Mrs Uanda Ndou, indicated that the concept of retirement was formalised in 1889 by German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. He wanted them to address youth unemployment and he suggested that those over 70 would sit at home and be paid. Although youth unemployment is still a problem, "we want to say to the retirees that you have contributed to the graduation of many students, the success of many families and you have helped



Recipients of the long service award certificates and members of the executive management

us to create future leaders. Today is about celebrating those who have contributed to building UNIVEN," highlighted Mrs Ndou.



Speaking on behalf of the retiring Service staff, Mr Elijah Magoro from the Protection Services Department who started working at the University in 1986, thanked the University for always taking care of its employees. He encouraged his colleagues in the Protection Services to continue working together as a team to protect the University.

us came here because we saw potential, we were not here to make money. I will not be doing justice if I do not say UNIVEN should aim to be a centre of excellence. UNIVEN is the centre of excellence for the community around us and it is up to you to ensure whatever position you have you execute with excellence."



The University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani when proposing a vote of thanks, appreciated all the University staff for coming together to celebrate the developments and achievements of the University. He thanked the retirees for the outstanding work they have done for the University. Adv Lambani encouraged those who are retiring to live life to the fullest. He said "you are not exiting but you are starting to live better. From the grey hair is where we get wisdom. Give us advice as we continue with our lives. Your encouragement and guidance are needed. You have done an excellent job."



The admin retirees were represented by Mr Tshilidzi Mmbadi, School Administration Officer in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education. He said that the remaining staff should hold the bar higher and continue to uphold the name of UNIVEN. "When we joined the University, we were very young and we were brought up by this University. We are on a journey which ends today. We did a lot of things and encountered many challenges. He thanked the Admin staff for making sure that students are admitted and registered. He finally commended the University for the registration processes that have improved tremendously.



Staff members enjoyed the live performance by Makhadzi.



Prof Ainamensa Mchau, Head of Plant and Soil Science Department in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, spoke on behalf of the Academic staff who are retiring. Prof Mchau said "it was a privilege to work at the University of Venda. "A lot of

# Maniini Primary School hands over a Certificate of Appreciation to UNIVEN



As part of the University Strategic objective 3: strengthening the engagement of students, staff and community stakeholders, The University of Venda (UNIVEN) embarked on a journey to Maniini Primary School to donate brand new school shoes to the learners. Few weeks after UNIVEN donated school shoes, Maniini Primary School representatives handed a certificate to UNIVEN to show their appreciation.



A representative from Maniini primary school said when they heard that UNIVEN is turning 40 years, of which is a great milestone, they felt the need to show gratitude by handing over a certificate of appreciation.



In his remarks, Director Student Affairs Department, Mr Azwidowi Mukheli said that it is an honour to know that our good work did not go unnoticed. It is our duty to do community engagement projects and we know that some of the learners who we donated the shoes to, will come back to enrol at UNIVEN after completing their matric. This is a good relationship between the University and the Department of Basic Education.



Mrs Muvhango gave a vote of thanks.



In his welcome message, Student Housing Coordinator, Mr Solomon Phungo said that they have started very well by inviting God to be with them that day. He said that was the right time and place for relevant people. Everyone must feel free to take part in that programme.

**"It is our duty to do community engagement projects and we know that some of the learners who we donated the shoes to, will come back to enrol at UNIVEN after completing their matric."**

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