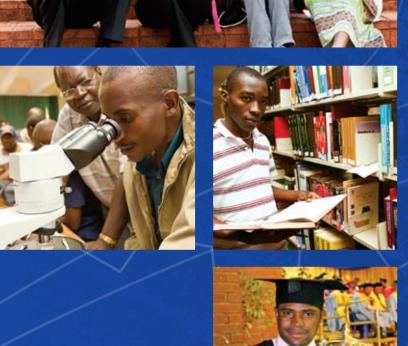
## ANNUAL REPORT





Entrenching a culture of excellence at Univen



## Highlights of the year 2009

- 2009 audited accounts have no qualification.
- Prof Tholeni Sodi of the School of Health Sciences was guest editor-in-chief of the special issue of Indilinga, the African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems as well as guest editor of the special issue of the South African Journal of Folklore Studies.
- Student Maswanganyi was elected for the Tubingen and South African Cultural and Language Programme in Germany.
- Two Deputy Vice-Chancellors were appointed
   Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Dr Jannie Zaaiman as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Operations.
- Council approved the University's strategic and development plan for 2009-2013.
- All University policies were benchmarked against best practice, reviewed and updated.
- New policies were developed.
- Performance of senior and executive managers is measured.
- Univen's legal advisor, Dr Nanga Lidovho, was one of four South Africans to attend the ACE Fellowship programme in the USA.

- Univen's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane was awarded as the South African Business Woman Council's Business Woman of the Year in the professional category.
- The Forum of University Nursing Deans in South Africa was hosted at Univen.
- Univen's Schools of Agriculture, Management Sciences and Mathematical and Natural Sciences, completed a feasibility study for the Capricorn District Municipality for the establishment of a detergent factory at Molemole.
- A national lottery grant of R 2.8 million was used to upgrade campus sports facilities.
- Dell South Africa donated 200 computers and two servers to Univen - paving the way for the first campus student Open Computer Laboratory.
- Nissan South Africa donated two vehicles to the value of R 1.3 million to the Vuwani Science Resource Centre to be used as mobile laboratory and staff project transport vehicles.
- The Land Bank donated R 309 000 to support the Land Bank Chair of Agriculture at Univen.

- A teaching and research development grant of more than R26 million was approved by the Minister of Education for 2009/10.
- Univen and the Stevens Lumber Mills signed a memorandum of understanding to develop the forestry sector in South Africa.
- The Lesheba Arts and Culture Trust pledged R400 000 towards the development of a sustainable rural livelihood demonstration project at Vuwani Science Resource Centre.
- Univen's School of Management Sciences agreed to train officials of the Kutama-Sinthumule Correctional Centre in basic accounting and inventory management.
- The Ravele Communal Property Association requested Univen's Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation to assist in managing its 15 reclaimed large-scale commercial farms.

#### 2009 - A year of irrevocable change for Univen

Report by the Chairperson of Council

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# 2009 – A year of irrevocable change for Univen

Report by the Chairperson of Council



"We continued to implement our objectives of developing accountability and fostering transparency; qualities that should characterise any organisation that operates on public resources."

Ms Shirley Mabusela Chairperson: University of Venda Council The 2009 annual report encapsulates a myriad of activities that characterised developments at the University of Venda.

These developments signify the commitment of all members of the University community to work in unison to make a meaningful contribution to the development of the human resources requirements of the country.

We succeeded to entrench the understanding among staff and students that our national objectives are better met when we work with other institutions.

We continued to implement our objectives of developing accountability and fostering transparency qualities that should characterise any organisation that operates on public resources.

We ensured that accurate and reliable information about the University was provided to our students, parents and communities around us and to those that are in our catchment areas.

This focus had a two-pronged intention. Firstly, it is our moral obligation to provide information, and secondly, it is our responsibility to enable prospective students and parents to make informed decisions about their future.

On the academic front, the throughput is stabilising, the enrolment is gradually meeting the set quotas, the research profile displays signs of improvement and more students are demonstrating excellence in academic performance.

Our contribution to regional development is evident from the growing number of students from the Southern African Development Community, as well as our active participation in regional partnership and collaborations.

The executive management of the University was finally in place, with the assumption of office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Operations.

The senior management structure was further strengthened with the approval by Council of the appointment of the Director of Student Affairs.

Council approved amendments to the constitution of the Student Representative Assembly, as well as rules and regulations for residences, on the recommendation of the Student Affairs Committee. These policy documents now play a pivotal role in regulating and managing the affairs of students, with a focus on the quality of lives of students in and outside the lecture room.

Council also approved the reviewed and new human resources and finance policies, as well as a delegation of authority framework.

These policy guidelines are intended to facilitate efficiency and effectiveness of operational procedures, thereby lending better support to the core business of the Institution.

Associated with the review of the finance and procurement policies was the adoption of the declaration of conflict of interest, which is now a mandatory practice at meetings of Council and its committees.

Council approved a new strategic plan for 2009-13. This plan encapsulates the direction that the University will take for the next five years.

The Vice-Chancellor is now leading the process of developing operational plans and performance contracts for senior and middle management levels of staff.

The Council evaluated the performance of the Vice-Chancellor in September 2009 and is confident that he is fulfilling his responsibilities to the satisfaction of all concerned and that he is taking the University in the right direction.

The term of Council expired in 2009, as did the term of office of the Chancellor. A new Council was constituted in line with the Statute, and met for the first time in November 2009.

In November 2009, Council approved a recommendation of the Senate and the Institutional Forum to appoint Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe as the new chancellor of the University.

While great strides were taken in the financial year to improve infrastructure, student accommodation remains a serious problem. This is partly linked to the issue of ownership of the land on which the University is situated.

A draft memorandum of understanding with the Tshivhase Traditional Council, approved by Council in

November 2009, will help facilitate the registration of the land. This will pave the way for public/private partnerships in the future.

Council approved the implementation of projects to the value of R25,5m from its own funds. These include -

- Water upgrade (R4m)
- Tarring of road (R4 330 417)
- New power factor correction room and equipment (R3 410 165)
- Repairs and renovations to existing electrical infrastructure (R2 172 970)
- Paving of new walkways and piazza at library (R3 500 000)
- Upgrade of student cafeteria (R5 354 000)
- Upgrade of 40 houses (R7m)

Our external auditors have completed their audit for 2009, and have indicated in their report that the Council has managed the financial resources in a satisfactory manner and that the institution is in good financial health. We are delighted that the 2009 audited accounts have no qualification.

Council is confident that management has exercised sufficient control over funds received from subsidies and student fees, which are our main sources of income, and that the funds have been used in the interest of the University to the best extent possible.

I am confident that the committees of Council fulfilled their mandated responsibilities satisfactorily. These committees were composed of individuals with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions on matters before them.

All of them were chaired by people with the requisite knowledge and experience to lead their respective committees. All of this adds up to sustain and excel Univen on the road of becoming a pillar of support in the community it serves.

#### Ms Shirley Mabusela Chairperson of Council

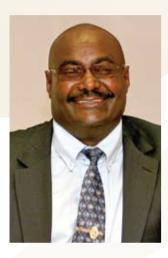
#### Council composition

| Section  | Representative  | Term   |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Section 16.4. (a) The Principal; Ex-officio   | 1. Prof PA Mbati  | Ex-officio   |
| 2. Section 16.4. (b) Vice-Principal/s; Ex-officio  | <ul><li>2. Prof XG Mbhenyane</li><li>3. Dr J Zaaiman</li></ul>  | Ex-officio<br>Ex-officio   |
| 3. Section 16.4. (c) Any three experts designated by Council   | <ul><li>4. Mr MP Mudau</li><li>5. Dr S Ramaite</li><li>6. Mr RE Maponya</li></ul>   | 28-11-2005<br>to<br>27-11-2009   |
| 4. Section 16.4. (d) Five persons appointed by the Minister  | <ul><li>7. Justice J Y Mokgoro (Chairperson)</li><li>8. Dr TE Mdlalose</li><li>9. Mrs A Lawless</li><li>10. Vacant</li><li>11. Vacant</li></ul>   | 28-11-2005<br>to<br>27-11-2009   |
| 5. Section 16.4 (e) One person appointed by the Premier of the Limpopo Province after consultation with the Minister                 | 12. Mr KE Mahoai  | 28-11-2005<br>to<br>27-11-2009   |
| 5. Section 16.4 (f) Two persons elected by the Senate from among its members   | 13. Prof DG Thabede 14. Prof TS Phendla   | 28-11-2005 to<br>27-11-2009<br>26-09-2008 to<br>27-11-2009   |
| 7. Section 16.4 (g) Two persons elected by the Convocation   | 15. Mr MS Mukhavhuli<br>16. Mr SM Ravhuanzwo  | 21-02-2007 to<br>27-11-2009<br>28-11-2005 to<br>27-11-2009   |
| 9. Section 16.4 (h) Two persons designated by persons who, in terms of the statute are donors  | 17. Mr E Ratshikhopha<br>18. Mr LR Kone   | 28-11-2005 to<br>27-11-2009  |
| 10. Section 16.4. (i) One academic employee of the University other than members of the Senate, elected by the academic employees    | 19. Adv LR Maluleke   | 08-06-2007<br>to<br>27-11-2009   |
| 11. Section 16.4. (j) Two students of the University elected by the students' representative Council                                 | 20. Mr MS Motadi<br>21. Mr LL Ledwaba   | 27-11-2008 to<br>27-11-2009  |
| 12. Section 16.4. (k) One member of the service employees of the University elected by the service employees                         | 22. Mr MP Takalani  | 02-02-2008<br>to<br>27-11-2009   |
| 13. Section 16.4. (I) One member of the administrative employees of the University elected by the administrative employees           | 23. Mr NT Ratshitanga   | 26-09-2008<br>to<br>27-11-2009   |
| 14. Section 16.4 (m) One person designated by the Thulamela Municipality   | 24. Mr TN Makumbane   | 28-11-2005 to<br>27-11-2009  |
| 15. Section 16.4 (n) Other persons, not exceeding six in<br>number, designated by such bodies as may be<br>determined by the Council | <ul> <li>25. Association of African Universities - Prof P M Makhurane</li> <li>26. SA College Principal's Organisation - Mr KR Madzhie</li> <li>27. Local Traditional Authorities - Dr JG Tshifularo</li> <li>28. Human Sciences Research Council - Dr U Pillay</li> <li>29. Human Rights Commission - Ms E Mabusela</li> <li>30. Commission on Gender</li> </ul> | 28-11-2005 to to 27-11-2009 28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009 08-09-2005 to 27-11-2009 28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009 01-02-2007 to |

The University Registrar - Mr KC Nemadzivhanani is ex-officio Secretary to Council

# Entrenching a culture of excellence at Univen

Report by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal



"Univen must be seen as a regional knowledge and enterprise hub, working within the sector and with other stakeholders to facilitate the growth and development of our region."

Prof Peter Mbati Vice-Chancellor and Principal The University of Venda is a relatively young higher education institution, having only been established in 1982. In 2009 we invested considerable energy and effort in building systems, processes and procedures that will guarantee good governance and innovative leadership, a critical vehicle in our transformation to a quality-driven, financially sustainable, rural-based university.

This further lays a strong foundation to entrench a culture of excellence in our university, in which a focused and disciplined staff and student community is acutely aware of their responsibilities in implementing Univen's core business of teaching and learning, research and community engagement.

In 2009 two important appointments were made - Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, while Dr Jannie Zaaiman was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Operations.

To optimise the University's institutional transformation and lead the new direction as determined by the Council's vision and mission, a rigorous planning session with key internal and external stakeholders gave rise to the University's 2009 – 2013 strategic plan which was approved by Council in November 2009. Eight strategic objectives and six critical success factors were adopted.

#### **Strategic objectives**

- Conversion to a comprehensive university
- Quality teaching and learning
- Research and innovation
- Integration of community engagement in the University's core business
- Financial sustainability
- Integrated human resource development and management
- Linkages, partnerships and internationalisation
- Quality of life of students

#### **Critical success factors**

- Infrastructure development
- Institutional planning and quality assurance

- Student academic administration
- Information communication technology services
- Library services
- Strategic communication and marketing

The University's performance is determined by these strategic objectives. It is my privilege to report that we are doing well in applying these objectives.

As an integral part of the transformation process, it was necessary to review all our policies, some of which were last reviewed in the late 80's or early 90's.

This was to ensure that we benchmark against best practice and operate within a highly complex and constantly evolving higher education environment.

The policies that were updated include those of communications and marketing, finance, human resources, institutional planning and quality assurance, student affairs and information communication technology.

#### **Institutional transformation**

## Dissolution of the School of Post Graduate and Integrated Studies

I headed a task team that was mandated by Senate in April 2008 to formulate a model/framework for the reconfiguration of the School of Post Graduate and Integrated Studies.

This followed the recommendation that the School would cease to operate within its current format, with post graduate functions relocated to the appropriate heads of departments and deans, under the executive leadership of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic.

It was clear that the long term sustainability of the programmes offered in the School was dependent on adopting a model that took into account the core business of the University.

Furthermore, it was essential to integrate the activities of the School into the main stream core business of the University, without losing sight of the objectives that underpinned the creation of these centres.

The ability of the University to spread its scarce financial resources to manage its core business, was particularly significant in making this proposal.

## Ensuing the proper maintenance of the buildings and physical assets

A new structure for the Facilities Management Department was developed to ensure optimal service delivery.

An updated assets register and audit of renovated buildings are in place and the cleaning of student residences has been outsourced.

## Ensuring the development of performance agreements for all staff

Performance agreements were developed for members of senior and executive management.

The performance agreements for middle management and senior academics will be done in 2011, and full implementation of performance agreements will be done in 2012.

Performance evaluation succeeds or fails, depending on the care taken in implementation, and the level of preparedness of an organisation with respect to evaluating, monitoring and rewarding.

#### **Teaching and learning**

#### Creating a product quality management system that is aligned to the vision, mission and academic plan

Significant work on academic re-engineering of our programmes has been done with a report on the programme portfolio review approved by Council in November 2008.

This allows us to meet the student size and shape targets of the minister and to allow for the smooth transition to a comprehensive university, offering traditional degree programmes and career focused certificate and diploma programmes in our programme qualification mix.





The programme portfolio review included details of coursework on masters degrees, a research and postgraduate inventory, proposals for diploma programmes and the refinement of the right sizing model for 2010 admissions.

Furthermore, it included plans for the establishment of the Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning, including its career focussed education component, plans for staffing and training of the Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance Directorate and plans for the development of internal resource allocation and academic staffing establishment criteria/procedures.

#### Identifying clusters of fields which are linked to Limpopo provincial development nodes and identifying and enabling champions to coordinate the development of the programmes

Various programmes have been identified and require further engagement with external stakeholders for confirmation.

These include tourism, wildlife and natural resource management, health sciences, business information

systems and entrepreneurship and financial management.

Other programmes include legal interpreting and translation, science teacher education, policing, safety and security, mining and post-mining rehabilitation, urban and regional planning and gender studies.

#### Implementing the academic plan to give effect to the minister's 2010 enrolment targets relating to the size and shape of Univen

Our enrolment planning has been linked to the academic planning and academic re-engineering exercise to ensure that we give effect to the size and shape directive from the Minister.

## Throughput to increase in line with the academic plan

Senate has approved the 2009 - 2013 strategic plan which provides for improved throughput, success and graduation rates.

Council also approved the proposal for the Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning which will provide support to both learners and lecturers to ensure better learning experiences with a resultant increased throughput, success rates and graduation rates.

## Implementation of a staff development programme which improves relevant staff qualifications

A staff development committee, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic is active in this regard and meets regularly.

#### Research

#### Improving the research output of the University, both in terms of postgraduate degrees and published research

The framework for achieving these targets has been articulated in the 2009 – 2013 strategic plan, and will be further refined in the research strategic document, currently in draft format.



#### SA – USA Drug delivery training programme

By invitation of the National Research Foundation, I visited the Emory University in Atlanta Georgia and Scynexis in North Carolina as part of a group of five scientists from South Africa in August 2009. The programme accelerates the training of doctoral students in this scarce skills area in South Africa. As a result the dean and researchers of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences will identify doctoral and post-doctoral candidates for this training opportunity.

#### PhDs in Education

Two successful Viva Voce were held in July 2009 for two PhD students - Dr Samson Balanganani Makhado and Dr Robert Manwadu - supervised by Prof Elias Bayona in the School of Education.

#### Inaugural lectures

Prof Lilian Mammino, a professor of Chemistry in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences delivered her inaugural address in October 2008 on the topic - The computational study of biologically active molecules and its perspectives in African universities and at Univen in particular.

Prof Thidziambi Tshivhase Phendla, a professor in the School of Education, delivered her inaugural lecture in August 2009 on the topic - The paradox of Luselo-Lufhanga metaphors: African women defining leadership for social justice.

#### PhD BANK-SETA bursary

Ms Innocentia Nemushungwa, a lecturer in the Department of Economics has been awarded a BANK-SETA bursary - the first of its kind at Univen - to study for a PhD in Economics under the supervision of Prof Agyapong Gyekye.

#### ABE Bailey Travel Bursary award

Ms Fulu Netshisaulu, a 3rd year student in the School of Environmental Sciences, won the ABE Bailey Travel Bursary award for a trip to Britain in 2009.

#### Launch of the BioPad grant

The launch of the R17 million Biopad bio-prospecting grant, with Dr Pascal Bessong the principal investigator, took place in August 2009.

### Implementing community engagement projects according to the vision, mission and values

These projects include engagement of expertise, developmental engagement - including short course based learning - and developmental activities in the community that could lead to student recruitment and community service.

The framework for achieving these targets has been communicated in the 2009 – 2013 strategic plan, and will be further refined in the community engagement strategic document currently in draft format. The Community Engagement Directorate held their strategy development workshop in June 2009.

#### **Management**

#### Creating a financially viable institution able to transform continually to meet regional social and economic needs led by managers who subscribe to the vision and mission

To implement an integrated process with regard to the University's budget, a budgeting committee has been established. All budgets are zero based and only approved on the basis of substantial motivation to





weed out wasteful expenditure. Executive managers give provisional approval of draft budgets which are then submitted to the budget committee where line managers have to defend their budgets. Budgets are largely aligned to the strategic plan and operational requirements of the University.

## Achieving the rightsizing of academic and administrative staff structures to give effect to the strategic and academic plan

A detailed analysis of the current establishment is being undertaken and a new operations organisational structure were proposed to Council in November 2009. Council also approved a new structure for the library. An appropriate new academic structure will be completed in 2010, once we are firmly in agreement on the new professional and career focused programmes.

## Recruiting and retaining high quality staff that can be developed through succession planning and development interventions

Prof Agyapong Gyekye and Mr Patrick Rachidi conducted a detailed report on the challenges of attraction and retention of staff at Univen, which was presented to Council in 2009.

## Bi-annual reviews of all staff in terms of a performance management programme

The performance contracts for members of the executive management have been approved by Council. By the end of 2010 all members of the executive and senior management will be performance evaluated. By 2011 performance evaluation will be extended to middle management and senior academics. The rest of the University will be performance evaluated in 2012.

## Improving student infrastructure, including residences, in line with the development plan

Univen's infrastructure master plan has been developed and we are now in the process of drafting detailed documentation for each of the projects.

## Creating local, regional and international linkages that will lead to mutually beneficial partnerships and opportunities

#### Visit by Minister Blade Nzimande

The Minister for Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande spent a full day on campus in August 2009. Accompanying him were the Acting Director General for Higher Education, Dr Molapo Qhobela and other senior officials from the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Dignitaries from the region, including the Executive Mayor of the Vhembe District, Mr Falaza Mdaka, and his Majesty, Thovhele Vho Tshivhase also participated.

#### Land title deed – negotiations with the Tshivhase Royal Council

I have continued negotiations with the Tshivhase Royal Council on the land issue. Council approved a revised draft memorandum of agreement as agreed with the traditional leadership.

#### Donation of 30 hectares of land - Farm Tshivhase Agridam at Khubvi village in the Vhembe District

To enhance and sustain the cordial relationship between the University and the Tshivhase Royal



Council, a delegation of management and Council visited the Tshivhase Royal Residence at Mukumbani in December 2008.

Thovhele Vho–Tshivhase donated 30 hectares of arable land to the University for Agricultural experiential training on a long term lease arrangement.

The farm will also be used for teaching and learning and for agricultural research, development and innovation.

#### **Governance**

#### Meeting all statutory requirements

Univen is reviewing the statute to benchmark it against best practice. The same goes for the deed of the Univen Foundation.

## Achieving the creation of functioning and effective governance structures

As part of management's commitment to clean governance, a fraud hotline - Tip-offs anonymous - which is managed by Deloitte, was launched in 2009.

This has given the University community an opportunity to report any untoward incidents confidentially to a third party. The service is available for staff, students and the broader community in both English and Tshivenda.

#### **Reviewing of policies**

In 2008 management decided to review all policies. Such an exercise would ensure that our policies are not only updated but also relevant to the current realities of a competitive higher education environment.

In 2009 we had reviewed, revised and developed new policies in the operations, academic and registrar's divisions, which Council approved.

Among these are a new policy on the delegation of authority, a revised policy on supply chain management and a new policy on remuneration, based on a total cost to company package.





Several memoranda of understanding were entered into with various strategic partners. These include the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, the Evangelische Hochschule Freiburg or Protestant University of Applied Sciences, the Agricultural Research Council and the Department of Correctional Services.

Other partners are the Stevens Lumber Mills that supports the national skills development initiatives through forestry teaching and learning, research and community engagement activities, the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

Other valuable partners are the Lesheba Arts and Culture Trust, which supports the development of a sustainable rural livelihood project at the Vuwani Science Resource Centre, and the Masia Development

Trust which addresses the developmental needs of the Masia community.

#### **Strengthening strategic partnerships**

We also held many strategic partnership discussions with various stakeholders, including the Development Bank of Southern Africa, to strengthen existing collaboration and seek new areas of cooperation, especially with the new Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in the School of Agriculture.

Dell South Africa, through its Dell Foundation, donated 200 computers and two servers which paved the way for Univen to have its first open computer laboratory for students. The South Africa – Norway Tertiary Development language programme was also launched. In the 2010/11 financial year the Department of Higher Education and Training will make available R77 million for new infrastructure



projects. These include extensions to the Schools of Agriculture and Education and a 140-bed student residence.

Univen will contribute R10 million from its Council controlled funds towards these projects. Under the supervision of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Operations, construction started on the R207 million Department of Higher Education and Training funded 2007/2010 projects which are now at various stages of construction. The projects include –

- a new lecture theatre complex
- a new life sciences building
- an extension to the School of Environmental Sciences building
- extensions to the library
- a new student administration building

The University of Venda must, going forward, pay special attention to those input factors that will ultimately define the quality of our outputs.

These include the quality of academic and administrative staff and their commitment to their work, students' commitment to their studies and management and student leadership's commitment to entrench a culture of academic excellence. Sufficient infrastructure and space requirements for teaching and research and for sports and recreation are other crucial factors.

Our intention is to firmly position the University as a strategic partner that promotes the growth and development strategy of the region.

It is against this background and in view of the large intellectual human resource capital that resides at Univen, that we are committed to working with government, provincial leadership and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to contribute to the well-being of our community.

Furthermore, we are committed to serve as an engine that drives the growth and development strategy of Limpopo. I believe that a successful university model is one in which the academic programmes and research activities are largely in harmony with the developmental needs of the community.

It is, therefore, incumbent on us as a rural-based university, and specifically through our research and innovation and community engagement programmes, to ensure a quality symbiotic and reciprocal relationship between the University and our community.

Univen must be seen as a regional knowledge and enterprise hub, working within the sector and with other stakeholders to facilitate the growth and development of our region.

Due to its unique geographical position in a high agriculture potential area, the University strives to differentiate itself by strengthening its delivery of programmes that focus on agriculture, rural development and poverty alleviation.

#### Prof Peter Mbati Vice-Chancellor and Principal





# Council statement on corporate governance



"In 2009, all Council committees fulfilled their mandated responsibilities to the satisfaction of Council."

Mr Khuliso Nemadzivhanani University Registrar and Secretary to Council The Council of the University of Venda operates under the principles of accountability, integrity and openness as expressed in the King Report on corporate governance. The Council is aware of its responsibilities as required by the Higher Education Act, 1997, Act 101 of 1997 for governing the University as a public body committed to becoming a centre of excellence.

#### The Institutional Forum

The Forum engages in its advisory role in various campus activities such as the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor and approval of the proposed senior management structure.

The functions of the Forum are to –

- Advise Council on issues affecting the Institution, including
  - i) the implementation of the Act and the national policy on higher education
  - ii) race and gender equity policies
  - iii) the selection of candidates for senior management positions
  - iv) the code of conduct, mediation and dispute resolution procedures
  - v) the fostering of an institutional culture which promotes tolerance and respect for fundamental human rights
- Perform such other functions as determined by Council

The members were elected from internal and external constituencies. These constituencies are each represented by three of their members in the Forum -

- Council
- University management
- Senate
- Academic staff
- Administrative staff
- Service staff
- Convocation
- Student Representative Assembly



The nomination of representatives was transparent and democratic. These members represented their structures on the Forum -

#### Council

Mr RE Maponya Mr SM Ravhuanzwo Mr KR Madzhie

#### Management

Mr NJ Vele Mr MR Mkhize (later became vacant) Prof VO Netshandama

#### Senate

Prof DT Ngobeli Prof JE Crafford Dr MP Mulaudzi







#### **Academic staff**

Adv LR Maluleke Dr NE Phaswana Vacant

#### **Administrative staff**

Mr TA Mbadi Adv DE Maphwanya Mr BL Makhado

#### **Service staff**

Mr NA Mutoti Mr MP Takalani Ms L Khwashaba

#### Convocation

Mr F Mvundlea Mrs TY Mudau Mr MS Mukhavhuli - chairperson

#### **Student Representative Assembly**

Mr S Motadi Mr S U Machaphala Mr T C Sithombe

All participants in the Forum have an identifiable and significant constituency and mandated capacity to act on behalf of their constituencies.

The Executive Committee of the Forum consists of -

Chairperson – Mr MS Mukhavhuli Deputy Chairperson – Adv DE Maphwanya Secretary - Dr NE Phaswana

Three additional members
Prof TD Ngobeli
Ms A Lansink
Mr F Mvundela

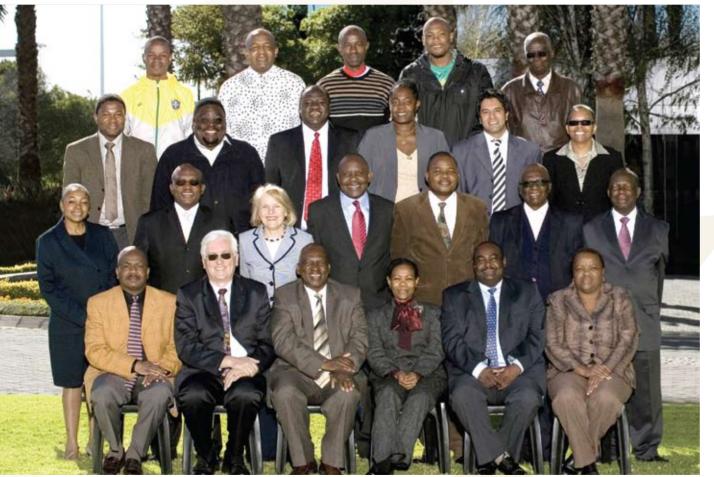


#### Council

The Council consists of people elected in accordance with the University of Venda Statute of 2005. The ratio of non staff members to that of staff and student members is 60% to 40%. This is to ensure objectivity as well as stakeholder participation in University governance.

For purposes of managing, controlling and executing its duties, Council has these sub-committees -

- 1. Executive Committee of Council
- Executive Management Remuneration Committee
- 3. Appeals Committee
- 4. Audit Committee
- 5. Finance Committee
- 6. Senate
- 7. Human Resources Committee
- 8. Student Affairs Committee
- 9. Tender Committee



These committees meet four times per year - prior to Council meetings - and submit reports for consideration at each ordinary Council meeting and make appropriate recommendations to Council.

All Committees of Council are chaired by outside members.

#### **Executive Committee of Council**

The Committee's responsibilities include to -

- i) advise Council on matters of policy
- ii) make decisions on behalf of the Council on matters of an urgent nature, provided that any such decisions be ratified by the Council at its next meeting
- (iii) consider and make recommendations to Council on the reports of all Council committees
- (iv) advise Council on any matter which it deems expedient for the effective and efficient management of the University
- (v) perform such other functions as the Council may determine

## **Executive Management Remuneration Committee**

The Committee's responsibilities include -

- (i) determining on behalf of Council, remuneration packages of members of Executive Management
- (ii) entering into remuneration negotiations with newly appointed members of Executive Management
- (iii) reviewing remuneration packages of members of Executive Management

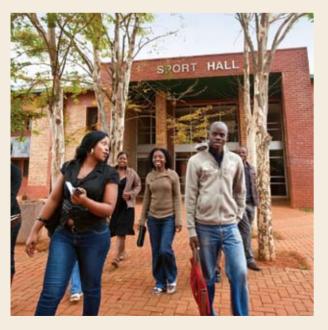
#### **Appeals Committee**

The Committee is responsible for the hearing of appeals of staff and students against the findings and sentence of disciplinary hearings.

#### **Audit Committee**

The Committee's responsibilities include –

- (i) recommending to Council the appointment and retention of external auditors and externally appointed internal auditors, and to deal with matters regarding their dismissal or resignation
- (ii) evaluating the independence, effectiveness and performance of the external and internal audit
- (iii) reviewing the external auditors' and externally appointed internal auditors' engagement letters, with particular reference to the terms, nature and scope of the respective audit functions, the timing and nature of reports and the related audit fees
- (iv) considering any problems identified in the organisation as a 'going concern' or in the statement of internal control
- (v) monitoring the annual performance and effectiveness of external and internal auditors, and to make recommendations to the Council concerning their re-appointment, where appropriate
- (vi) reviewing and advising Council on risk management control with a view to ensuring that the University is managing all forms of risk effectively and adopting best practice in risk management generally





- (vii) monitoring the implementation of agreed auditbased recommendations
- (viii) ensuring that all significant losses have been properly investigated and that the internal and external auditors have been informed
- (ix) satisfying itself that satisfactory value for money arrangements are in place to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- (x) identifying key matters identified in management letters, requiring follow-up
- (xi) obtaining assurance from the external auditors that adequate accounting records are maintained

Other specific functions are -

#### **Financial statements**

The Committee examines and reviews, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, the annual financial statements, focusing on -

- new systems implemented
- major judgmental areas
- significant adjustments from the audit, and its efficiency
- the basis of 'going concern' determination
- internal control
- compliance with accounting standards
- compliance with financial conditions of loan agreements
- any changes in accounting policies and practices

#### Internal control and internal audit

The Committee monitors the effective function of internal auditing to ensure an objective overview of the operational effectiveness of the organisation's systems of internal control, reporting and business risk management, including -

- clarifying internal audit and external audit efforts
- ensuring the internal audit function's compliance with its mandate
- reviewing significant matters reported by the internal audit and the adequacy of corrective action taken in response to those matters, including any significant differences of opinion between management and internal audit
- reviewing and approving the internal audit charter, internal audit plans and internal audit conclusions together with the adequacy of internal audit resources to effectively execute the plans

- evaluating the independence of the internal auditors
- reviewing the effectiveness of the organisation's systems of control, including financial control and business risk management

#### **Finance Committee**

The Committee's responsibilities include -

- (i) considering matters of financial strategy and policy, including procurement and supply chain management, risk management and insurance, as they relate to the operation of the University, in particular the optimum use of available and potential financial resources, including internal investment options and their rate of return
- (ii) considering and assessing all investment opportunities available to the University, in respect of all the funds which it administers, and determining the manner and extent to which funds are to be invested with a view to ensuring both security and optimisation of income
- (iii) considering proposals for the raising of loan finance to fund capital development projects, including the acquisition of equipment, and to make recommendations to Council
- (iv) receiving and considering budget proposals from the executive and recommending to Council the annual operating and capital budgets
- (v) approving the level of tuition fees and residential fees payable by students, and to make recommendations to Council on the policies governing the levels of these fees
- (vi) recommending to Council the appointment of the University bankers, investment managers and financial advisers
- (vii) approving the classification of specific debts as irrecoverable
- (viii) monitoring the insurance arranged to cover the University's property and liabilities
- (ix) approving the annual salary adjustments of staff





#### **Human Resources Committee**

The Committee's responsibilities include -

- (i) recommending to Council on human resources policy matters, including but not limited to:
  - the recruitment and appointment of employees
  - the training and development of employees
  - the applicable job evaluation system
  - the performance management of employees
  - the promotion of employees
  - equity, including the equity plans of the University

- the involvement of employees in external work
- medical aid, group life and pension schemes
- leave benefits of employees
- succession planning
- (ii) advising Council on any matter which it deems expedient for the effective and efficient human resources management of the University
- (iii) recommending to Council on the delegation of authority to line managers within the University
- (iv) recommending to Council on all new and revised human resources and employment equity policies
- (v) monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Council-approved human resources and employment equity policies



The Committee's responsibilities include -

- (i) enhancing the social, education and religious interest of students
- (ii) enhancing the quality of student life, including but not limited to sporting and health related aspects
- (iii) determining and reviewing entitlements of the student leadership
- (iv) reviewing rules and regulations on student residences and management
- (v) the responsibility for the conduct of student governance, including consideration of the Student Representative Assembly's annual programme of action and recommending this to Council
- (vi) reviewing the Student Affairs organisational structure and making recommendations to the Human Resources Committee
- (vii) considering recommendations on the review of the Student Representative Assembly constitution and other policy documents and making recommendations to Council





#### **Tender Committee**

The Committee's responsibilities include -

- reviewing tenders and expressions of interest for all procurement activity in excess of the University's procurement thresholds
- (ii) reviewing the assessments undertaken by the Bid Evaluation Committee for all tender responses and where required:
  - query discrepancies
  - requests supporting documentation, more information or clarification
  - review recommendations provided by the Bid Evaluation Committee for all tender processes and amend, reject or endorse recommendations
- (iii) providing recommendations for all responses to tender

#### **Senate**

The Senate advises Council on all academic activities, enabling it to control and manage all activities of the University.

## Conflict management, worker and student participation and ethics

The University's grievance procedure manual facilitates conflict resolution among members of staff.

The Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics also facilitate good working relationships among staff members.

The University relates to staff members through their staff structures in their various categories – academic, administrative and service staff representatives.

Students have the Student Representative Assembly cabinet which interacts with management on a regular basis.

The Cabinet is represented on the Council, on the Student Affairs Committee and on other academic and administrative structures.

Mr KC Nemadzivhanani University Registrar and Secretary to Council

## Academic division



"The capacity for research showed improvement during the review period – a 30% increase in the number of active researchers across all disciplines."

Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Univer's academic division is composed of the core business components teaching and learning, research and community engagement. The University formalised the coordination of community engagement at institutional level through the establishment of the Directorate of Community Engagement. With the introduction of the School of Education, the University now boasts eight schools —

- School of Agriculture
- School of Education
- School of Environmental Sciences
- School of Health Sciences
- School of Human and Social Sciences
- School of Law
- School of Management Sciences
- School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences

The establishment of the Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning strengthened the University's ability to improve on efficiency and effectiveness. This centre will introduce interventions to ensure improved throughput, pass and graduation rates, as spelt out in the strategic plan.

Schools and directorates developed five-year business plans that are aligned to the University's five-year strategic plan. Performance evaluation for all senior managers in the division was introduced to measure the school/directorate versus targets set out in the plans.

#### **Teaching and learning**

A new library structure was established and key policies were reviewed and /or developed. Furthermore, the library received funds from the Department of Higher Education and Training for renovation to increase holding and sitting capacity. The Teaching and Research development grant from the Department was used for teaching and research equipment, including vehicles for student practicals and research field work as well as improving staff capacity in some schools. The library, information technology and the Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning also received funds for improving teaching and learning materials and equipment.

During the year under review the academic staff component increased by 17 to 304. This was, however, accompanied by a drop from 35% to 32%





of staff with doctoral degrees. Furthermore, 20% of total academic staff was registered for doctoral degrees while 7% was registered for master's degrees. The staff to student ratio is still 40:1.

Student enrolments were 37% in science, including Health, 17% in business management, 9% in education and 37% in humanities, including law.

Postgraduate student enrolment increased from 7% in 2008 to 10% in 2009, whereas undergraduate enrolment, including diploma study, was 90%. The success and graduation rates remained static at 77% and 19% respectively.

The programme qualification mix review continued in 2009. Postgraduate course work programmes and

newly identified career focused programmes were evaluated for viability and relevance. Furthermore, the existing programmes were evaluated by the Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance Directorate for alignment with the Higher Education Qualification Framework and for updating the 2005 product quality management system.

#### **Research and innovation**

The capacity for research showed improvement during the review period – a 30% increase in the number of active researchers across all disciplines. The University recorded an increase of 16.6 units to 34.1 units, although this is still well below the expected output.



The number and value of externally funded projects increased. Likewise, international donors increased including, for example, the Bill Gates Foundation and the May and Stanley Smith Trust in the USA. A significant number of memoranda of agreement, focusing on research and innovation, were signed with national and international organisations.

The University also received international research scholars from the USA, the Southern African Development Community, Germany and China.

The number of rated researchers increased from two to four. The Vice-chancellor's Awards of Excellence were awarded to encourage a culture of research. There were seven categories for research excellence, whereas all active researchers received merit certificates. The research budget was also increased by 30%, indicating the intent to increase its contribution to knowledge generation and innovation.

#### **Community engagement**

A Directorate of Community Engagement was formally established and a director and officer appointed. The Directorate developed a conceptual framework for community engagement at Univen, as well as a five-year business plan.

An audit of existing community engagement activities and a database was established, while operational committees were also established at university, school and departmental level.

#### **Institutional audit**

The preparation for the Higher Education Quality Committee institutional audit on quality arrangements at the University started in 2009.

Senior managers, academic staff and students were involved in the development of the institutional portfolio as well as their departmental and school portfolios.

The Committee appointed two senior managers to serve in audit panels of other higher education institutions. Furthermore, the Committee on Higher Education trained 19 senior managers and senior academics on the institutional audit process.





## School of Agriculture



"We undertook appropriate research and carried out community engagement activities, relevant to the needs of the community we serve."

Prof Raphael Ole-Meiludie Dean: School of Agriculture The School of Agriculture continued to provide professional education and training to under and postgraduate students, undertook appropriate research and carried out community engagement activities relevant to the needs of the community it serves.

The School has nine academic departments and the Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation. The academic departments are Animal Science, Agricultural and Rural Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Agri-business, Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences, Food Science and Technology, Forestry, Horticultural Sciences, Plant Production and Soil Science.

The School also has an experimental farm which forms an important hub for students' training, staff and students' research projects and production activities.

#### **Teaching and learning**

The School continued to offer teaching activities at both under and postgraduate level in various disciplines of agriculture. A total number of 556 - 522 undergraduates and 34 postgraduate - students registered during the review year. This was an increase of 14% compared to the previous year.

#### **Research and innovation**

Staff from the different departments continued with research activities pertaining to approved research projects. There were 11 externally funded projects and 23 projects funded by the Research and Publications Committee.

Members of staff participated in various professional national/international conferences/workshops. Staff presented eight papers in national and international conferences. Staff published in 13 accredited journals, chapters in books and proceedings from workshop/conferences attended.

#### **Community engagement**

Community outreach programmes are central to the vision of both the University and the School. The



various departments and the Centre undertook several community outreach activities. These included -

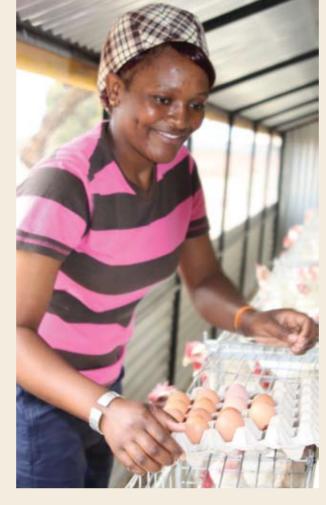
- Training of Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development beneficiaries at Gillemburg and Limpopo West Farming in financial management, corporate governance and corporate ethos and a culture of accountability.
- Involving smallholder farmers in Limpopo in the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research project on trials to integrate legumes into the existing farming systems. This was on request of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture.
- A community flower-growing project for poverty alleviation.
- Training of community development workers sponsored by the office of the Limpopo Premier.
- Soil fertility experiments using the participatory research approach with farmers in the Dzwerani village, the Vhembe district municipality and with the Mmotong Bloodriver Farmers' Association at Perkesbult in the Capricorn district municipality.
- Promoting the use of green manure legume cover crops by smallholder farmers in the Vhembe district municipality for improving soil fertility.
- Assisting emerging farmers with alternative feeding techniques and ration formulation.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

During 2009 the School continued to establish and foster linkages and collaboration with international, national and regional institutions, industry, government departments, non-governmental organisations, local communities and private sector organisations.

These include the Department of Agriculture, the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the Agricultural Research Council's divisions like Infruitec/ Nietvoorbij, the Plant Protection Research Institute and the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, the Higher Education Research Services, the Universities of Limpopo, Pretoria and Stellenbosch, the Forest Industries Education and Training Authority, the CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems in Australia and the Makhado and Vhembe municipalities.

The School also organised and hosted the Univen Agriculture Alumni Association with a number of agricultural institutions exhibiting.









## School of Education



"Further education and training qualifications were recurriculated to provide space for an intensive teaching practice component."

Prof Thidziambi Tshivhase-Phendla Dean: School of Education The School of Education is Univen's youngest school and since its inception in 2008, it has grown to be the second largest at the University. The School has three departments - Curriculum Studies and Education Management, Early Childhood Education and Professional Studies.

In the review year the student enrolment totalled 1 799, comprising of 589 first entering undergraduate students and 200 postgraduate students. Of the postgraduates 98 were honours, 86 masters and 16 doctoral students.

In the School's drive to meet the requirements of the University's 2005 programme quality mix, the Bachelor of Science Education and Bachelor of Education (Honours) College programmes were discontinued as these became irrelevant to current national needs.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Education, the BEd foundation phase and the BEd Further Education and Training qualifications were recurriculated to provide space for an intensive teaching practice component.

For the first time students can now engage in 20 weeks of teaching practice, compared to seven weeks in the past.

#### Quality teaching and learning

To promote quality teaching and learning, most lecturers conducted peer evaluation and were also subjected to a fair module assessment by the students they teach. Student success, throughput and graduation rates increased by 2% - from 76.5% in 2008 to 78% in 2009 - on average.

Since the implementation of supervision guidelines in 2009, there has been a higher level of commitment from supervisors. This resulted in the number of postgraduate students increasing from 33 at masters level in 2008 to 86 in 2009. At doctoral level the increase was from 18 in 2008 to 24 in 2009 and two students graduated.

#### **Univen Pre-school**

In 2009 the Univen Pre-school was upgraded with a new fence and playground facilities. Of the 92 pre-scholars, 31 girls and 33 boys were in the three to four year age group and 15 girls and 13 boys in the four to five year age group.

#### **HIV & AIDS awareness**

In collaboration with Campus Health, the School organised an HIV & AIDS open debate about students facing the challenges of the illness.

Of the most common problems raised were ignorance, myths related to circumcision, ways in which students entertain themselves, fear of testing for HIV, transectional sex and peer pressures.







#### **Research and innovation**

There is clear evidence of increased research output in the form of both national and international conference attendance and publications. Three articles in referred journals and five books were published. Five staff members attended international, while ten attended national conferences. The School undertook two research projects.

#### **Community engagement**

Prof Thidziambi Tshivhase-Phendla participated in an SABC TV documentary – 'The mother of all professions' - about the training of teachers. The documentary was part of a series for educators to share the views and challenges they face and to create a positive perception of the profession.

A Community Engagement Committee is in place with the Kutama-Sinthumule Correctional Services as a partner. In 2009, there were 350 learners enrolled in the School's annual Saturday and winter school project, part of its educational interventions in the district.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

A partnership agreement was established with the Claremont Graduate University in California's College of Education.

The Claremont Graduate University's Teacher Education and the University of Venda's School of Education internship programme enhance the role of culture in education and explores best practices through collaboration and dialogue.

A memorandum of understanding with the University of Georgia in the USA about a staff exchange and research partnership is in a draft stage.

The School's externally funded projects have increased from two in 2008 to five in 2009. Partnerships with the Limpopo and Mpumalanga Departments of Education have been secured.

The Funza Lushaka bursary increased from about R14 million in 2008 to more than R18 million in 2009. The advanced certificate in Education-School Management and Leadership programme trained 89 school principals.

## School of Environmental Sciences



"The School runs third income generating activities that include diploma courses and a geographic information system short course, generating R626 800."

Prof Jason S Ogola

Dean: School of Environmental Sciences

The School offers development strategies and skills to address the widespread environmental challenges in the region. These include declining productivity of agricultural lands and biodiversity, soil erosion, encroachment into marginal and sensitive environments and impacts due to mining activities.

The School offers a range of pre and post degree qualifications in five departments - Ecology and Resource Management, Geography and Geo-Information Sciences, Hydrology and Water Resources, Mining and Environmental Geology and Urban and Regional Planning.

The School also manages an Environmental Advisory and Assessment Unit for income generation and community service, a Geographic Information System Resource Centre that is involved in analysis and map production and offers a certificate course in this study direction.

The Department of Hydrology and Water Resources initiated a discussion with the Department of Water Affairs that will culminate in a memorandum of understanding for students' bursaries. A memorandum of understanding was also signed with the Water Research Commission for a research project on groundwater-surface water interactions along the Luvuvhu River.

The School runs 3rd income generating activities that include diploma courses and a geographic information system short course, generating R626 800.

#### **Teaching and learning**

The Department of Hydrology and Water Resources undertook a curriculum review and finalised the programme packages and credit values for estimated hours, admission requirements, rules for module combination, exit levels and calendar entries. This was done in line with the South African Qualifications Authority and comments from the Quality Assurance Directorate. The review recommended a minimum staffing of six academics and two technicians to be in charge of the two studios.

In the year under review the School enrolled 1 623 undergraduate and 82 postgraduate students. In total 369 students graduated, 325 in undergraduate

programmes for Bachelor of Environmental Sciences, Hydrology and Water Resources, Mining and Environmental Geology, Mine Surveying, Environmental Management and Urban and Regional Planning. Seven honours, six masters and 31 diploma students also graduated. The graduation rate was 20,8%.

Laboratory and field equipment was purchased from the teaching and research development funds from the Department of Higher Education and Training. This included equipment for mine surveying, including station, global positioning and real-time kinematic satellite navigation systems, theodolites, leveling instruments, tripods and leveling staffs.

A master's student and tutor in the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources underwent hydrological modelling training with the Department of Water Affairs, while two other students and two lecturers participated in the Mike Flood Watch training at the Danish Hydraulics Institute in Johannesburg.



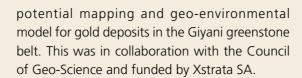
Four staff members registered for doctoral degrees, while five registered for masters degrees. Other staff attended skills development courses.

In 2009 the School recruited two visiting associate professors – Prof Jacques van Heerden of the Department of Ecology and Resources Management and Prof Tompson Adeboyejo of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

#### **Research and innovation**

The School executed six externally funded projects. These were -

- Investigation of the origin, pathways and potential impacts of heavy metals around Polokwane and the Ebenezer Dam, funded by the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust for R293 000.
- An integrated predictive regional mineral



- The bulk water supply systems operation monitoring and evaluation support in collaboration with the Department of Water Affairs and the University of the Witwatersrand.
- Groundwatersurface water intentions along the Luvuvhu River, funded by the Water Research Commission for R200 000.
- The Coal for Africa project, funded for R580 000.
- The Department of Science and Technology nanotechnology project for R84 000.

Another four projects were funded internally. The publication profile continues to improve and in the year under review nine researchers contributed to seven journals.

Staff members also presented papers at nine national and five international conferences.



The School was actively involved in community engagement in the province and the region, with the research project on environmental degradation of Nzhelele-Makhado and the development of integrated models continuing.

A research day was held to share the research findings with members of the community, chiefs, principals and secondary school learners as well as representatives of the mayors of the Vhembe District and Thulamela municipalities.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

A representative of the Department of Water Affairs' Resource Quality Services trained students of the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources on water quality sampling.

He visited the sampling sites for the honours degree projects on the monitoring of algae toxins in the Luvuvhu River catchment as part of the verification.







## School of Health Sciences



"We develop, build and maintain health care standards in society through a problemcentred, project-driven curriculum in partnership with the community."

Prof Base Khoza Dean: School of Health Sciences The School of Health Sciences offers both professional and academic programmes in various disciplines at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

It develops, builds and maintains health care standards in society through a problem-centred, project-driven curriculum in partnership with the community.

The School comprises of four departments and the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science. The departments are Nursing Science, Public Health, Human Nutrition, Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science and Psychology and the Biokinetics Clinic used for experiential training.

The introduction of problem-based learning methodology, integrated with community-based learning in 2007, further assisted in providing primary health care services in the rural communities of Limpopo.

#### **Teaching and learning**

In the review year the School enrolled 816 students, 10% of these as postgraduate students. In total 179 students or 22% graduated, which was above the University average of 19%. It also had the highest pass rate of 88%, with a 100% pass rate in the majority of qualifications at final year level.

Five staff members attended the summer course on assessment and evaluation in problem-based learning in Medicine, Health and Behavioural Sciences at the School of Health Professions Education at the Maastricht University in the Netherlands.

The course was sponsored by the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education. A total of 17 staff members - 50% of the total staff component - were registered for doctoral degrees, while seven were registered for a masters degree in Professional Health Education at the Maastricht University.

#### Research and innovation

In the review year the School's intensive research training was demonstrated best by a fourth-year nutrition student's paper at the Pfizer – University of KwaZulu-Natal research symposium on food

preparation by street vendors at the Thohoyandou Complex in the Vhembe district. Staff members published no less than 13 journal articles, four abstracts in proceedings and four chapters in books. The School also presented 26 papers at national and 15 at international conferences.

The School was also awarded as Best Performer in the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Science awards. Awards were received in the categories School with most masters students graduating, most publications, most internally funded projects and with the most active researchers. The researchers totalled 28 out of 35 - 71% of the total staff complement.

Furthermore, two staff members were awarded as the researchers who attracted R500 000 in external grants and had the most publications in 2008. The School executed six internally funded and two externally funded projects by organisations such as the South Africa Netherlands research programme on alternatives in development.

Prof Tholeni Sodi was guest editor-in-chief of the special issue of Indilinga, the African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, as well as guest editor of the special issue of the South African Journal of Folklore Studies.

In the year under review the School also hosted a research seminar titled 'Swine flu is neither a white or black plague!, Then what is it?' as well as a research symposium.

The Higher Education HIV/AIDS programme is an initiative of the Department of Education, undertaken by Higher Education South Africa. It is funded by the European Union under the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development.

Chaired by Prof Base Khoza, the project hosted a training workshop for academic and administrative staff and one for school representatives, offering HIV and AIDS modules in teacher education.

#### **Community engagement**

In 2009 the School participated in the annual National World Food Day projects, hosted by the Limpopo Department of Agriculture to raise public awareness about hunger, its causes and the solutions.

Furthermore, the School hosted its annual community engagement lecture where guest lecturer Prof Anita Pienaar of the School of Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science at the North West University spoke about kinderkinetics – an investment in the total wellbeing of children.

The annual Univen sports symposium was addressed by Mr Mike Stofile, board member of the South African Rugby Union. He spoke about nation building through sport.

The Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science hosted an International Handball Federation workshop.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

During the year under review the School entered into an agreement with the schools of Medicine at the University of Health Sciences Antigua to enhance international cooperation in education and research.

With the Maastricht University in the Netherlands and the University of Texas in the USA, through the South Africa Netherlands research programme on alternatives in development, a capacity building workshop for postgraduates and researchers was hosted, followed by a school research seminar.

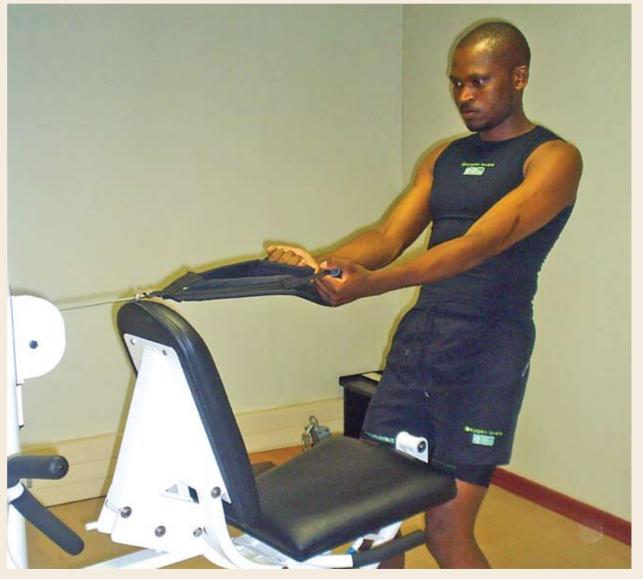
For the first time in the history of Univen, the School's Department of Advanced Nursing Science hosted the national FUNDISA meeting.

FUNDISA represents all heads of university nursing schools in South Africa. The organisation's priorities are to create and maintain practical information and retain expert clinical nurses as role models for students.

Prof Lateef Amusa became a member of the International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport's Scientific Committee of the 2012 Pre-Olympic Conference.

The conference is the largest and most prestigious multidisciplinary conference in the world and attracts over 8 000 delegates from across the globe.





## School of Human and Social Sciences



"The Masupa-tsela project encourages the youth nationally to be responsible citizens."

Prof Thina Ngobeli Dean: School of Human and Social Sciences The School of Human and Social Sciences has five departments – Communication and Applied Language Studies, Development Studies, English, Music and Social Work. It offers qualifications in Social Work, Media Studies, Languages, International Relations, Development Studies, Youth Studies, Gender Studies and Music.

The School also houses three centres - Gender and Youth Studies, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and the MER Mathivha Centre for African Languages, Arts and Culture.

#### **Teaching and learning**

During the review year 1 782 students enrolled at the School, 77 more than the previous year. A total of 308 students graduated. The design of a curriculum for the BA degree in Indigenous Knowledge Systems was completed in 2009.

This was a directive from the Department of Science and Technology and the design was done by a consortium of the Universities of Venda, Limpopo and North West.

The South Africa-Norway Tertiary Development language project commenced in 2009, improving students' English communication skills and it is expected to improve the throughput rate of students in the University. The project was financed to the tune of R500 000.

#### **Community engagement**

The Masupa-tsela joint project between Univen and the University of Fort Hare, under the auspices of the National Department of Social Development, continued in 2009. The project encourages the youth nationally to be responsible citizens. Among others, the project presented 'train the trainer' workshops in Bela-Bela and in Durban.

The indigenous music and oral history project held the "Khano/Lehlabula/Ntsobelo" festival on campus, with cultural groups from the vhaVenda, vaTsonga and Northern Sotho groups performing. Project participants are collecting artefacts from different artists around Limpopo, whilst a resident voluntarily trains Tshikona and Tshigombela.

The School also hosted a seminar on Mapungubwe, South Africa's illustrious World Heritage Site, with Mr Tshimangadzo Nemaheni, the Manager of the Mapungubwe National Park, as keynote speaker.

#### **Research and innovation**

The School undertook an archaeological impact assessment for the Vele Colliery to the east of the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site. Staff members published no less than ten peer reviewed articles in accredited journals. The Journal of Educational Studies, edited by Dr Lesibana Rafapa, continues to sustain its accreditation with the Department of Education. In the year under review four issues were published, generating a total page fee revenue of R 205 800.

Dr Rachidi Molapo contributed a chapter titled 'Negotiating South Africa's democracy: A new social contract' in the book 'The de-franchised: Perspectives on the history of elections in South Africa', while Dr Tsoaledi Thobejane published a book titled 'The struggle for an egalitarian society: Towards politics of racial harmony and equity". It was published by the Nova Publishing Company in New York.

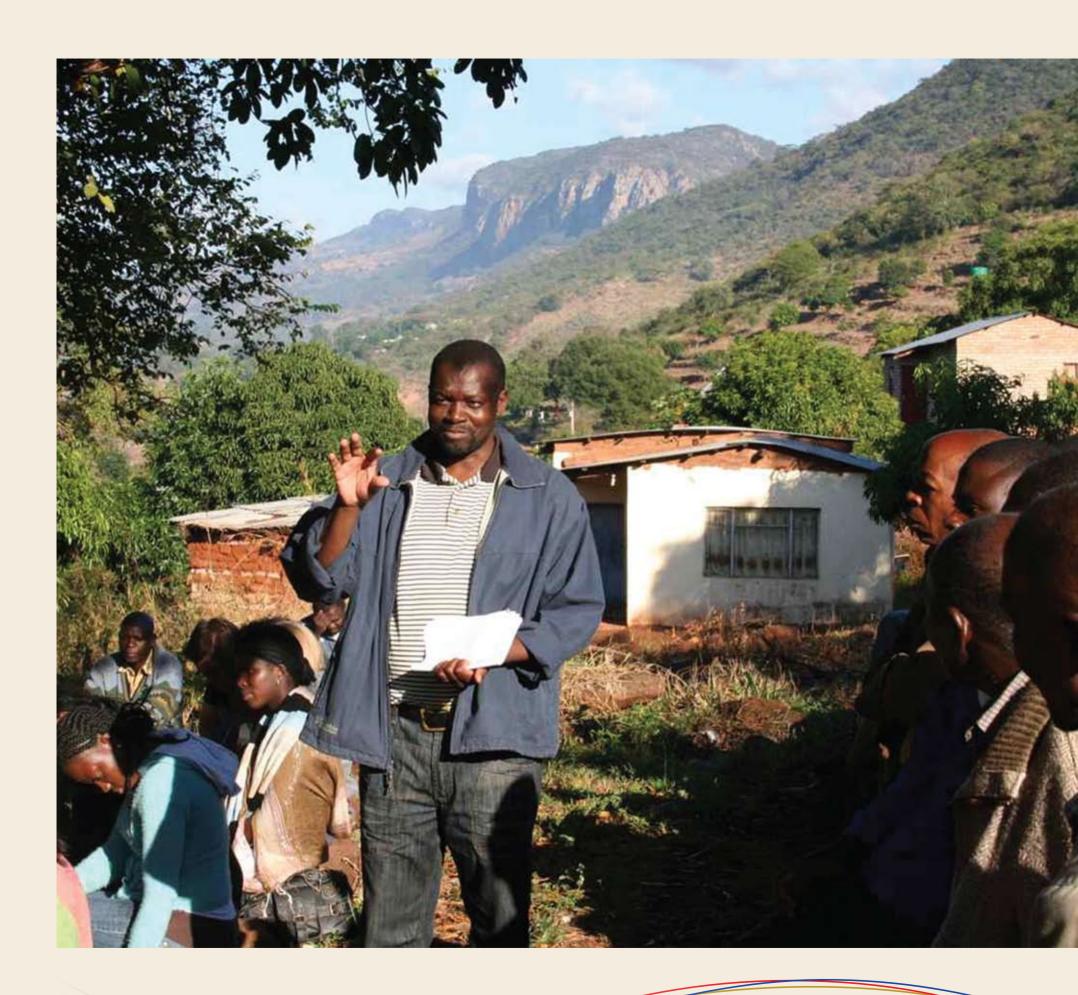
Staff presented peer reviewed papers at three national and four international conferences.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

The exchange programme between the Freiburg University in Germany and the School's Gender and Youth Studies Centre continued in 2009.

Three students attended courses in Youth Studies and did practicals in Freiburg. At the same time three students of the Freiburg University attended classes in the same study direction and did practical training on the Univen campus.

Staff members of the MER Mathivha Centre for African Languages lectured to Xitsonga and Tshivenda students at the Great Zimbabwe University. Competing with students at other higher education institutions, a student of the Centre, Mr Khazamula Maswanganyi, was nominated for the Tuebingen/South Africa programme presented in Germany.



## School of Law



"We laid the foundations for a renewed commitment to excellence in teaching, research and community engagement."

Ms Annette Lansink Dean: School of Law The School of Law offers learning methodologies and research in a range of qualifications in law and criminal justice that are responsive to the development needs of the Southern African region.

The School offers a four-year LLB and a three-year BA in Criminal Justice. The postgraduate programmes include a BA (honours) in Criminal Justice, a Masters of Arts in Criminal Justice, and an LLM in Human Rights Law.

In the review year 1 320 students were enrolled - 253 new undergraduate students which included 44 students for the BA in Criminal Justice degree and 11 students for the foundation programme.

A total of 87 modules were taught and the pass rate improved to 81% compared to 76% in 2008.

In the past financial year the foundations were laid for a renewed commitment to excellence in teaching, research and community engagement.

Besides these academic departments, the School also houses two community outreach agencies that complement its academic departments - the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and People's Rights and the Legal Aid Clinic.

#### **Teaching and learning**

As the centre of legal education, training and research which promotes rural and regional development, the School undertook a comprehensive curriculum review to align with the requirements of the higher education qualifications framework.

Among others, it undertook national and international benchmarking for the LLB and LLM programmes.

The BA Criminal Justice degree was reviewed and now comprises of modules such as Criminology which is offered to many students, including those from other schools.

A total of 1 257 students registered for these modules and the average pass rate was 93%.

In terms of the University's programme portfolio review the masters degree in Human Rights Law (LLM) was submitted for review of relevance and viability.

#### **Research and innovation**

The School saw an upsurge in its research activities and staff members published in 18 journals and books. Furthermore, two presentations were made at international and ten at national conferences.

Prof Cornelis Roelofse was project co-coordinator, author and co-author of the study guides for the National Qualifications Framework for the level three and four programmes in safety in society.

Adv Hlako Choma authored a book, Socio Economic Rights in South Africa and a series of books for the further education and training colleges, which are recommended by the Department of Education.

For the first time, half of the staff received the Vice-Chancellors Excellence in Research awards for active researchers.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

The dean presented a guest lecture at the Faculty of Law of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. The School also hosted guest speakers from the National Prosecuting Authority, the South African National Defence Force and the Legal Aid Board on career opportunities.

Univen participated in the 18th African Human Rights Moot Court in Lagos, Nigeria. This annual competition, which is held at different law faculties in Africa, aims to empower students from all parts of the continent to advocate and litigate human rights.

The University is one of few African universities that have participated in almost every Human Rights Moot Court competition.

#### **Community engagement**

The School's flagship community engagement projects are the Ishmail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights and the Legal Aid Clinic.

## Ishmail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights

The Centre hosted the Univen Human Rights Day function which examined the right to sufficient water.

Human rights activist and senior researcher at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, Dr Jackie Dugards, evaluated the shortcomings in this regard.

A panel discussion followed, while various School staff members elaborated on the issue. Univen students also participated and parts of the proceedings were translated into Tshivenda.

#### Legal Aid Clinic

The Clinic trained 166 final year LLB students in the year under review. Students were trained on how to conduct consultations, how to take new instructions from clients and how to draft applications.

They also received training on how to address the court and how to conduct trials, covering examination in chief, cross-examination, re-examination and presenting legal arguments.

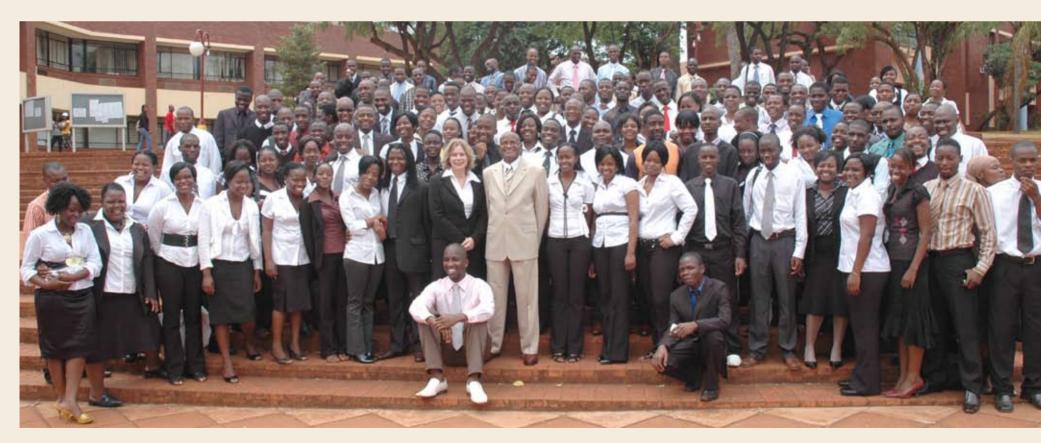
The Clinic also trained 23 Street Law students on issues relating to HIV/AIDS and the law. Students went to prisons, anti-retroviral clinics in hospitals, schools and to rural communities to conduct awareness campaigns on human rights, HIV/AIDS and the law.

It also presented practical training on trial techniques, administration of estates, Road Accident Fund claims and the provision of legal services to the indigent communities to lecturers from the Polokwane School of Legal Practice and final year LLB students.

The Clinic handled several cases on behalf of the indigent communities relating to criminal and civil litigation in the district, regional and high courts. These included contract, family, labour and succession and drafting of wills.

Funding for the Clinic came from various donors. These included –

- The Attorneys Fidelity Funds donated R210 000 to create infrastructure for practical student training.
- The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in partnership with the Association of Universities Legal Aid Institutions donated R336 000 towards salaries of professional staff of the law clinic.
- Oxfam Australia donated R97 545 to run the satellite office in Dzanani and to train Street Law students.



# School of Management Sciences



"We offer academic and career-focused programmes that promote rural and urban development in Southern Africa."

Prof Agyapong Gyekye Dean: School of Management Sciences The School offers a range of academic and career-focused programmes in the Economic and Management Sciences that promote rural and urban development in Southern Africa, applying appropriate methodologies and research.

#### **Teaching and learning**

To enhance the teaching capacity of the Department of Accounting and Auditing, the School appointed a chartered accountant as senior lecturer. Another new lecturer is tasked with boosting the School's quest for South African Institute of Chartered Accountants accreditation. A staff member of the Department of Economics was awarded a BANKSETA bursary to pursue doctoral studies in Economics. An economic debate, under the auspices of the Economic Society of South Africa, was chaired by Dr Jannie Rossouw, Acting Secretary of the South African Reserve Bank. The purchase of the socio-economic-financial database from IHS Global Insight for research and teaching in the commerce and administration departments, strengthens the School's ability to render quality education.

#### Research and innovation

In the year under review two journals and two peer reviewed proceedings were published, while two papers were presented at international conferences and one at a national level. Staff members attended the National Benchmark Test Project Workshop as well as a workshop on economics and applications.

Internally funded research projects included -

- The implementation of the integrated development plan in the Vhembe District Municipality.
- An investigation into the effect of the tax system on cash flows of SMMEs in Limpopo.
- An investigation into the factors affecting the use of the internet by private health institutions in Limpopo.
- Non-payment of municipality service charges in the Thulamela Municipality.
- An instrument to measure service satisfaction in hospitality establishments.

#### **Community engagement**

The School provided training in basic bookkeeping to the staff of the Kutama-Sinthumule Correctional Centre and assisted the Vhembe District Tourism Forum with policy formulation and activity design and community computer literacy training.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

Prof Fennick Huss and Prof John Hicks of the J. Mark Robinson College of Business at the Georgia State University visited Univen, while an exchange programme with the East Asia University in Shanghai City was initiated.









# School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences



"2009 saw the entry of the first group of Outcomes Based Education learners into the higher education system."

Prof Ernst Crafford Dean: School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences The School offers a diverse range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the natural sciences that are critical to the development needs of Southern Africa.

The School operates nine departments representing life sciences, physical sciences and mathematical and computational sciences. The departments are that of Biochemistry, Botany, Microbiology, Zoology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, and Statistics.

The School offers a three-year BSc programme within sixteen different learning areas. These represent rational combinations of majors offered within and between the departments.

In addition, the School houses a Science Foundation Department, which offers a foundational first-year for underprepared students in an extended, four-year BSc programme. The programme is accredited and funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training, and is an important means of increasing access to a scientific degree for underprepared learners who do not meet the requirements for entry into the mainstream BSc programme.



Furthermore, the School offers service courses in the basic sciences of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, as well as basic computer literacy to students from other schools.

In 2009 a total of 929 students were enrolled in the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Of these, 170 were enrolled at the Science Foundation and 98 in the various postgraduate programmes. This compares well with the enrolment figure of 748 for 2008.





The 20% growth in postgraduate enrolments was particularly encouraging and the ten PhD students represent a record number for the School. In total, 157 students graduated in the review year.

Almost half the academic staff holds PhD degrees, while 18 are enrolled for higher degrees at various South African universities, including Univen.

The review year saw the entry of the first group of Outcomes Based Education learners into the higher education system. Poor pass rates in mathematics and physical sciences of these first-entering students presented teaching and learning challenges which the School was able to identify and set out to address. However, it did impact on the overall pass rate in the School, which showed a decline from the previous year.

#### **Research and innovation**

The School retained its position as the top research School at Univen in 2009, receiving the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research award for the highest number of externally funded research projects. It was also awarded for the highest number of academics who presented research findings at overseas conferences.

A highlight in this regard was a paper presented by Mr Joe Hlomuka of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at an international conference on applied mathematics in Russia. He presented a possible solution to one of the last major outstanding mathematical conundrums of the millennium.

Long-term external research grants received during 2009 totalled nearly R40 million. It included -

- A R17 800 000 grant from BioPad for a multidisciplinary bio-prospecting research project.
- A grant of R14 250 000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a collaborative research project between Univen and the University of Virginia in the USA.
- Grants totaling R1 620 000 from the Water Research Commission for research projects, primarily in the Departments of Microbiology and Zoology.
- Grants totaling R6 500 000 from the National Research Foundation to various researchers.



Dr Pascal Bessong received the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research award for the researcher who brought in the most external research funding. Two other researchers, Prof Teuns van Ree of Chemistry and Prof Natasha Potgieter of Microbiology, received the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research awards for best overall researchers.

Staff members authored or co-authored 32 research papers in accredited local and international journals, which represented the majority of Univen's research output in 2009.

The partnership between the Department of Zoology and the Department of Science and Technology/ National Research Foundation's Centre of Excellence in Invasion Biology at the University of Stellenbosch was strengthened further, with Dr Stefan Foord mobilising R405 000 for bursaries for post-graduate research.

Collaborative research projects with the Universities of Paderborn in Germany and Fudan in China yielded research papers in alternative energy and natural product chemistry. Several exchange visits between

these two universities and Univen took place. The School also hosted colleagues from the University of Virginia involved in the global network for the study of malnutrition and enteric diseases project.

#### **Vuwani Science Resource Centre**

The School continued to manage Univen's flagship community outreach project, The Vuwani Science Resource Centre, on behalf of the Univen community.

The Centre remained financially self-sustaining, with operational and capital expenditure funded largely through external grants and donations. Through the continued generosity of Nissan South Africa, several pieces of equipment were acquired to enhance the experience of learners making use of the interactive science exhibit.

The mobile laboratory implemented, through Nissan South Africa, considerably enhanced science outreach activities at Vuwani in the year under review. More than 70 secondary schools from the University's catchment area visited the Centre, with 6 300 rural learners benefitting - more than double the number of the previous year.

The most important activities included -

- National Science Week, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology, coordinated by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement. About 1 000 learners from 15 different schools visited the Centre, learning about careers in science and technology.
- A winter school was conducted for about 100 grade 12 science learners from six rural schools over three weeks, followed by pre-examination coaching during the spring holidays. Revision guides for different topics in mathematics and physical science, as well as model question papers with memoranda, were prepared by staff from the School.
- Basic computer literacy and a computer training programme for both learners and adults. In total 58 participants were trained, generating R35 000 in income.



- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Space Applications Centre cohosted the World Space Week celebrations. Career opportunities in space science were presented to the 200 grade 11 and 12 learners, while awareness among rural learners about the South African satellite Sumbandila which was launched in September 2009, was specifically promoted.
- The Science Expo support to learners who wish to enter regional and national Science Expo competitions. Prof Vaith Sankaran served as chief judge for the Capricorn region's competition.
- The Departments of Science and Technology and Basic Education, in partnership with the

South African Association of Science and Technology Educators' recognition of the Science Olympiad, as a part of their Youth into Science strategy, and encouragement of learners to participate in them.

There had been no participation from the Vuwani region for many years, but in 2009 five schools were supported by the Centre to participate.

About 50 learners from these schools contested the second round and received certificates for participation. In addition, a learner from Mbilwi Secondary School who qualified to attend the international level competition at Baku, Azerbaijan, was coached at the Centre.





## Library services

In the 2009 financial year the library's book budget was boosted by R2,2m from the teaching and research grant.

Book collection increased by 4,4% as 4 796 new volumes were added - 1 632 of these were donations. This growth exceeded the target of 3%.

The library experienced a tremendous growth in the usage of its resources - particularly books and full-text electronic databases.

Book issues increased by 16%, while the number of searches conducted on most of the full-text databases increased - some with more than 100%. The most

significant were SA ePublications with 147% and EbscoHost with 325%.

Acquisition and special collections policies were developed to improve efficiency in the buying of information resources.

The reviewed circulation policy contributes to improving access to the collection by ensuring that information resources are used by as many library users as possible.

A newly installed generator provides electricity during power cuts, eliminating the problem of early closure during such outages.



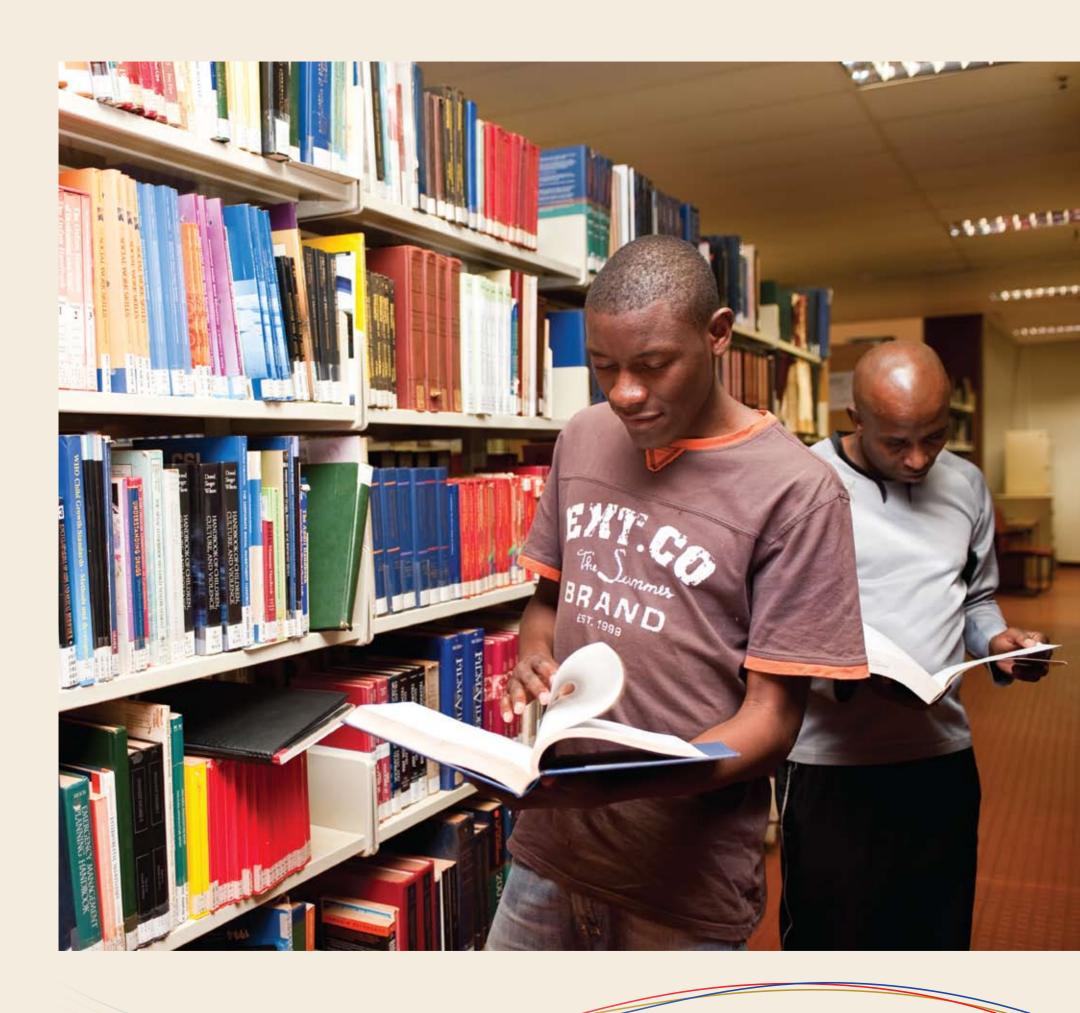
"We experienced a tremendous growth in the usage of resources - particularly books and full-text electronic databases."

Ms Mushoni Mulaudzi Director: Library Services









# Research and Innovation Directorate



"We attracted funding for research and consultancy to the value of R19,2 million."

Prof Phindile Lukhele-Olorunju Director Research and Innovation The Directorate focuses on the development of future scientists by emphasising research and innovation at postgraduate level.

During the review year the University attracted funding for research and consultancy to the value of R19.2 million. The University also received money from the Department of Higher Education and Training as a research output subsidy for R1.9 million and a R5 million loan from the National Research Foundation for the research building. The research and publications budget came to R5 million.

External funding came from institutions such as the National Research Foundation, the Water Research Commission, the Medical Research Council, the Agricultural Research Council, the Council for Geosciences, the Land Bank and national and provincial government departments.

Additional external funders included BioPAD, the Medical Research Foundation, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, South Africa Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development and the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education and Research.

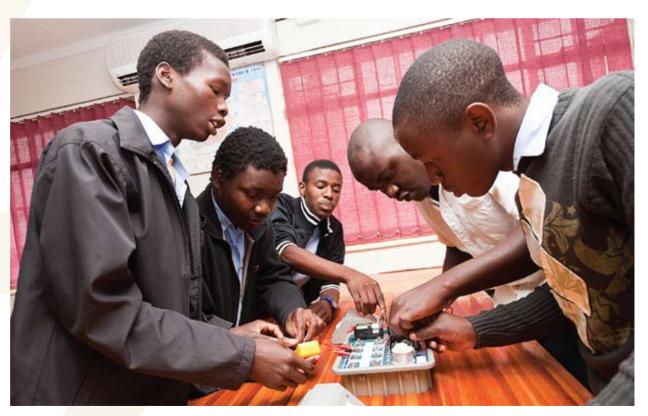
Other external funds came from the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative, the South Africa Norway Tertiary Education Development Programme, the University of Virginia and the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust.

During the year under review the number of active researchers increased by 30%. This increase is in all disciplines and can be attributed to the emphasis on research by both management and academics.

The University supported 35 researchers to attend international conferences, thus promoting intellectual interaction and scientific collaboration. The University also funded 12 niche area projects to the value of R1.2 million and 18 non-niche projects with R620 000. Twenty percent of the niche area projects were on community based participatory research and eight were internationally funded projects to the value of R2.6 million.

#### **Research output**

In 2009 research output increased significantly and 91 journal articles were published, compared to 50 in 2008. In total 73% of Univen's journal publications appeared in the Institute for Scientific Information,







9% in the International Bibliography of Social Sciences and 18% in South African approved Department of Higher Education and Training journals.

In total 22% of the University's researchers published above the Department of Higher Education and Training's expected norm of 1.25. This earned the University 16.11 units for research output.

In total nine masters students and three doctoral students graduated in the review year. Six of the research masters students graduated in Natural Sciences and the other three in Social Sciences.

Two of the doctoral graduates were from the School of Education and the other from the School of Health Sciences. These research output achievements moved Univen from 0.22 to 0.36 on the Department of Higher Education and Training's research output meter.

To improve both publication and capacity building output, the Directorate organised workshops for researchers to interact with the staff of the National Research Foundation, the Medical Research Council, the South Africa Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development and the World Intellectual Property Organization. These workshops informed researchers on available research and training programmes, funding opportunities and protection of developed intellectual properties through patenting of innovations.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

During the year under review the University attracted international recognition in the fields of Microbiology via the global network for the study of malnutrition and enteric diseases, Mathematics via the problem solving mathematical publications and Water and Health via the rural development and poverty alleviation project and via environmental sciences supported by the May and Stanley Smith Trust project.

Other recognition came via the HIV/AIDS project supported by the South Africa Netherlands research Programme on Alternatives in Development and the Higher Education HIV/AIDS Programme and an education project supported by the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

The English language development project was supported by the South Africa Norway Tertiary Education Development Programme, the chemistry project by the Univen-China project, whilst postgraduate staff development was supported by the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education and Research.

The University hosted international research scholars from the USA, Botswana, Mozambique and China. Most of these were exploratory visits about possibilities of partnerships with 11 memoranda of understanding signed – five with international and six with national organisations.



#### **Research achievements**

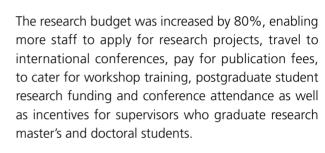
During the review year various researchers received national and international recognition. Dr Pascal Bessong was recognised by BioPAD, one of the Department of Science and Technology BRICS, as a scientist worthy to handle a R17 million project on Bioprospecting.

The University was also brought into the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Consortium of nine intercontinental countries on malnutrition and education. The Presidency recogised Dr John Mudau and Prof Joseph Francis for sustainable rural livelihoods projects.

The number of National Research Foundation rated researchers at Univen increased from 2 to 4 in 2009. These were Prof Peter Taylor, Prof Peter Mbati, Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane and Dr Samie Amidou.

#### **Research development**

In the 2009 financial year the University introduced a number of innovative ways to promote research and encourage staff members to do research.



Univen also improved its research development by working closely with the Limpopo Province - two staff members were elected to the Limpopo Research Forum's steering committee, while the relationship with the office of the Premier and the University of Limpopo paved the way for joint projects in the areas of climate change, rural development and community engagement.







## Community Engagement Directorate



"Researchers from various schools and international partners as well as communities are involved in community engagement projects."

Prof Vhonani Netshandama Director: Community Engagement Directorate Created in 2009, the Community Engagement Directorate established a qualitative, symbiotic and reciprocal relationship with community stakeholders. So strong does the University feel about community engagement that a separate committee of Senate was established to govern this operation. The Committee ensures that community engagement communications, activities and mandates filter through to schools and departments. Schools and Departments have functional community engagement committees.

The Directorate provides support and coordination between and among schools and centres for community engagement projects.

#### Research

In the year under review researchers from various schools and international partners such as the University of Virginia, as well as the community of the Vhembe District, were involved in various projects. These included the photo voice, the ceramic filter, as well as water and health community based engagement in Limpopo.

Certain programmes are mainly driven by student leaders - assisted by advisors and mentors - and

include guest lectures and public debates coordinated by the Marketing and Communications Department. Examples of such initiatives are the Univen Global Sustainability debate organised by students of Mathematical and Natural sciences and the international organisation Students In Free Enterprise debate, organised by students of Management Sciences.

#### **Community flagship projects**

The Directorate coordinated various projects during the review year. These included –

- The Masia project via the Masia Development Trust, which aims to improve the quality of life of the residents of Ha-Masia. The Centre for Rural Development is responsible for the project.
- A water and health project in Limpopo, based at Ha-Rammbuda Tshiwangamatembele includes education on development in these areas in the Mutale district, the erection of a sand filter at the Tshapasha Village and nursing assistance. The University of Virginia in the USA is a partner in this project.









## Operations division



"We have established a more business-like approach to help the University to run more efficiently."

Dr Jannie Zaaiman Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Operations Since 2006 the Department of Higher Education and Training has substantially increased its financial support and reaffirmed its commitment to Univen.

While benefiting from this goodwill, the University has also fought hard to build on its own strengths to advance its stature.

During the year under review the Operations Division established a more business-like approach to help the University to run more efficiently. This increased the University's support and influence throughout the region and the province.

Final proposals were accepted to establish a separate company to fast track third stream income needs to increase dramatically.

The Division drafted new policies which laid the foundation for future operations. Performance agreements were drafted with senior staff and five year operational plans were compiled.

Various professional staff members were appointed to manage the massive infrastructure roll-out plan which started in all earnest during the second half of 2009.

The Division comprises of six departments -

- Facilities Management
- Communications and Marketing
- Information Technology Services
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Univen Income Generation Centre

## **Department of Communications and Marketing**

During the year under review the Department developed a communications strategy, a media relations policy, an internal communications policy as well as a student recruitment policy.

Employees were encouraged to work as a team and to be committed to the highest standard of integrity. More than 90% of staff in the Department received training in communications and marketing.

It also actively participated in a benchmarking exercise for best practices and to ensure the integrity of data-based decision making. Strengthening the



Mr Takalani Dzaga:
Director Communications and Marketing

relationship with alumni as well as individual schools' alumni structures, has been a priority. The Agriculture Alumni Association took the lead and hosted a seminar where best performing students in the schools of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences received awards. The best performing students were reconised during the autumn graduation ceremony.

The Department hosted the annual careers exhibition on campus, with more than 250 secondary schools from the Vhembe district participating. The principal sponsor was Spar, Thohoyandou, which donated R67 000 to host the exhibition. Secondary schools from Sambandou were also hosted on campus.

Various events were organised, among others, the inauguration of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbati, the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande's visit on campus and the Univen election debate.

Other events included -

- The congratulatory dinner for Mr Kirsten Nematandani, the President of the South African Football Association
- The Nzhelele-Makhado Heritage Day celebration

- The commemoration of HIV/AIDS Day and the launching of the staff peer education programme
- The farewell function for Council members
- The year-end function
- The send-off function of student Khazamula Maswanganyi who was elected for the Tubingen and South African Cultural and Language Programme in Germany.

A Univen Foundation fundraising database of funders was developed and is being updated on a regular basis.

The Department pursued its consistent communications through publications, broadcasting, advertising and media releases to constantly inform and educate internal and external stakeholders and to attract better-prepared and best-performing students.

Various publications like the monthly newsletter, Nendila, were produced.

Univen Radio signed an agreement with Kagiso TV for a 15-minute programme, Soul Buddies, during the youth programme on Saturday mornings.

The station boasted a listenership of 115 000 during the year under review.





Mr Tshililo Justice Manenzhe: Director Human Resources

#### **Department of Human Resources**

The Department is responsible for recruiting and retaining well qualified, competent and committed staff.

During the year under review, the Department accomplished various milestones.

These included -

- The development of 28 policies, including the delegation of authority and a set of guidelines to enhance the recruitment of suitably qualified and competent staff.
- The recruitment of two deputy vice-chancellors, to head up the academic and operations divisions.

- The appointment of various professionals:
  - Two emeritus professors in the fields of Curriculum Planning and Agricultural Economics.
  - Two visiting professors in the fields of Ecology and Resource Management and Urban and Regional Planning.
  - Two visiting academics in Psychology and Education.
  - Two retired academics in the field of Botany and Mining and Environmental Geology.

These highly qualified experienced professionals are playing a pivotal role in mentoring young researchers and providing academic leadership and instilling a culture of research at Univen.

## Number of people appointed in the review year

| Category                       | Number |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Deputy Vice- Chancellors       | 2      |
| Professors                     | 4      |
| Associate professors           | 1      |
| Senior lecturers               | 12     |
| Lecturers                      | 24     |
| Junior lecturers               | 6      |
| Directors                      | 2      |
| Academic support staff members | 23     |

#### Improved qualifications

A total of 14 staff members acquired higher academic qualifications

| Category                    | Number |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| PhD                         | 2      |
| Masters degree              | 4      |
| Postgraduate diploma/degree | 4      |
| Diploma                     | 3      |
| Total                       | 14     |

Short Courses

| Course  | Participants          | Number of participants |  |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Minimising retrenchments  | Middle management     | 1                      |  |
| MV switchgear maintenance   | Artisans              | 2                      |  |
| Advanced soil survey techniques                                   | Academic staff        | 2                      |  |
| Asset management  | Admin staff           | 4                      |  |
| Econometric analysis  | Academic staff        | 1                      |  |
| Design and installation of solar electric and wind turbine system | Lab technician        | 1                      |  |
| Environmental management system auditing                          | Academic staff        | 2                      |  |
| Annual workshop for vice-chancellors' executive secretaries       | Executive secretaries | 2                      |  |
| Tendering, procurement and contract management                    | Admin staff           | 2                      |  |
| Labour intensive construction                                     | Artisan               | 1                      |  |
| Pastel accounting (Partner 2009 version 10) intermediate          | Academic staff        | 1                      |  |
| Emotional intelligence  | Director              | 1                      |  |
| Understanding and implementing ISO 14001:2004                     | Academic staff        | 2                      |  |
| Water quality management  | Lab technician        | 1                      |  |
| Advanced drivers and road safety                                  | Driver                | 1                      |  |
| Skills for office executives                                      | Secretaries           | 2                      |  |
|   |                       |                        |  |



| Course  | Participants   | Number of participants  |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Curriculum design and material development    | Academic staff   | 37                      |
| Financial management for non-finance managers | Middle management  | 3                       |
| Coaching and mentoring                        | Admin staff  | 8                       |
| Project management                            | Admin staff<br>Academic staff                                | 10<br>1                 |
| Competency-based selection                    | Deans Directors Middle management Academic staff Admin staff | 5<br>8<br>2<br>12<br>11 |
| Video production                              | Admin staff  | 1                       |





| Internships             |              |                        |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Department              | Participants | Number of participants |
| Research and innovation | Admin staff  | 1                      |

| Course     | Participants | Number of participant |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Education  | Students     | 7                     |
| Accounting | Students     | 1                     |

| Adult Basic Education and <sup>-</sup> | Training graduates |                        |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Level                                  | Participants       | Number of participants |
| Level 1                                | Service staff      | 25                     |
| Level 3                                | Service staff      | 11                     |
| Level 4                                | Service staff      | 5                      |

| Department          | Participants Participants | Number of participants |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| GIS Resource Centre | Lab technician            | 1                      |
| Geography           | Academic staff            | 1                      |

## **Department of Information Technology Services**

During the review year the Department issued 189 laptops to academics, while 69 data projectors were issued to various schools.

The University's internet connection was upgraded to an eight megabite per second Telkom Internet Direct Internet service. This increased the bandwidth or 'throughput' internet access by a factor of three. This increased response time threefold and reduced download times by a third.

All members of the Senior Management Committee were issued with laptops and 3G cards. This enabled them to access online resources like the University mail and internet while they are away from campus. This

more rewarding wireless experience transformed the way top managers communicate with each other and with their subordinates and other work colleagues.

The Department acquired a bulk SMS system making it ideal for distributing messages to both students and staff. A web-based helpdesk system - CA Service Desk – was implemented to assist the information technology support staff to track calls logged by users. Some of the immediate benefits were improved customer service, faster response times and feedback on information technology services. The University installed Microsoft SharePoint as its complete Intranet solution for business collaboration and improvement of staff productivity. Juta Law intranet was installed for the Law School, enabling staff access to a database of South African acts.



Mr Joel Vele: Director Information Technology Services

An automated clearing bureau system with interbank utilities for the clearing of cheques and electronic payments, was installed. The system is used by the Department of Finance for electronic payments of staff salaries, creditors and other online transactions. In today's competitive, quick-evolving educational environment, high-speed wireless Internet access on campus is crucial to meet the needs of a competitive, teaching and learning community – hence the installation of a wireless internet system. The system covers 80% of the campus as opposed to wireless hot spots. The network operates via the enterprise-class Wavion wireless local area network product line, allowing students access in the classroom, residences, the library or the campus gardens.

During the review year the Student iEnabler system, called MyAccess, was implemented to provide the student community with online real-time access to the University's information technology system. The system allows students easy and secure access to biographical data, academic records, class and exam time tables, student accounts and results. MyAccess also allows for online applications, registrations and related activities. More than 6 000 students are registered on the system.

Several high-quality audio-visual equipment systems were installed in different boardrooms to allow for professional presentations and to enhance the way in which meetings are conducted.

#### **Department of Facilities Management**

During the year under review, the Department erected the steel palisade fence around the Pre-school and the School of Agriculture, installed a standby generator in the library end erected fences around Univen's vacant stands. Work continued on four new lecture theatres, the extensions to the Environmental Sciences and new Life Sciences buildings and the disabled student unit. No less than 19 projects were in the planning stage during the review year. These included -

- Renovations to 40 staff houses
- Renovations to the stadium
- Surfacing of the road from Facilities Management to the School of Agriculture
- Renovations to street and walkway lights



- Paving of new walkways
- Extension to the School of Agriculture
- Construction of the student administration building.
- Conversion of the Natural Sciences Building to accommodate the School of Health Sciences
- Upgrading of the power supply from Eskom to the main campus
- Upgrading of the main gate
- Construction of a commercial centre
- Construction of new student residences
- Upgrading of the water supply infrastructure
- Construction of the School of Education building
- Construction of a 4 000 seat auditorium
- Construction of a southern access road from the Punda Maria Road
- Erection of a perimeter fence
- Construction of a perimeter road



## Student Affairs

Student Affairs is composed of three components - Student Governance and Residences, Student Health and Sport and Recreation.

#### **Student Governance and Residences**

The Student Representative Assembly's constitution was amended at the constitutional and policy conference, resulting in revised rules and regulations for residences.

Student leaders are democratically elected during the annual student elections – overseen by the Independent Electoral Commission. The elections were declared free and fair.

#### **Election results**

| Organisation | Votes | Seats |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| Pasma        | 1 579 | 3     |
| Sasco        | 1 551 | 3     |
| Azasco       | 1 451 | 3     |
| SCO          | 474   | 1     |

Mr Shakira Machabaphala of PASMA was elected president.

In the year under review Univen residences accommodated 2 036 students.



Rev Simon Nedohe: Director Student Affairs





#### **Sport and Recreation**

The Department provides, promotes, develops and coordinates sports and recreation programmes and activities on and outside campus, including community outreach programmes.

In the year under review Kgothatso Montjane, Sydwell Mathonsi and Desmond Monyamane were selected to the South African wheelchair tennis team that represented the country in the 2009 Wheelchair Tennis World Cup in the United Kingdom.

Their inclusion was based on their world rankings - Kgothatso number 20, Sydwell number 50 and Desmond number 60. Team South Africa was ranked sixth.

Five Univer teams participated in the 2009 winter games. Netball, rugby, and volleyball were hosted by the University of Johannesburg, dance by the Fort Hare University and karate by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

For the very first time, the Univen badminton team participated in the University Sports South Africa tournament. The team won the C-section, while five players were selected to the national team.







#### **Student Health**

The Department provides good quality health care services that are readily available and affordable to registered students, employees and nearby communities.

The on-campus service provides for immediate care in the workplace, resulting in employees and students not being absent from work or class.

The Department also provides guidance and counseling on matters like sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS, the use of contraceptives and pregnancy.

During the review year various HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns were presented. First-entering students were addressed during orientation week, while workshops were presented during special campaigns on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Voluntary Counselling and Testing and Condom Week.

Students were alerted about the risks of unprotected and casual sex and the value of voluntary counselling and testing, especially couple counselling.

During the Scrutinise HIV and AIDS awareness campaign, presented in partnership with DramAidE,

more than 500 people voluntarily tested for AIDS in four days.

During the Univen careers exhibition week student peer educators presented HIV and AIDS awareness campaigns to more than 10 000 grade 12 learners, also promoting voluntary counselling and testing.

Peer educators also organised the ONELOVE march, in partnership with Soul City, with people from the Vhembe district participating.

Another initiative was the open session at the School of Education themed 'What is making HIV to escalate at Univen despite all the awareness campaigns?'.

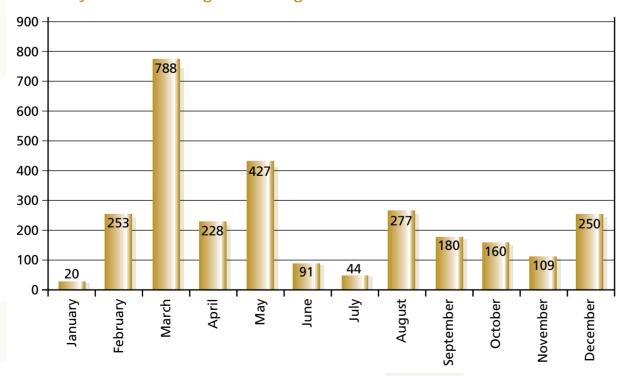
The HIV and AIDS awareness campaigns culminated in the Univen Aids Day with 340 people attending. These included people from Vhembe Further Education and Training, Thohoyandou Correctional Services, Munna ndi nnyi, the Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment group and the Madzivhandila College.

#### **Collaboration and linkages**

Campus Health hosted the South African Annual Association of Campus Health Services conference themed 'Strategic response to the macro and micro environment of campus health services'.

Staff members attended and presented papers at, among others, the 9th World Congress of the International Association for Adolescent Health in Kuala Lumpur, the international conference of the Southern African Society for Education

#### Voluntary HIV counselling and testing



in East London and the 5th Social Aspects of the HIV/AIDS Research Alliance conference in Johannesburg, and visited the University of Virginia in the USA to benchmark the HIV/AIDS services.

#### **Clinic visits**

| Total patients consulted by medical doctors | 380   |
|---|-------|
| Family planning                             | 2 092 |
| Dentist                                     | 33    |
| Psychologist                                | 4     |
| Occupational issue consultations            | 225   |
| Referrals                                   | 1 222 |
| Total clinic visits                         | 6 728 |

#### **Community engagement**

During the review year Campus Heath visited the Marude, Mbilwi, Dengenya, Matavhela, Tombolagole, Todani and Tshilala Secondary Schools, the Thohoyandou Technical School and the Shakadza Primary School to address learners on the reduction of risky sexual behaviour and the myth related to HIV/AIDS.

Other visits were made to the Muledane Life Care Centre, a refugee camp for children from Zimbabwe and other local orphans and vulnerable children.

HIV and AIDS community workshops engaged the home-based care units of Thusalushaka, Itsani, Faranani, Tshakhuma, Rodiimisa and Tshisaulu and the Konanani Health Development project.

The Department of Education, DramAidE and the Higher Education HIV/AIDS Programme assisted with funding for these workshops.

Campus Heath also participated in health talks on Univen Radio, Phalaphala FM and Capricorn FM.

#### **Teaching and learning**

During the financial year more than 130 student peer educators, service staff peer educators and 4th year law students were trained, while students from the Gab Buster Learning Centre in the USA facilitated a workshop at the Muledane Life Care Centre for orphans and vulnerable children.





# Annual financial review



Ms Fidelia Gandiya Director: Finance

The University of Venda maintains proper internal control systems designed to provide reasonable assurance that the University's assets are safeguarded against abuse, loss and unauthorised disposal.

It also assures that accounting records provide a reliable basis for the preparation of financial statements and for evaluating the University's academic and administrative effectiveness and efficiency.

Both the delegation of authority policy and other policies and procedures for prescribing and documenting business and control processes were reviewed and/or developed during the review year.

These will continuously be circulated and workshopped to the University community to promote a culture of good governance, accountability and transparency.

In addition, a whistle blowing policy was developed to allow all Univen staff who have genuine concern over questionable conduct or financial and procedural irregularities, to express these and mitigate against loss through fraud and corruption.

The internal audit function is outsourced to an independent firm of auditors who report to and operate under the supervision of the Vice-Chancellor. The Audit Committee approves the annual internal audit plan, which is mainly based on the strategic risks facing the University and identified through the risk management process.

Internal control system deficiencies as identified and recommendations are submitted to Executive Management for consideration.

A report on the risk management process as well as a summary register is presented to the Audit Committee and to Council periodically.

While every effort is made to ensure that the University's internal control systems are watertight, any system of internal control is subject to limitations as no internal control system, however elaborate, can guarantee the completeness and accuracy of records.

Limitations include collusion, abuse of authorisation controls and human error. Continuous review

and updating of internal controls ensure that the organisation meets its objectives

#### **Financial management function**

The University's financial management and planning is aligned to its strategic plan and the business plans of the respective cost centres.

Budgets are prepared annually in line with the institutional strategic priorities and resources are allocated to achieve the set objectives.

By linking the strategic planning and budgeting process, the University not only creates a more efficient way of carrying out its operations, but attains its strategic objectives and preserves long term financial stability and sustainability.

While departments and school heads have the delegated authority to exercise discretion over the application of budgeted funds and the utilisation of assets under their control for the achievement of their goals, they are held responsible for deviating from set targets in their business plans.

The timely provision of authentic and standardised management information fosters effective budgetary control and financial discipline.

The finance function, through pursuance of financial accountability and excellence driven by best practice performance levels, provides a pivotal link between the University's business plan and its implementation.

As the custodian of the University's financial resources, the function ensures that fundamental principles of financial management are in existence and are adhered to in every part of the institution to foster a culture of financial astuteness.

The activities of the finance function entails –

- financial reporting
- provision of management information to the University and external stakeholders including statutory authorities
- the planning, production and control of the annual budget

- the development of sound financial policies and procedures
- the management and coordination of audits
- the determination and administration of student fees and student loans
- the control of staff remuneration payments, debtors, creditors, assets and liabilities
- the administration of funds, investments and banking
- the development and maintenance of appropriate financial systems
- internal controls, the administration of procurement and financial management training

#### Sources of income

All South African universities rely heavily on income from government grants. This grant forms more than 50% of Univen's revenue and includes the annual block grant - the biggest item of the University's revenue.

Other income items include tuition fees, accommodation and meal fees, income from research grants and contracts, donations and gifts. This portion of revenue is unrestricted and Council controlled.

The University also receives the restricted portion of income for the research and teaching development grant, the infrastructure development grant, the efficiency grant, the foundation grant and a grant towards interest redemption.

Although the block grant subsidy has been increasing since 2006, it has not been adequate to cover operational activities.

This, linked to the low level of Univen's tuition fees - the 2009 tuition fee increase was only 10% - has put a strain on the University's operating budget.

#### **Expenditure**

The major part of expenses are payroll costs, general administrative expenses and library costs, which increased, due to stringent budgetary control efforts,

by only 11% for the year under review.

Capital expenditure remained relatively lower than had been planned, despite the government having allocated huge amounts to the University for infrastructure and efficiency funding from 2007.

The major reason for the lower than planned capital expenditure was the delay in the commencement of the infrastructure development projects due to the designing, architectural and tendering processes. However, progress increased from September 2009, when construction on infrastructure projects commenced.

The first phase of the infrastructure projects constituting the 2007 - 2010 Department of Higher Education and Training funded projects, is expected to be completed in 2011.

#### Student financial aid

The government sponsored National Student Financial Aid Scheme of South Africa's allocation increased from R68,351 million to R77,379 million in 2009.

This includes R6,010 million that was earmarked for teacher education in line with the government's policy to grow the number of qualified teachers.

It also includes R6,140 million which was ring fenced for students with disabilities. Apart from these amounts the University received a teacher education grant through the Funza Lushaka bursary to the tune of R14,197 million.

## Financial sustainability in the foreseeable future

#### **Operational expenditure**

Financial stability will be pursued through realistic income and expenditure projection, including annual review of tuition fees.

Budgets are prepared in such a way that Council controlled income within each year is adequate to cover total expenditure, leaving a recurrent operating surplus that provides a hedge against unforeseen circumstances.

It also covers the following year's new initiatives in line 4. with the University's strategic plan.

#### **Capital Expenditure**

Council controlled capital expenditure is budgeted and evaluated for separately from operational expenses and undertaken in line with planned strategic initiatives.

It is constrained by available cash resources and so projects are always prioritised.

#### **Financial highlights**

The annual statements give a snap shot of all the activities of the University, including both recurrent and non-recurrent income and expenditure, specifically funded activities, investment activities and financing transactions.

The financial statements give a broad overview of the financial position of the University and its progress over the ended period.

#### Key features of the 2009 financial results:

#### Income statement account:

- 1. Income increased by less than 1% compared to 2008 from R444.7 million to R445.1 million. The small increase is mainly attributable to financial support from the Department of Higher Education and Training and a 10% increase in tuition fees and interest income.
- 2. Total expenses increased by 11% from R361.6 million in 2008, to R400.7 million for 2009. The increase in expenditure was mainly caused by the increase in payroll costs and other operating expenses.
- 3. The University's net cash position amounted to R427.2 million as compared to R338 million in 2008. Most of this cash is restricted and ring fenced for teaching and development, infrastructure and efficiency funding.

The balance is University free cash which is available for Council controlled priority projects or as a hedge against unforeseen circumstances.

- 4. Financial aid support and bursaries increased by 20.6% from R131.2 million in 2008 to R163.1 million in 2009. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme continues to be the major financier of student financial support.
- 5. The fair value of the held to maturity investments at 31 December, 2009 was nil compared to R5.2 million for 2008, because the investments matured. The drop was due to the maturity of two Momentum Life loans realising R52.8 million.

#### Balance sheet

- 1. There was an increase in plant, property and equipment of R98 million from R409 million in 2008, to R506.9 million in 2009 representing a 24% increase.
- 2. Long term borrowings declined by R6.2 million to R24.6 million.
- 3. Accounts payable went up by 10% from R224 million to R242 million and the largest component is deferred revenue from the Department of Higher Education and Training for infrastructure development.
- 4. Accounts receivable fell from R68.2 million in 2008, to R29 million at the end of 2009.

#### Highlights review 2006-2009

The financial management activities of the University's Finance Committee are focused on supporting the key strategic initiatives identified by Univen's leadership and sanctioned by Council, while ensuring appropriate levels of controls and discipline in the various financial processes.

More effort still needs to be made to improve the budget process, especially introducing a five-year budgeting framework that sets a blueprint for aligning the budgeting process to the University's strategic plan in a more holistic manner.

The emphasis on the appropriate allocation of resources in line with approved business plans will continue to be strengthened with a bias favouring strengthening teaching, learning and community engagement. To this end, the University's Finance

Committee will reinforce its focus on these key matters –

 Building awareness among the University community of the importance and relevance of effective financial management

This will be done by proactively engaging budget holders in the budgeting process at all stages, the provision of management information in formats that can be easily understood and proper reporting of annual financial results.

 Identifying strategies and internal control systems that appropriately respond to and mitigate against the incidences and impact of all major risks.

The cost of these controls will be measured against the benefits risks to be derived from managing the risks.

- Developing and refining investment policies that:
  - Reflect an appropriate risk-return profile as well as the need for liquidity and income generation.
  - o Control investment risk by determining the portfolio mix of the total investment fund allocated to higher risk (equity) as opposed to low risk assets.
- Providing suitable and adequate infrastructure that enhances the University's ability to attract and retain the quality of staff needed to grow the teaching and research capability.

This is essential to transform the University into a quality driven, financially sustainable, ruralbased comprehensive university.

- Developing a more nuanced approach to financial aid and bursaries to enhance Univen's affordability and attractiveness to target students.
- Creating a work environment where the best and most creative are attracted, trained, retained and unleashed to perform.
- Strengthening the debt collection efforts to recover student debts within an acceptable time.

 Continuing to be risk averse and forward looking to ensure that new demands are managed within the University's overall financial capacity.

The results for the year were made possible by the adoption by Council of effective budgetary control and the support this received from the University management and broader University community.

Pursuance of an integrated financial planning approach, underpinned by matching income with expenditure within the broad framework of the University's strategic plan, need to be maintained to ensure sustainability.

#### Financial highlights review 2006 - 2009

| Subject                  | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|
|                          | R' m | R' m | R' m | R' m |
| Subsidies                | 209  | 229  | 168  | 178  |
| Tuition fees             | 186  | 163  | 147  | 120  |
| Sundry income            | 19   | 24   | 27   | 28   |
| Interest and dividends   | 31   | 25   | 15   | 7    |
| Fair value adjustments   | 0    | 4    | 8    | 7    |
| Total income             | 445  | 445  | 365  | 339  |
| Personnel costs          | 216  | 192  | 173  | 164  |
| Other operation expenses | 178  | 163  | 120  | 100  |
| Finance                  | 6    | 6    | 8    | 11   |
| Total expenses           | 400  | 362  | 301  | 275  |
| Net surplus (deficit)    | 45   | 84   | 64   | 64   |

## Independent auditors' report to the Council of the University of Venda

We have audited the consolidated annual financial statements of the University of Venda, which comprise the statement of financial position at 31 December 2009, the income statement and statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in funds and cash flow statement for the period then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

## Council's responsibility for the financial statements

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with South African Statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, regulations for reporting by Higher Education Institutions and in the manner required by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in terms of section 41 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended. This responsibility includes: designing, implementation and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, wether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance wether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, wether due to fraud or error. In making those risks assessments, the auditor

considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the University of Venda at 31 December 2009, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African Statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, regulations for reporting by Higher Education Institutions and in the manner required by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in terms of section 41 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended.

#### **KPMG** Inc

Registered Auditor

Per: CH van der Walt Chartered Accountants (SA) Registered Auditor

Director Polokwane

28/06/2010

### Statement of financial position

at 31 December 2009

|  | Notes | 2009<br>R'000 | 2009<br>R'000 | 2008<br>R'000 | 2008<br>R'000 |
|--|-------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Assests  |       |               | 965 483       |               | 823 706       |
| Non-current assests                              |       |               | 508 020       |               | 416 235       |
| Property, plant and equipment                    | 3     | 506 975       |               | 409 253       |               |
| Investments                                      | 4     | 1 045         |               | 6 982         |               |
| Current assests                                  |       |               | 457 463       |               | 407 471       |
| Inventories                                      | 5     | 1 277         |               | 1 080         |               |
| Accounts receivable                              | 6     | 29 017        |               | 68 295        |               |
| Students fees                                    |       | 25 378        |               | 28 855        |               |
| Other amounts                                    |       | 3 639         |               | 39 440        |               |
| Cash and cash equivalents                        | 7     | 427 169       |               | 338 096       |               |
| Equity and liabilities                           |       |               | 965 483       |               | 823 706       |
| Funds and reserves                               |       |               | 575 919       |               | 481 883       |
| Restricted use funds                             |       | 77 063        |               | 58 653        |               |
| Unrestricted use funds - educational and general |       | 271 032       |               | 242 688       |               |
| Assest revaluation reserve                       | 8     | 227 824       |               | 180 542       |               |
| Non-current liabilities                          |       |               | 135 854       |               | 110 244       |
| Borrowings - interest bearing                    | 9     | 24 607        |               | 30 519        |               |
| Employee benefits                                | 10    | 26 861        |               | 24 266        |               |
| Deferred income                                  | 11    | 84 386        |               | 55 459        |               |
| Current liabilities                              |       |               | 253 710       |               | 231 579       |
| Accounts payable                                 |       | 242 356       |               | 224 316       |               |
| Current portion of borrowings                    | 9     | 6 241         |               | 7 263         |               |
| Bank overdraft                                   | 7     | 5 113         |               | -             |               |
|  |       |               |               |               |               |
|  |       |               |               |               |               |
|  |       |               |               |               |               |
|  |       |               |               |               |               |
|  |       |               |               |               |               |
|  |       |               |               |               |               |
|  |       |               |               |               |               |
|  |       |               |               |               |               |

### Income statement

for the year ended 31 December 2009

|                                  | Notes | 2009                       |                      |            |                       | 2008    |         |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
|                                  |       | Council                    | Specifically         | Sub -Total | Student               | Total   | Total   |
|                                  |       | Controlled<br>Unrestricted | funded<br>activities |            | and staff<br>accommo- |         |         |
|                                  |       | Offication                 | Restricted           |            | dation                |         |         |
|                                  |       |                            |                      |            | Unrestricted          |         |         |
|                                  |       | R ' 000                    | R '000               | R '000     | R ′ 000               | R ′ 000 | R ′ 000 |
| Recurrent items                  |       | 14,721                     | 18,262               | 32,983     | 11,432                | 44,415  | 83,119  |
| Income                           |       | 381,310                    | 48,377               | 429,687    | 15,425                | 445,112 | 444,711 |
| State appropriations -           |       | 189,502                    | 19,232               | 208,734    | -                     | 208,734 | 228,530 |
| Subsidies and grants             |       |                            |                      |            |                       |         |         |
| Tuition and other fee income     |       | 169,989                    | 182                  | 170,171    | 15,425                | 185,596 | 162,790 |
| Income from contracts            |       |                            |                      |            |                       |         |         |
| For research                     |       | -                          | 9,432                | 9,432      | -                     | 9,432   | 14,085  |
| For other activities             |       | 3,572                      | 1,197                | 4,769      | -                     | 4,769   | 3,490   |
| Sales of goods and services      |       | 3,491                      | -                    | 3,491      | -                     | 3,491   | 2,049   |
| Private gifts and grants         |       | 218                        | 1,461                | 1,679      | -                     | 1,679   | 4,520   |
| Sub-total                        |       | 366,772                    | 31,504               | 398,276    | 15,425                | 413,701 | 415,464 |
| Interest and dividends           | 14    | 14,319                     | 16,841               | 31,160     | -                     | 31,160  | 24,608  |
| Fair value adjustments on        | 15    | 219                        | 32                   | 251        | -                     | 251     | 4,639   |
| financial instruments            |       |                            |                      |            |                       |         |         |
| Expenses                         |       | 366,589                    | 30,115               | 396,704    | 3,993                 | 400,697 | 361,592 |
| Personnel                        |       | 208,770                    | 7,437                | 216,207    | -                     | 216,207 | 192,344 |
| Academic professional            |       | 109,164                    | 4,242                | 113,406    | -                     | 113,406 | 102,123 |
| Other personnel                  |       | 82,014                     | 3,195                | 85,209     | -                     | 85,209  | 77,674  |
| Leave pay expenditure            |       | 17,592                     | -                    | 17,592     | -                     | 17,592  | 12,547  |
| Other current operating expenses |       | 134,415                    | 9,319                | 143,734    | 2,647                 | 146,381 | 131,467 |
| Research expenses                |       | 9,479                      | 9,479                |            | 9,479                 |         | 14,251  |
| Depreciation                     |       | 17,487                     | 3,880                | 21,367     | 1,346                 | 22,713  | 17,205  |
| Sub-total                        |       | 360,672                    | 30,115               | 390,787    | 3,993                 | 394,780 | 355,267 |
| Finance costs                    | 16    | 5,917                      | -                    | 5,917      | -                     | 5,917   | 6,325   |
|                                  |       |                            |                      |            |                       |         |         |
| Non-recurrent items              |       | -                          | 148                  | 148        | -                     | 148     | 556     |
| Income                           | _     | 148                        | 148                  | _          | 148                   |         | 556     |
| Profit on disposal of property,  |       | 148                        | 148                  |            | 148                   |         | 556     |
| plant and equipment              |       | 170                        | 170                  |            | 170                   |         | 550     |
| Surplus for the year             | 17    | 14,721                     | 18,410               | 33,131     | 11,432                | 44,563  | 83,675  |
|                                  | I     |                            |                      |            |                       |         |         |

### Statement of comprehensive income

for the year ended 31 December 2009

|   | Notes | 2009<br>Total<br>R ′ 000 | 2008<br>Total<br>R ′ 000 |
|---|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Surplus for the year  | 17    | 44,563                   | 83,675                   |
| Other comprehensive income  |       |                          |                          |
| Transfer from asset fund  |       | 2,191                    | 2,19                     |
| Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equip                            | ment  | 49,473                   |                          |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to the owners of the parent |       | 96,227                   | 85,866                   |

## Consolidated statement of changes in funds

for the year ended 31 December 2009

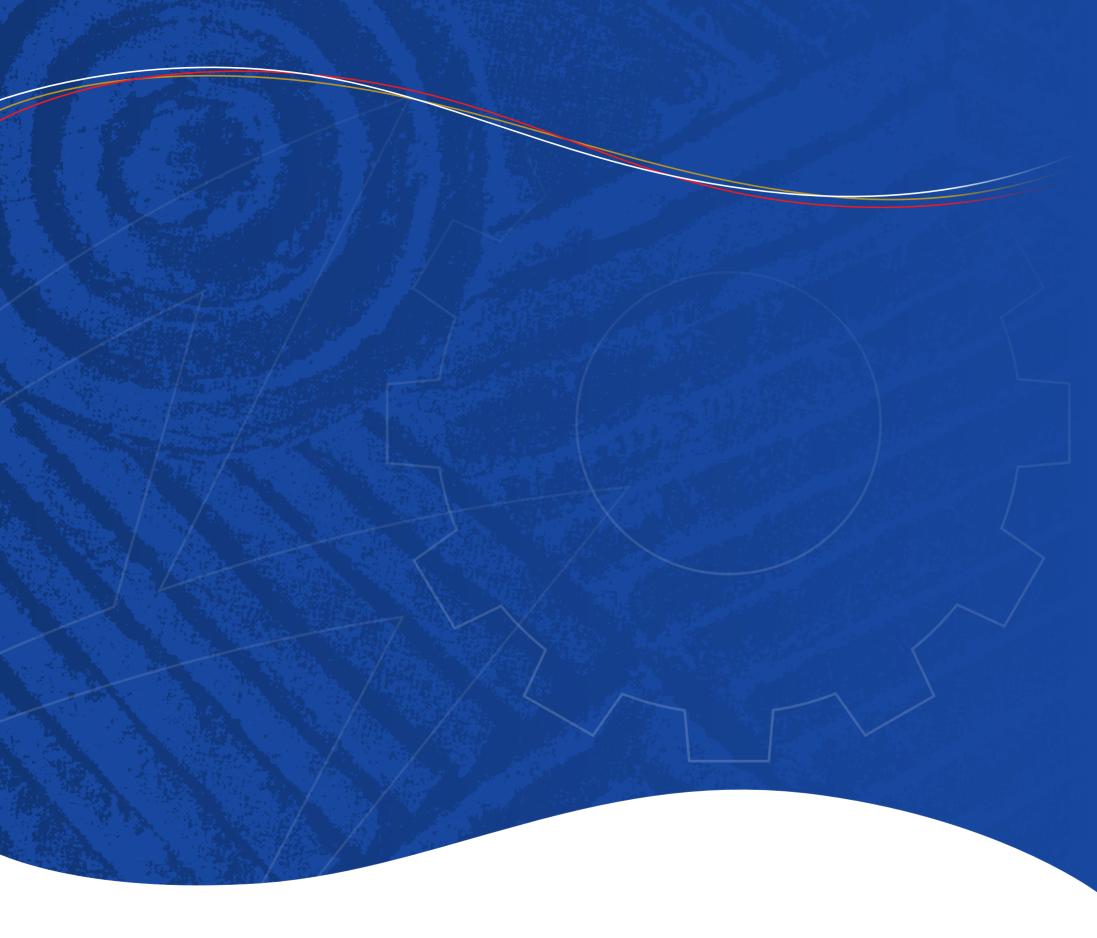
|   | Notes | Restricted<br>use funds<br>R'000 | Unrestricted<br>use funds<br>R'000 | Asset<br>revaluation<br>reserve<br>R'000 | Total<br>R'000 |
|---|-------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 2008  |       |                                  |                                    |  |                |
| Balance at 1 January 2008 as previously disclosed |       | 66,527                           | 158,034                            | 182,733                                  | 407,294        |
| Prior period error                                | 21    | (9,086)                          | -                                  | -  | (9,086)        |
| Restated opening balance                          |       | 57,441                           | 158,034                            | 182,733                                  | 398,208        |
| Transfer from asset fund                          |       | -                                | 2,191                              | (2,191)                                  | -              |
| Comprehensive income for the year                 |       | 1,212                            | 82,463                             | -  | 83,675         |
| Balance at 31 December 2008                       |       | 58,653                           | 242,688                            | 180,542                                  | 481,883        |
| 2009  |       |                                  |                                    |  |                |
| Balance 1 January 2009 as previously disclosed    |       | 58,653                           | 242,688                            | 180,542                                  | 481,883        |
| Revaluation of PPE                                |       | -                                | 2,191                              | (2,191)                                  | -              |
| Transfer from asset fund                          |       | -                                | -                                  | 49,473                                   | 49,473         |
| Comprehensive income for the year                 |       | 18,410                           | 26,153                             | -  | 44,563         |
| Balance at 31 December 2009                       |       | 77,063                           | 271,032                            | 227,824                                  | 575,919        |
|   |       |                                  |                                    |  |                |
|   |       |                                  |                                    |  |                |
|   |       |                                  |                                    |  |                |
|   |       |                                  |                                    |  |                |
|   |       |                                  |                                    |  |                |
|   |       |                                  |                                    |  |                |

### Consolidated cash flow statement

for the period ended 31 December 2009

|   | Notes | 2009<br>R ′ 000 | 2008<br>R ′ 000 |
|---|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities                  |       |                 |                 |
| Cash retained from operations                         | 18    | 101,250         | 135,213         |
| Investment income                                     | 14    | 31,160          | 24,608          |
| Finance cost  | 16    | (5,917)         | (6,325)         |
| Net cash flow from operating activities               |       | 126,493         | 153,496         |
| Cash flows from investing activities                  |       |                 |                 |
| Acquisition of property plant and equipment           |       | (71,183)        | (21,124)        |
| Proceeds on disposal of investments                   |       | 6,316           | 52,819          |
| Proceeds on disposals of property plant and equipment |       | 340             | 726             |
| Net cash flow from investing activities               |       | (64,527)        | 32,421          |
| Cash flows from financing activities                  |       |                 |                 |
| (Decrease)/ increase in deferred income: non-current  |       | 28,927          | (1,570)         |
| Decrease in long term liabilities                     |       | (6,934)         | (6,540)         |
| Net cash flow from financing activities               |       | 21,993          | (8,110)         |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents                 |       | 83,959          | 177,807         |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year        |       | 338,096         | 160,289         |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year              | 7     | 422,055         | 338,096         |
|   |       |                 |                 |
|   |       |                 |                 |
|   |       |                 |                 |
|   |       |                 |                 |







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