



The Importance of Women in making sure that the South African Laws Work for them

The University of Venda celebrated women's month recently under the theme "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience". The virtual celebration which was officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza, brought together all UNIVEN women from academic, admin as well as service staff. The Webinar was organised by the Employee Health and Wellness Section of the Department of Human Resources. The women at UNIVEN took advantage of this month and did their utmost best out of it.



In her opening remarks, Prof Feza expressed the importance of women and the role that they continue to play in their respective positions. Prof Feza urged women to contribute to ensuring that the South African laws work for them. She acknowledged the strong women of 1956, who marched to the Union buildings in Pretoria to protest the abusive pass book (dompas) laws. She highlighted the challenges that women are still facing today. Prof Feza asked, "Imagine if we can bring those women of 1956 today, what will they say about the changes and what will they say about the laws of today? Are the laws of today continuing to keep the status quo of abusing women?" "At our University of Venda, we talk about us leading in engaged scholarship, how engaged are we with the societal issues? She spoke of bringing the young minds, especially young women who are intelligent enough to change our societal challenges and take us to the next level to live lifestyles that are healthy, ethical and ground-breaking in terms of Innovation. "As women, how are we using the law to protect us, or we have misused the law that is supposed to protect us? She appealed to all the women not to misuse the law. "Today we have been reminded of what

many women suffer throughout their lives, and of the terrible consequences this has for them and their children. Let us remember what we have learnt today - and keep it on every agenda. All women and all girls deserve a life free from violence".



Prof Feza encouraged women from all departments and divisions to work together and support each other to avoid the Pull Her Down Syndrome (PHD) for the society to grow. She indicated rightfully so that women have to crucify the transformational agenda and men should start looking at women as people who are making contribution. She concluded her talk by highlighting the importance of women's empowerment as South Africa commemorates Women's month and continue believing in themselves.

Prof Angie Maphula, a Senior Lecturer attached to the Faculty of Health Sciences in the Department of Psychology at the University of Venda, addressed the topic "Striving for Optimal Mental Health as women". She indicated that talking about mental health, is one of the most difficult subjects because mental health entails a lot of things that are required to be at an equilibrium and it's difficult to balance many things at once hence, women struggle with their mental health. Prof Maphula highlighted that it is a known fact that women have to deal with various things on a daily basis, with very little support. She pointed out that women can hide themselves behind make-up to enhance beauty and people are then made to believe that everything is going well, while truly hiding being abused, depressed etc. Mental health is more than the absence of a mental illness, it is essential to one's overall health and quality of life.

Prof Maphula said "No one is immune from adversities that reduce optimal mental health". She alluded that women can change their mindset and function at the highest level.

Given the tremendous stress that women go through, self-care can play a role in maintaining optimal mental health. She also highlighted that intentional self-love or care means that women should take time to do things and activities that stimulate and improve both physical and mental health. When it comes to one's mental health, self-care can help in managing stress, lower risk of illness, and increase one's energy. Even small acts of self-care in one's daily schedule can have a big impact. Another emphasis was that women must pay attention to signs and symptoms. When the body begins to send signals, it is time to reflect and address life stressors, ignoring problems, going to a shopping spree, over-eating, emotional outburst and shouting seldom resolve problems. She discouraged women who continuously judge each other. "Instead, women were seen as game changers because they are influential and capable." As she was concluding, She mentioned that women need to stay connected, open up about their struggles, reach out to friends, loved ones, Pastors, health care workers or family members who can provide emotional support and practical help.



Zama Mopai, is a Customary Law lecturer and expert in the Department of Public Law at UNIVEN. Zama is mostly known for customary law matters, particularly customary marriages, but during her presentation, she dwelled much on the legal implications of lobola negotiation for customary marriages, and this was to create awareness to the women in attendance to have the knowledge on how to facilitate this process to avoid unnecessary legal battles due to ignorance. She indicated that people tend to forget that apart from the celebrations involved in the lobola negotiations, there are serious legal implications and obligations that are created.

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She advised women to step up and justify and prove their relevance. Zama Mopai shared the importance of those tasked with negotiations to fully understand what they are doing and how the law is involved. The presentation was an eye opener, particularly when she said that many people are not aware that a customary marriage can be valid and effective on just the first sitting of the lobola negotiations, even when lobola has not been given in full. She also spoke about the correct recording of the lobola minutes which will later be used as the 'lobola letter'. Zama highlighted that a well drafted lobola letter can assist the families to understand what happened and what they agreed on. She advised that the two families should

provide evidence of the process in the lobola letter and can also record their terms and conditions to the consummation of the marriage.

Coming back to the issue of customary marriage, she advised the audience to register their marriages. Another element which was found crucial, is the issue of divorce. She said, since the recognition of customary marriage, the way you came out of divorce from civil marriage, is the same as customary marriage. "You cannot get out of customary marriage without a decree of divorce." The audience were advised and encouraged to have a valid Will; hence it will help their beloved ones when one has passed on.



In proposing a vote of thanks, the Director of Supply Chain Management and Expenditure, Mrs Beauty Muthewana encouraged

women who attended the women's month celebration to create a platform for networking and engagement.



The programme was facilitated by Mrs Malehu Maluleke from the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education.

Department of Social Work donates food parcels to Diiteleni Disabled Centre



The University of Venda's Department of Social Work recently donated food parcels to Diiteleni Disabled Centre. This centre caters for children who are multi-challenged and those who could not be admitted to any centre for children with such needs. As a social responsibility initiative, the social work

students donated grocery items to Diiteleni every year to demonstrate one of the fundamental principles of social work: "Show Care and Concern for others' well-being". An amount of R1150.00 and Shoprite stamps to the value of R200.00 was also handed over to the manager of Diiteleni.



Prof Pascal Bessong is a Director of one of the four New Extramural Research Units launched by South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)



Prof Pascal Bessong (2nd from right; front row) pose for a photo with other directors of EMUs, the SAMRC President and CEO, Prof Glenda Gray (far right; back row), Dr Bernard Nihambeleni (3rd from right back row, Prof Nosisi Feza (middle; back row and other executives from other institutions)

The official launch of the four New Extramural Research Units was held at the Premier Hotel OR Tambo in Johannesburg on Monday, 22 August 2022. This momentous occasion was launched virtually by the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo under the theme Strengthening the health Systems of the Country.

When welcoming the guests at the launch, SAMRC President and CEO, Prof Glenda Gray said the launch of these four new Extramural Units (EMUs), is an extension of the many interventions by the SAMRC to respond to the country's disease burden and pandemics, such as COVID-19.

The keynote speaker Prof Kelly Chibale, Director of SAMRC/UCT Drug Discovery and Development Research Unit, spoke under the topic 'The role of SAMRC Extramural Research units in conducting, empowering and promoting research in South Africa 2022 and beyond'.

All four EMUs will be led by African researchers, who have over the years, made outstanding scientific contributions to advancing science and building the knowledge base in their disciplines. Not only is this aligned to the SAMRC's long-term goal of increasing support for outstanding scientists engaged in health research, but it also reiterates the commitment to contributing to, and transforming their world class standards and their competitive positions.

These new additions will expand and complement the already existing 24 other extramural research units and 11 intramural research units, bringing together to a total of 39 research Units at the SAMRC.

Prof Pascal Bessong, Director, Antimicrobial Resistance and Global Health Research Unit, is one of the four Directors of new SAMRC Extramural Research Units honored during this event that was organised by South African Medical Research Council. The other three Directors are Prof Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya (UJ), Prof Ntobeko Ntusi (UCT) and Prof Collet Dandara (UCT). The SAMRC/UNIVEN Antimicrobial Resistance and Global Health Research Unit conducts



Prof Pascal Bessong, Director, Antimicrobial Resistance and Global Health Research Unit research on microbial, human, and environmental determinants of acquisition and transmission of antimicrobial resistance. The Unit collaborates with community and policy makers to enhance the understanding of the dynamics of antimicrobial resistance for improved antimicrobial resistance stewardship. The Unit's team is multidisciplinary with investigators from

the departments of Applied mathematics, Clinical psychology, Nursing Sciences, Education, Biochemistry and Microbiology, Public Health, and Nutrition at the University of Venda. Partners include investigators from Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, North West University, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Emory University, University of Virginia, and Walter Sisulu University.

Prof Bessong in his overview presentation about the New Extramural Research Unit, said "Apart from laboratory microbial investigations, we need to involve our communities in antimicrobial resistance research. The Unit will drive the engagement, involvement, and mobilisation of communities for participatory research towards mitigating the effects of antimicrobial resistance in our population. The community is central to the mission of our Unit. We thank the SAMRC for recognising the excellent research taking place at the University of Venda, and its contributions in strengthening the health system of the country".

Current projects of the Unit include: : Undisclosed antiretroviral exposure and HIV drug resistance; Wastewater-based surveillance and molecular epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Northern South Africa; and Acquisition of antibiotic resistant gut bacteria and impact of microbiota.



Prof Pascal Bessong is a virologist, having trained in South Africa, France, and the United States. He is an experienced Professor with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education sector for more than 17 years. His research focuses on microbiology and investigations for translational science and global health, using innovative approaches and technologies. Specifically, he is interested in viral and human determinants of HIV drug resistance and the sustainability of antiretrovirals towards the UNAIDS 2030 targets on viral suppression. He is also interested in the interactions of gut microbiota and antimicrobial resistance, the interactions of gut infections with growth, cognitive development, and vaccine response in young children. Prof Bessong has more than 15 years of experience in the establishment and maintenance of prospective, community-based birth and adult cohorts for observational biomedical investigations.

A former Head of the University of Venda's Department of Microbiology, he is the principal investigator of the AIDS Virus Research Laboratory; founding Head of the HIV/AIDS and Global Research Programme; a Visiting Scholar at the School of Medicine, University of Virginia; and Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Health Science, University of KwaZulu-Natal. Prof Bessong is a C1 rated scientist of the National Research Foundation (2017); an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa; a Registered Natural professional Scientist; and an Associate Editor of the South African Journal of Science (Cell, molecular biology, and Health). He is passionate about the public understanding of science and maintains a website and blog at <https://bessongthemicrobiologist.com> as a tool to engage the lay community on our interactions with germs.

Prof Bessong has published his scientific contributions and opinions in top tier and influential journals such as Science, PNAS, The Lancet HIV, PLOS Medicine, Lancet Global Health, BMJ Global Health, Clinical Infectious Diseases, and Bulletin of the World Health Organisation. He has hosted visiting scientists on antimicrobial resistance within the framework of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship awards, and the US National Science Foundation fellowships. He has given invited research seminars at institutions in South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, and the United States. Prof Bessong has successfully trained more than 60 MSc and PhD students.

University of Venda hosts the 2022 Student Entrepreneurship Week

'Your location should not be the reason why you should not shine in the global arena'



On 18 and 19 August 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) hosted the Department of Higher Education and Training, Universities Capacity Development Programme, Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education and Universities South Africa to celebrate the 2022 Student Entrepreneurship Week. This Student Entrepreneurship Week was held at the University Auditorium under the theme: '#MoveToMarket'. The event was attended by students from 26 South African public institutions of higher learning.



In his official opening and welcome address, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin mentioned that UNIVEN is one of the only two institutions in the world that are found in the UNESCO biosphere reserve. He said UNIVEN is unique, and it is not a rural University. "People need to change their mind set. This University is only in the rural setting and not a rural university. This institution has an opportunity to impact the world from here." Dr Martin continued to mention that, once people realise that UNIVEN is only based in the rural setting, they will even start to be aware that UNIVEN is also far in terms of Entrepreneurship. He thanked the academic support for being fully behind students who take the entrepreneurial challenge serious.

Dr Martin concluded his talk by mentioning that the University of Venda will soon be launching business advice centres in the rural villages. He said in collaboration with the University's law clinic, UNIVEN will bring a venture that could have been there a long time ago and this venture will assist people from South African communities.

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Director: Entrepreneurship at Universities South Africa (USAF), Dr Nora Clarke congratulated UNIVEN for reaching 40 years milestone. Dr Clarke motioned that, irrespective of the geographical area, the University of Venda is producing great entrepreneurs. She said this means that we are on the right path. She continued to mention that UNIVEN has attracted many people across the country who also want to learn about entrepreneurship. "The nicest news is that there were student entrepreneurs that were profiled in public platforms from University of Venda. This University won the National Intersarsity Competition 2020." Mr Promise Nyalungu from UNIVEN won the student entrepreneur of the year award through his Struu Artzz Entertainment organisation. She said this is a clear indication that your location should not be the reason why you should not shine in the global arena. "Being a rural based university should not discourage you from reaching greater heights. Higher education has taken a turn few years ago by introducing Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) which is here to support university students on Entrepreneurship skills and education." She said EDHE supports student entrepreneurship, it supports academics to develop entrepreneurial teaching philosophies and it also focuses on developing and supporting universities to develop policies aligned with entrepreneurship.

She invited students to join other students who are already making impact in the Entrepreneurial InterVarsity Competitions. Dr Clarke concluded by advising female students to join in numbers because EDHE also exists to empower women in entrepreneurship.



Senior Student Engagement Officer at USAF, Mr Sandile Shabalala said this is the opportunity for all universities to support their students entrepreneurially. "Students should be supported and encouraged to showcase their entrepreneurial skills. All students should participate in the economic growth of the country," he said.



Struu Artzz Entertainment and founder who is also the EDHE Entrepreneurship Intersarsity 2020 Studentpreneur of the year, Mr Promise Nyalungu said being an entrepreneur as a student is not just a walk in the park. He said there are lot of challenges that they come across and if someone is not determined and focused, then that person will give up along the way. "Winning the intersarsity competition changed my life." He encouraged students to think about life beyond being just a student. "Start thinking about your future. We started this company 6 years ago and we have achieved a lot so far," concluded Nyalungu.



Co-founder of Rose Enterprise and EDHE Studentpreneurs CoP member who is also a UNIVEN student, Ms Aluwani Mutshinya said entrepreneurship is the future of young people. She said being in business need someone with a big heart, someone who is perseverant in order to survive. Ms Mutshinya said during the COVID-19 national lockdown, she and her mother made a lot of money with tailored face masks, but it was not easy. She advised attendees not to limit themselves in business and told them to be diverse. "Join Entrepreneurship organisations such as STEP Programme and Enactus. They will equip you and prepare you on how to handle challenges in the entrepreneurship field."



In his keynote address, Mr Charles Ngobeni, founder of Art Skin Care spoke under the theme 'the possible you'. Mr Ngobeni is an Entrepreneur and a Business Coach. He motivated young entrepreneurs to never give up in life, especially student entrepreneurs because there are few jobs out there. He told them to start their own businesses while they are still at the university because once you exit the university, even funders will start to be scarce. "Use opportunities presented to you through the universities and organisations formed to support you." Mr Ngobeni concluded his address by advising young entrepreneurs to never limit themselves and to think out of the box.



Senior Lecturer in the Department of Business Management and Student Entrepreneurship Coordinator at UNIVEN, Dr Livhuwani Nkondo showcasing the EDHE Entrepreneurship Intersarsity regional rounds finalists. Dr Nkondo thanked the task team and the student ambassadors who worked with the coordinator, including the ICT, Marketing, Branding and Communication, Facilities Management and Printing, as well as 2 academics Mrs Ndishavhani Grace Ramavhona and Ms Nomonde Sibawu. Ms Makole Magoro, Technology Transfer Coordinator who is also the EDHE assistant coordinator appreciated the support from DVC: Research and Postgraduate Studies, Professor Nosisi Feza and the Director of Research and Innovation, Senior Professor Georges Ekosse.



Students were also allowed to market or display their products during this event.

UNIVEN Campus Health Embarks on Alcohol and Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign

On Friday, 5 August 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Department of Protection Services, Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning (CHETL) and Campus Health held an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Social Crime Awareness Campaign. The event was held at the University's Cafeteria Lapa, with representatives from various government departments such as Correctional Services, South African Police Service, Tshilidzini Hospital, UNIVEN Peer Educators, and UNIVEN staff members.



As he welcomed the stakeholders, students and participants, Senior Professional Nurse, Mr. Edward Dongola mentioned that it is not a secret that South Africa is facing a huge problem with regards to alcohol and substance abuse, more particularly in institutions of higher learning. Another study revealed that 60% of crimes are associated with alcohol and substance abuse and 80% of male death are associated with the abuse of alcohol and substances in South Africa. He said UNIVEN decided to host such an event to let students know about the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse. He also outlined that, students are young and strong that they can beat the scourge of alcohol and drugs, that they can take a stand and stay away from alcohol and drugs and that they can completely be drug free.

He further said that they should have witnessed in their lives other students dropping out due to poor performance in their academic studies, others losing their health, jobs, family members and some arrested for crimes due to alcohol and drug abuse.



A representative from the Student Counselling (CHETL), Dr. Morongwa Takalani mentioned that the main purpose of the gathering is to bring awareness to UNIVEN students and staff members about substance abuse and social crime. She said substance and alcohol abuse are the most troubling social ills affecting young adults. "University is a home away from home and the environment can be overwhelming to the students to an extent that it puts them at the risk of engaging in risky behaviors such as substance abuse which may impact negatively on their health more especially their lives." As she concluded, she encouraged attendees to share drug facts, their safety and priorities.



Mr. Andisani Mathelemusa said this event was held at the right time. "Since we are in the month of August and we are commemorating women's month, it is our responsibility to keep women and children safe. Mr. Mathelemusa urged students to identify themselves in a positive manner and not succumb to the abuse of alcohol and substances. He said, "By virtue of you being at varsity means you have escaped the pressure from high school and now you are faced with a difficult phase in a higher education institution environment, where you are more exposed". He emphasised that the main reason for students to be at the University, is to learn, pass and succeed.



Mr. Mukano Makatu, a Psychiatric Nurse Specialist from Tshilidzini Hospital (Department of Health) reflected on types of drugs that people use to feed their addictions, the causes, and effects of taking drugs. He spoke about drugs and the effects that they have on students. Mr. Makatu said 14 % of South African youth are on drugs. "Young people are abusing drugs because of peer pressure and this is a common challenge that South Africa is faced with."

He mentioned that the supplements used to treat substance abuse are expensive to the government. Therefore, we are here to say down with substance abuse.



SAPS representative, Sergeant Anetta Mukwevho from victim support said, "as a station they were concerned about the high number of cases in the area." Sergeant Mukwevho urged students to report on issues such as gender-based violence and abuse of drugs that one might encounter or see going on around them. She told the students to stay away from criminal activities because "once you commit a crime and your fingerprints are taken, it takes 10 years for them to expire, you would have ruined your future."



Correctional Services Area Coordinator, Mrs. Shonisani Lydia Tshivhase urged students to report early signs of crime to the SAPS. She encouraged students not to involve themselves in criminal activities to avoid being taken away from their families and friends.

Amongst the speakers who were invited to share words of support were Dr Tshidaho Manyage and Dr Gloria Dama from Student Counselling and Career Development Unit. They urged students to shy away from issues of alcohol and drug abuse and gender-based violence. They said they are available to assist students in dealing with such matters.



Adv. Rudzani Makhema, Labour Relations Manager said he is grateful for what the organisers and social partners were doing. He assured students that they are not alone in this journey of life. "Do not struggle alone, make sure the support systems that are available at UNIVEN also work for you. We are supporting you to be responsible people."



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UNIVEN Officially launched the National Science Week Activities under the theme of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development



Prof Jan Crafford, Mrs Beauty Mutheiwana, Mrs Mavis Madzhe and Dr. Segun Obadire Officially Launching National Science Week 2022 at Vuwani Science Resource Centre (VSRC).

Basic Sciences hold the economy of the world and the future of developing countries like South Africa. The next generation needs to understand the basic sciences from early childhood so that the developing countries will be able to have better talented scientists and young entrepreneurs. There is currently a need to develop sustainable technologies in areas related to energy, food and water in the African continent and this is dependent on the next generation.



Prof Crafford, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning encouraged learners to look forward to the future of science and to follow science career in tertiary institutions. He further elaborated the impact of Vuwani Science Resource Centre in the Vhembe district and added that he received a letter from Mugoidwa Secondary school indicating their appreciation to VSRC for the improvement of the science pass rate from below 30% to above 90%. "We want you to come to UNIVEN with a sound background of Science, Mathematics and Technology", added Prof Crafford. He concluded by encouraging learners to take much information home with them and make use of the opportunity given to them during the National Science Week by Vuwani Science Resource Centre.

National Science Week (NSW) is an initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). This is to celebrate various role players conducting science-based activities within the dedicated week. National Science Week is run in all nine provinces simultaneously at multiple sites per province.

Prof. Jan Crafford told the learners who were present during the official opening that the Vuwani Science Resource Centre exists for their benefit. He said learners are the hopes of this country's future.



Dr. Eric Maluta, Coordinator of the Vuwani Science Resource Centre appreciated the official opening and indicated that the National Science Technology Forum (NSTF) awards and two certificates awarded to the centre were to be celebrated by both the team and the learners. The 2021/2022 NSTF Science Communication Award and the accreditation certificate from the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) were handed to the DVC Teaching and Learning. Dr. Maluta further advised learners to continue to study hard as they hold the future



Professor Peter Tshisikhawe, HoD Biological Sciences, during his welcome message told learners to take Science, Mathematics and Technology as subjects that open doors to their future. He added that learners need to follow science careers from undergraduate until they become fully-fledged researchers who will use science in understanding the world. He further encouraged all participants, including University of Venda Delegates, Educators, Learners, and the public to enjoy the Vuwani Science Resource Centre National Science Week activities. He also encouraged the sponsors to continue supporting VSRC which is taking science to the immediate surrounding communities.



In his closing remarks, acting Director International Relations and Partnerships, Dr. Segun Obadire said, "this is an annual celebration in the awareness of science, technology and mathematics throughout South Africa". He congratulated Vuwani Science Resource Centre for its achievements on the NSTF awards and the Accreditation status they have obtained for the network of Science Centre established by the Department of Science and Innovation. He added that learners must continue supporting the national science week activities to be hosted by Vuwani Science Resource Centre throughout the week starting 01 to 06 August 2022.



As programme director Mr. Takalani Nyelisani continued to entertain the audience with his skills and encouraged the learners to apply to the University of Venda before they can think about other institutions. He further added that the future needs scientists and researchers who will solve global problems. He encouraged learners to interact with Mr. Justice Lebopa who later engaged them. The PhD holder in Mathematics, Dr. Rosina Mukhodobwane had the opportunity to encourage learners to pursue mathematics as a career as they study science and technology in their higher education.



Above: Learners from various secondary schools around Vuwani and Thohoyandou listening to speakers during the official launch of 2022 National Science Week.



Left: Learners celebrating the official opening of the 2022 National Science Week shortly before refreshments.



The team of staff and interns from Vuwani Science Resource Centre celebrating the good work they do in the surrounding community and are encouraged to continue making impact in the 2022 National science week.

Dr Andrea Raseona becomes the first woman in Africa to produce in vitro cattle embryos using epididymal spermatozoa recovered immediately after bull slaughtering and 24 hours post-mortem



As the country is celebrating women's month in August, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) found it imperative to also celebrate women who are champions in the academic and scientific community. UNIVEN prides itself with the great minds and highlevel creativity within the science domain. The University further values scientists and would like to celebrate their great achievements.

It is for these reasons that, during July 2022 UNIVEN Graduation Ceremonies, Dr Andrea Motswetla Raseona graduated her PhD, with a thesis title 'the Effects of Spermatozoa

Viability, Culture Receptacle, Incubation, and Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection on In Vitro Produced Cattle Embryos Using Epididymal Spermatozoa'.

Dr Raseona is a Laboratory Technician in the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture.

According to her study, one of the unique ways of preserving the male genetic material of cattle is the use of assisted reproductive technologies. The research study focused on the production of in vitro cattle embryos using epididymal spermatozoa recovered immediately after bull slaughtering and 24 hours post-mortem by firstly seeking the effective spermatozoa extender and preservation method, and secondly by assessing the effects of culture receptacles and incubation methods following intracytoplasmic sperm injection. In a series of experiments, ejaculated and epididymal bull spermatozoa were collected, chilled, cryopreserved and used for in vitro embryo production. She mentioned that the most important conclusion of her study was the finding that fertilisation and blastocyst development can be accomplished through intracytoplasmic sperm injection with cryopreserved bull epididymal spermatozoa recovered immediately after bull slaughtering or 24 hours post-mortem, using French

semen straws as culture receptacles and goat doe vagina as an alternative incubator. The thesis further encourages the use of French semen straws as culture receptacles and goat doe vagina as an alternative incubator to support in vitro embryo production, where a sophisticated animal reproductive laboratory is not available. From the study, four manuscripts were generated of which one has already been published in a peer-reviewed accredited journal.

During the graduation ceremony that took place on Thursday, 14 July 2022, Dr Raseona's Research Supervisor, Prof Danie Barry, said that it was a privilege to hand over a well-deserved PhD to Dr. Andrea Raseona because her research will have a major impact on the livestock industry in South Africa and in Africa as a whole.

Prof Barry explained that Dr Raseona's study further indicated that, normally when a bull ejaculates it deposits 5 – 8 ml of sperm in the vagina of a cow. "This represents more than 10 billion of spermatozoa but only one will be lucky fellow that will penetrate the shell of the oocyte (egg) produced by the cow to grow into an embryo and later calf to be born 9 months later".

"When you do artificial insemination (AI), you must have 10 million live motile spermatozoa

in each straw used to inseminate one cow. When you do in vitro fertilization in the infertility laboratory, you will need at least 10 000 spermatozoa to fertilize each egg. However, when you do intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) you only need one sperm per egg, as this time you put the sperm with a glass needle through the wall of the oocyte into the inner fluid (cytoplasm) of the oocyte. And this, Dr. Raseona has proved, can be an oocyte from a cow that has been slaughtered in the Louis Trichardt abattoir and a sperm, motile on even non-motile (dead) as long as 24 hours after slaughter. She therefore created a Lazarus that was risen from the grave. Can you imagine how many eggs can be fertilized from a superior bull with this method, even 24 hours after the bull has died? Dr. Raseona was the first lady on the continent of Africa to ever achieve this, because she produced cow embryos through ICSI which, if you have transferred them to a recipient cow, you would have a live calf born 9 months later."

The University of Venda would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and celebrate with Dr Raseona as August is also her birthday month on the 13th .

UNISU Welcomes a Doctoral Student from The University of the Free State (UFS)

The University of Venda International Student Union (UNISU) in collaboration with the Student Representative Council (SRC) through the office of the Minister of Information, External and International Relations recently welcomed Mr. Moffat Machiwenyika, a Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of the Free State (UFS) in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences under the Higher Education and Human Development Group led by Prof Melanie Walker. Mr. Moffat Machiwenyika visited the University of Venda (UNIVEN) engaging with students and staff at the university for the collection of data for his PhD study titled 'Student and Staff Perceptions of Decolonisation at two South African Universities: A Capabilities Analysis'.

He was granted permission to conduct his research at UNIVEN through the University Research and Ethics Committee (UREC).

While welcoming Moffat, Mr. Joseph Mundadi, UNISU President mentioned that the purpose is not to provide simple answers but to unpack the many divergent views on decolonisation empirically, explore its meanings and how this can be clearly understood in the context of historically advantaged and historically disadvantaged institutions in South Africa, as well as what this tells us about the freedoms that students and staff have reason to value. "We welcome Mr Moffat to UNIVEN and wish him all the best with his studies", said Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director International Relations and Partnerships.



UNISU Advisory Committee together with the SRC Secretary General Junior Magagula posing with Mr Moffat Machiwenyika, a Doctoral Research Fellow at the Research and Innovation Directorate Building

"We welcome Mr Moffat to UNIVEN and wish him all the best with his studies"

Masia Development Agency in Collaboration with the University of Venda hosted the Inaugural Career Guidance Expo



With reference to the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Strategic Plan 2021-2025, creating an enabling environment for positioning the University of Venda to make an impact both locally and globally, and to strengthen UNIVEN to become an efficient and effective institution of higher learning, on Friday, 12 August 2022, UNIVEN and Masia Development Agency hosted the Inaugural Career Guidance attended by nine (09) secondary schools from Vhuronga 2 Circuit of Vhembe District. The schools that participated are: Khwara, Tshinavhe, Ramauba, Radzambo, Ramovha, Vhafamadi, Maligana, Mudinane and Nwaridi. Approximately 800 learners participated in this career expo.

The following stakeholders from in and out of the University of Venda were present to market their products during the exhibition: Madzivhandila College of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Council, Masia Development Agency, Polokwane Technical Institute, College on Hills.

UNIVEN was represented by staff from the Department of Marketing, Branding and Communication, Department of Accounting and Auditing, Campus Health, Disability Unit, UNIVEN Student Counselling, UNIVEN Innovative Growth Company (UIGC), Institute for Rural Development, UNIVEN Department of Earth Science and Department of Hydrology and Water Resources.



In her welcome remarks, the Chairwoman of Masia Civic Council, Ms Masakona Mulaudzi said she is happy that people from higher education have visited the Masia community to give learners educational knowledge.



The Chairperson for Education and Social Development Portfolio at Masia Traditional Council, Mr Mpfariseni Wilson Mandende said the exhibition was meant to raise the bar higher when it comes to the standard of service delivery. "Service delivery is a broader concept, not limited to water or infrastructure upgrading. The more we reduce the number of school dropouts, the more we are creating the fertile space for human development. The purpose of this career guidance is to unlock the scourge of indecisiveness to Grade 12 learners in the community by exposing them to multiple career choices at their disposal, said Mr Mandende.



Vhuronga 2 Circuit Manager, Ms Takalani Thivhafuni said that she is grateful to be at the career expo which is meant to fuel and groom learners to be focused on schoolwork which the world awaits. "You must feel blessed to be the first to witness the inaugural Masia Development Agency career expo in Collaboration with UNIVEN" said the Circuit Manager whilst encouraging learners to participate effectively.



The Director of the Institute for Rural Development at UNIVEN, Prof Joseph Francis mentioned that UNIVEN wants to make sure that learners gather as much information as they could, to be able to make life changing decisions after attending this career expo. Prof Francis urged learners not to fall in the trap of peer pressure and always look at the strength they have for subjects when choosing career paths.



Rabelani Manyage a learner from Ramovha High School gave words of appreciation whereby she thanked all participants for seeing a need to visit their area just to empower them with career guidance.

In his address, Thovhele Nthumeni Masia appreciated that the Inaugural Career Expo was a success. "Our plan is to host it every year to assist learners in choosing their passionate careers. We do not want to see you coming back home empty handed after going to varsity. We want to make sure that you are equipped with knowledge which will help you become better people. I am hoping you are all here for a purpose of learning something new, said Thovhele Masia."

He concluded by conveying his gratitude to UNIVEN and other institutions that participated in the initiative and that he hopes to see more exhibitions in future. He encouraged learners to behave in a proper manner and take the opportunity to plan their future.

"We do not want to see learners coming back home empty handed after going to varsity. We want to make sure that you are equipped with knowledge which will help you become better people. I am hoping you are all here for a purpose of learning something new."



In his vote of thanks, the Managing Director of Masia Development Agency, Mr. Ipfi Masia mentioned that with this career expo they are sure that learners will feel motivated to pass their matric and have an idea about what they are going to do at the University.



Ms Tsakani Nyoni spends six weeks acquiring impact investing experience in the United States of America



Ms Tsakani Nyoni is an Associate Analyst at University Impact (UI) and is pursuing a Masters degree in the Department of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Heritage Studies at the University of Venda. She has

been working for the firm for the past 11 months and was offered an opportunity to work from the company's U.S based office for six weeks. University Impact trains students who have an interest in making a social impact and learning about impact investing. Ms Tsakani identifies herself as an individual who is passionate about social entrepreneurship. She has, in the past pursued this passion through her volunteer work at UNIVEN's Community Engagement Office.

She describes her time with University Impact as 'life changing' because it has transformed her view of life and her approach to her research – how she could maximise impact, contribute to addressing challenges in her area of study and share her knowledge with those around her. "I am grateful for the knowledge and experience that I have gathered during my time in the U.S, and I'm really excited to share that with my circle of friends/peers in our campus," she said.

Tsakani shared six key lessons that stood out for her during her time when working

from UI's office as follows: i) Always sell yourself. ii) Leveraging every opportunity to your advantage. iii) Finding the gift in every feedback you receive. iv) To always go beyond your comfort zone. v) Maintaining a growth mindset throughout your life. vi) and the importance of acquiring skills that set you apart from your peers.

Ms Nyoni mentioned that all these lessons are the foundation of her learning and growth. She also acknowledges that sometimes it may be hard to find the benefit in every feedback that one receives, and it is sometimes easier to remain in a comfort zone. But there is always something to learn about ourselves and life when we reach beyond our comfort zone.

During her time in the U.S, Ms Tsakani also interviewed 36 students (from both South Africa and the United States' Universities) for University Impact's upcoming Impact Investing Bootcamp. She views this as another opportunity that has contributed to her learning/expanding her skills and she looks forward to coordinating the two week-

long Bootcamp in a few weeks.

Ms Nyoni shared that one of her most exciting experiences was having lunch with Representative John Curtis, who is one of the U.S leaders. Meeting social entrepreneurs and learning about how they approach different problems around their communities. "There were different lessons that I gathered after meeting these entrepreneurs, but the biggest one was that we are all capable of being innovative in our thinking, we just need to believe in our ideas and work harder on their execution". She is also proud that she has been to two states in America (Utah and Idaho) and hopes to add more to the list.

Ms Tsakani extended her gratitude to her family, Professor Vhonani Netshandama, Dr Robert Martin, Joellen Nicholson and Daniel Blake (University Impact team) for making it all possible. "They have all encouraged me to work hard, take each day as an opportunity to learn something new and tapping into my potential as a social entrepreneur", she added.

Prof Jan Crafford delivers a Keynote Address at the Joint Hybrid ITF Conference in Cape Town



Prof Jan Crafford, DVC Teaching and Learning joined the Conference via MS Teams

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) jointly organised the hybrid Inclusive Technopreneur Forum (ITF) between 16 and 17 August 2022. The ITF-2022 is a community-building programme which intends to bring African universities and partners together to share research outputs, learning, teaching and assessment experiences as well as community engagement activities to develop African graduates to become technopreneurs. The conference provided opportunity for normalising the new normal for businesses, governments and job seekers. The epidemic has forced the world to think about finding human-centered approaches to shaping a secure future of work for

graduates and youth, and decent and sustainable employment for all. The partners in the British Council funded conference are Durban University of Technology (DUT); Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT); University of Venda (UNIVEN); Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana; Manchester Metropolitan University (ManMet), UK; The Snake Nation, Kenya and All African Student Union (AASU).

Prof Jan Crafford, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning presented a keynote address titled: 'Competing in the Post-Pandemic Era of Globalisation: The Missing 21st Century skills'. In his address, he

defined globalisation and explained some of the skill sets required especially in the post-pandemic era (Analytical thinking and innovation, complex problem solving, leadership, social influence, technology use, etc). He further enumerated some of the available opportunities (abundant raw materials, young population, Agriculture, etc) that can be used to make Africa become more competitive in the world market. For example, he said, available data reveals that individuals that are less than 30 years account for over 70 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa. He said, this implies that the continent has a pool of productive resources that can be trained and mobilised for the

global value chain. He also underscored some challenges that could hinder the growth and development of Africa, such as, infrastructural deficits, low investment in education, insecurity and inconsistent policy regimes. He advised that African leaders needed to display the requisite political will to address the challenges without fail. He concluded his speech by recommending the need to develop tailored curricula that meets the industry needs; and the need for multilevel and international collaborations in addressing the insecurity challenges in Africa. The conference was attended by academics, entrepreneurs and NGOs from across Africa and overseas.

NORPART All4wash Project had its first Summer School in Ghana



Prof Afsatou Traore with the 2 Masters students Mpho Mphego and Marry Mphaphuli who attended the Ghana summer school

Prof Afsatou Traore and two female Masters students, Mpho Mphego and Marry Mphaphuli, from the ONE HELATH Research Group travelled on 07 July 2022 to Kumasi, Ghana to attend a two - week intense summer school at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

The summer school started with a webinar on the first day where presentations were done by Professor Esi Awuah [Foundation Vice-Chancellor of the University of Energy

and Natural Resources, Sunyani, Ghana; Prof Vhonani Netshandama from (UNIVEN) and Melanie Wilkenson (UNICEF). The conclusion from the meeting was that women are needed in the water and sanitation industry and the human rights to water and sanitation and the role of gender equity. The rest of the summer school, the following aspects were discussed:

Blue Circular economy which emphasised that natural resources need to be used



The two students from left to right (Marry Mphaphuli and Mpho Mphego) introducing South Africa to the Summer School participants

properly to have sustainable communities. Increased population was found to be the root cause of depletion of resources and contribute to pollution of blue planet so the 7 Rs were introduced which is reuse, reduce, recycle, refuse, remanufacture ; Solid waste management in Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania lectures were delivered; Lecture on solid and liquid waste in Mali; Microbial characteristics of waste and microbiology in waste management; Biodigesters for solid and liquid waste management lecture ;Wastewater and faecal sludge management where functional elements were introduced which are generation, composition, collection,

transportation and reuse of waste.; Water reuse and nutrient recovery and aerobic composting of municipal solid waste; Microplastic and plastic lecture; Different methods of composting were introduced; Lecture on Fusion 360 on how to make CAD drawing and making prototypes; Field trip to Kumasi recycling centre and a wastewater treatment plant; Virtual lecture on design thinking; Innovations; Circular economy and innovation; and Lecture on entrepreneurship and business development.

Students also had time to investigate entrepreneurial product design with various lectures on how to design a product. They worked in groups and had to come up with their own specific design using fusion 360 and make final presentations on the designed product. The group was also taken on field excursions such as a field trip to Trimark aquaculture farm and an excursion to Cape coast for the Visit to Cape Coast Castle, one of the three points where slaves were taken to America and the Ghanaian history. All students were presented with a certificate at a gala dinner. Prof Traore and the two students arrived back in South Africa on 24 July 2022.



The Summer School participants visited the Cape Coast Castle



The Summer school participants visited an aquaculture plant (Compost farm)

Student Housing Unit held the 2022 Leadership Training for the House Representative Committee



On 11 and 12 August 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Student Housing Unit held a leadership training for the House Representative Committee (HRC) to empower and develop HRC through participating in youth development activities aimed at improving their service orientation as a student-centred unit and encourage personal development as active members of the society. This training took place at the University's Student Centre Conference Hall. The training was a collaborative effort involving the Student Counselling and Career Development Unit (SCCDU), the Academic Development Unit (ADU), Protection Services, the Disabled Student Unit (DSU), and Old Mutual. Each stakeholder highlighted key focus areas required to build functional residence leaders.

Creating future leaders is not just a slogan UNIVEN carries around but rather a motto that staff members and students live by in order to be able to produce relevant and quality alumni. The training focused on the duties and functions of an HRC, the qualities of an HRC, financial literacy, academic and psychosocial support structures available to them and students alike, communication and ethical considerations that will help them fulfil their duties.



The first day of training focused on self-awareness facilitated by Mrs. Morongwa Takalani from SCCDU and Mrs. Tshifhiwa Matodzi from DSU delivered a vibrant session on Diversity.

On the second day Mr Maanda Nemaaxwi from Protection Services presented a session on security around campus which led to an engaging dialogue between all stakeholders.

This was followed by the Student Housing dialogue which continued with the constructive feedback, question, and answer session facilitated by Ms. Lethogonolo Shibambo.



Mr Vhangwele Nemuramba from Old Mutual closed the training with his intriguing lessons on financial literacy. (pictured above)

The programme Director, Dr. Tshidaho Manyage, did an exceptional job in officiating the two days of training. (pictured below)



A group photo of attendees on day two



Mr Solomon Phungo, the Student Housing Coordinator closed the proceedings and wished the HRCs well in their journey.

The Student Housing Unit's mission is to provide a student-centered environment that is safe, comfortable, supportive, and engaging through programmes designed to promote collaboration, accountability, persistence, and hard-work. Services offered are academically focused, psychosocially and community oriented to produce graduates that are locally relevant and globally competitive as aligned with University's mission.

Creating future leaders is not just a slogan UNIVEN carries around but rather a motto that staff members and students live by in order to be able to produce relevant and quality alumni.

The University of Venda launches the Women in Entrepreneurship Programme



To strengthen its Strategic Objectives, the University of Venda is on a journey to reposition itself as an entrepreneurial service hub for the purpose of creating an entrepreneurial culture amongst its students, staff, and surrounding communities. This will allow the University to contribute in both the local and regional economic development because Entrepreneurship is vital in reducing crippling poverty and unemployment. Universities over the past couple of years have been tasked with creating an entrepreneurial culture. As we are celebrating Women's month, the University of Venda deemed it fit to launch the Women in Entrepreneurship Programme. The launch, which was attended by both staff and students, as well as members from the communities, took place on 19 August 2022 at the UIGC Seminar Room.

The aim of the Women in Entrepreneurship Programme was two-fold, namely, to spark a desire to be an entrepreneur, to establish a university-community mentorship, programme and build spaces for innovation and upscaling businesses for rural women entrepreneurs. Furthermore, it aims to equip women with necessary skills to set them on a path of becoming resilient entrepreneurs.



The Director of Community Engagement, Prof Vhonani Netshandama, as the facilitator of the programme, highlighted that having a degree only is not enough today. As Community Engagement, we assist students to learn outside of their classroom/degrees to ensure that they gather other smart skills to make them a well-rounded decent human being who can thrive in life. Prof Netshandama indicated that as a Directorate they make sure that they create community programmes that enable students to work with communities in order to get hands on experience. "For the past 20 years, I have worked in community engagement, if I go out with 10 students for community engagement activities, only two or three would be females. The Women in Entrepreneurship

programme is also encouraging young girls to do things for themselves. Therefore, as a University servicing students, staff and the surrounding communities, there is a huge role for us to mentoring young women and girls. The proportion of females to males who are participating in entrepreneurial activities is still tilted to males. It is therefore important for the University to take cognisance of the need for these kinds of holistic support programmes and the role that involvement in community engagement may play. It is going to take the village all of us to grow entrepreneurs. Delegates were encouraged to recruit more young females into the programme and to invite potential mentors to come to the fore.

The efforts to boost entrepreneurship are vital. It is for this background that the University, through the Directorate of Community Engagement, under the leadership of Prof Vhonani Netshandama, invited a well-known woman Entrepreneur with multiple businesses, Mrs Humbelani Netshandama to motivate, encourage and continue to empower women, especially the young females. Mrs Netshandama gave an energising and reviving presentation. The session was about learning and growing around and within the entrepreneurship space.



Mrs Humbelani Netshandama emphasised that she loves speaking to the youth because there is still hope in their lives. Mrs Netshandama encouraged young women and the older women that it is never too late to start a business. "Start developing ideas in business, and entrepreneurship should be a matter of a necessity if we want to win this battle as women". She advised women to instil the spirit of saving the little money that they get. "You need your own wealth for your financial independence. Financial wealth is essential. We cannot speak of economic development while we are still fenced in poverty and relying on government grants. In whatever you are doing, you must make sure that you are getting money. You can be anything in life and don't be shy to fail in life", said Mrs Netshandama.



When rendering the purpose of the gathering, Dr Azwifaneli Nemushungwa who is a Lecturer in the Department of Economics, under the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law at UNIVEN, defined Women in Entrepreneurship as a process in which women initiate, lead, own and organise an enterprise and give employment to others (economic growth) and also contribute in improving the standard of living for their families (economic development).

She outlined the mission of the Women in Entrepreneurship Programme which is to inspire and support women interested in entrepreneurship through a collaborative, innovative and empowering network. The vision of this programme is to empower and reinforce them by enhancing the knowledge and spark a desire to be entrepreneurs, by providing opportunities to develop their entrepreneurial skills.

Dr Nemushungwa further highlighted that the means to achieve these goals will be done through hosting speakers; having panel discussions and small group talks; networking opportunities to increase their professional capacity and; developing a support system as well as providing cross disciplinary perspectives for collaboration to take off.



Guests were welcomed by Ms Mpho Mobu who is a Programme Leader in Women in Entrepreneurship.



The Head of the Department of Food Science and Technology in the Faculty of Science,

Engineering and Agriculture at the University of Venda, Dr Shonisani Ramashia in her words of support, said every woman can be a game changer and move mountains. She indicated that she was inspired by the women in entrepreneurship. She showed that she wants to assist every woman to finish their Masters and PhDs. "Come and knock at our doors, we will walk the journey together.

Towards the end of the launch, young women from different fields including those coming from communities, pitched their brilliant business ideas.



A Senior Lecturer, Social Entrepreneur and Qualified Chartered Accountant from the Department of Accountancy, in the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, UNIVEN, Ms Shumani Nembudani spoke of different means of making money. She gave examples of innovative business ideas that the young women should be thinking of such as Turo, a carsharing company that allows for private car owners to rent out their vehicles while they are at work. "Imagine the beauty of making your car generate you another stream of income while you are at work. "Whatever you do you must always make sure you are making money in the process, especially with the cost of living going up year on year", said Ms Nembudani.



Ms Lerato Mashilo who is a PhD candidate in Microbiology, proposed a vote of thanks. She encouraged young women present not to let an opportunity to pass them. She said entrepreneurship must come with a solution of the problem identified. Lerato advised that to be an entrepreneur does not come in a silver platter, there are risks involved. "As an entrepreneur you become a researcher", said Lerato. She further said "As we continue to celebrate Women's month, as a microbiologist, I know and regard women as incubators, hence they give safety.

In conclusion she said she salutes UNIVEN for changing gear towards entrepreneurship.

UNIVEN Commemorates Nelson Mandela Day by Planting 67 Lavender Seedlings and learning about the Importance of Bees in the Ecosystem



Community Engagement Directorate together with Bee-African and surrounding community entrepreneurs, came together to commemorate President Mandela's birthday on Monday, 18 July 2022, by planting 67 Lavender plants at the Agricultural farm. The 2022 Mandela day theme was "Do what you can with what you have and where you are," The event took off with a blended webinar, which was officiated by Professor Nosisi Feza, DVC Research and Post Graduate Studies. The hybrid talk was facilitated by Ms Shumani Nembudani, a Senior Lecturer and chartered accountant at the Accountancy Department, Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law.



Ms Mems Ramaila (above): Founder of Bee-African



The drive for BeeAfrican is UBUNTU and community development. The seminar was interactive and engaging with the following topics covered:

AU Agenda 2063; UN Sustainable Development Goals; Beekeeping and the importance of planting the lavender seedlings – Lavenders are a source of stress reliever, represents opportunities, prosperity, success towards humans and it acts as a bee attraction; Entrepreneurship, Climate change adaptation; Agricultural biodiversity consciousness and Traditional food systems.



In her opening address, Professor Feza reminded everyone that the 18th of July is a special day of remembering the leader of note the country has ever had President Nelson Mandela. Prof Feza shared one of his quotes which says, "When you educate a man, you educate an individual, but when you educate a woman, you educate a nation". She indicated that she is pleased to see women participating and accentuated that women are often staying behind to build a home and nothing starts easy for them. Collaboration with a woman of Ms Mems Ramaila stature will benefit UNIVEN's entrepreneurial agenda to nurture the youth and students' minds and imaginations which will create jobs for people. She concluded her opening remarks by saying that it's time women step up to positions of influence, social enterprising and occupy spaces of leadership and change.

Mems Ramaila, BeeAfrican Founder, accompanied by her aunt Emma Madia, facilitated a seminar on Integrated Food System - food production and honey production with a theme namely "Fund, Feed, Plant, Sustain". Signifying the importance of intergenerational learning, Mems emphasised that Aunt Emma is her elder and adviser without whom she would not thrive.



Every participant had a lavender seedling to plant in celebration of Nelson Mandela Day and this watering the plant enhanced working together to bring change.

Post the planting activity, six students practiced pitching their business ideas. The idea was to expose the delegates to some entrepreneurship principles. UNIVEN intends to enter into a MoU with BeeAfrican to: Set up a commercial and sustainable beekeeping project for the community of Tshidzivhe in view of the abundant bee vegetation in the area and the enthusiasm displayed by all the elders who attended the community engagement session; Set up a herb garden at UNIVEN in order to accentuate the new lavender patch and to create awareness for the broader UNIVEN community about both the nutritional and medicinal benefits of herbs; Hosting some of the aspirant beekeepers at BeeAfrican premises as part of a learning exchange programme; Support delegates who attended and aspirant entrepreneurs through a structured mentorship programme in order to ensure they run profitable integrated food system enterprises, with focus on beekeeping and Explore other possible joint programmes.

UNIVEN Financial Aid appoints two former SRC Presidents as part of the SASSETA funded - Graduate Interns Programme



Giff Chauke, Glenda Ramathavha and Smile Manganyi

The University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Financial Aid Office has appointed two former SRC Presidents Messrs Gift Chauke and Smile Manganyi as part of the SASSETA funded - graduate interns programme to complement the capacity to support USAF Project Management Office (PMO) work with universities.

The University of Venda took part in the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) programme given to Universities South Africa (USA) for an opportunity to host graduate internships for a period of 12 months with effect from 24 August 2022. These are students who have completed their first degrees.

Messrs. Chauke and Manganyi will provide support with any SETA work that is currently

underway, especially the USAF partnership projects although they are going to be exposed to other work responsibilities for experience purposes. Ms Glenda Ramathavha, UNIVEN Finance Manager says SASSETA will be funding the interns and UNIVEN saw this as an opportunity to cement the relations built with the student leadership.

The two are stationed at Old Admin building, Office 10 and will be assisting with various student queries. "We can only hope that this opportunity will aid us in our endeavor to improve communication with our student population", stressed Ramathavha.

Ms Ramathavha congratulated the two former SRC Presidents and encouraged them to become game changers in this project.

UNIVEN Hosts the 2022 Step Launch and Train The Trainer Workshop



Delegates who attended the STEP Launch

The STEP 2022 launch was hosted at the University of Venda's Research Conference Centre on 15 August 2022. The event was attended by a total of 160 delegates including delegates from the University of Venda, University of Limpopo, Leuphana University (Germany) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Dr. Segun Obadire welcomed the guests and the students to the launch. In his welcome message he mentioned that "STEP training is not a waste of time but an opportunity to impact the lives of the students and the community at large. Dr Obadire also posited that participating in STEP provides the premise for entrepreneurship action training, an opportunity which should not be taken for granted. He extended his gratitude to various stakeholders behind STEP for impacting the lives of the youth by engaging them in entrepreneurship and contributing towards combating unemployment. Mr Mukweho from the South African National Commission for UNESCO submitted that students and staff members within the University

community are positioned for impact by getting involved in programmes such as STEP. He also encouraged the students that being involved in entrepreneurial programmes like STEP marks the first step in an entrepreneurial journey and positions them for greater success.

Ms. Denise Schlichting from the German Commission for UNESCO alluded that she is impressed by the impact that STEP has on the entrepreneurial aspirations of students and the community at large. Janina Peschmann from Leuphana University (Germany) explained that STEP is a programme that is positioning UNIVEN for impact and relevance and is proud of the commitment and support shown by the institution in advancing the prospects of STEP. Ms. Makole Magoro encouraged everyone involved in business to take their lead and take advantage of the technological developments and to never give up amidst entrepreneurial challenges. Ms. Ravele Vhothe who participated in the STEP programme in 2021, extended her appreciation to the STEP programme that enabled her to start her own business and

shape her into a successful entrepreneur. The session was concluded by a STEP roadmap presentation by Mr Thabo Dikgale who indicated that STEP should be conceived as a critical pilot for entrepreneurship programme for students, staff, and the community.

After the Launch, the Train the Trainer workshop commenced from 16 -19 August 2022. There were 10 facilitators trained, six (6) from the University of Limpopo and

four (4) University of Venda. Mr Tendayi Gondo from the University of Venda also attended the workshop and is now poised to become the first Master Trainer at the University of Venda. The certified 2022 STEP facilitators from the University of Venda are as follows: Mr Khamusi Ramudingane, Mrs Pelewe Mphaphu, Mr Vincent Motau and Mr Anyway Mikiyoni.



Facilitators from UL and UNIVEN after receiving their certificates together with delegates from Leuphana University and UNESCO

UNIVEN hosts 2022 Limpopo Research Forum meeting



Attendees of Limpopo Research Forum during the meeting at Research Conference Centre

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) in partnership with Vhembe District Municipality, hosted a two-day Limpopo Research Forum (LRF) meeting that took place at UNIVEN's Research Conference Centre on 06-07 July 2022. The meeting was attended by representatives and presenters from Limpopo Office of the Premier, government departments, various institutions of higher learning, research organisations and independent researchers from across the country. The meeting was also attended by UNIVEN alumni who were coming from different institutions. Presentations focused on community engagement research, which fits under promoting science for societal impact. Of great importance, was the need for research uptake. Each should work diligently within the value chain to reach the outstanding mark of societal impact through research, innovation and transfer.

The Limpopo Research Forum serves as a platform for networking, partnerships, sharing the knowledge and support for the use and production of high-quality research in the province. The theme of the 2022 LRF meeting was 'Research and Development as a Strategic tool for Planning and Development'.



When giving the background of Limpopo Research Forum, Dr Ndivhuwo Malindi from the Limpopo Office of the Premier, highlighted that the Limpopo Research Forum traced way back in 2007 and that's where researchers saw a need to work with universities like UNIVEN, University of Limpopo, University of South Africa, Tshwane University of Technology to mention a few. The 2nd Limpopo Provincial Research Seminar took place on 26-27 September 2017 at the University of Limpopo in Polokwane. During that year, the Limpopo Provincial Government in partnership with the University of Limpopo and University of Venda hosted the seminar under the theme "Catalyzing Socio-economic Transformation through Research, Development and Innovation". It was an informative Seminar which also helped researchers to learn from each other.



The Director of UNIVEN's Department of Research and Innovation, Senior Professor Ekosse, who was also the Co-chair of the meeting, spoke on the importance of research. It was a success, all thanks to Senior Professor Ekosse and Ms Joyce Mokobi. The importance of research is closely related to searching for knowledge and understanding phenomena. Knowledge obtained by means of research can be used to improve decision making, he said. The reason for undertaking research is always undertaken with a mindset of an objective.



"We need to participate in community engagement as and when we start with the research, said Ms Joyce Mokobi from Office of the Premier, Limpopo, who was also the Co-chair of the meeting. It is important for researchers to coordinate the development of the provincial research agenda and facilitate the approval of research proposals at the provincial research and research ethics committee. When implementing research findings or recommendations, researchers need to support government departments in implementing research findings.



Vhembe District Municipality's Acting Municipal Manager, Mr. Mukundi Mushaphi extended his appreciation to the Limpopo Research Forum for hosting the meeting in Vhembe District. Citizens of Vhembe region have a lot of knowledge but are not utilising it for the growth of the local economy. Research plays an integral part in providing evidence-based decisions for policy making and development.



As the keynote speaker, Ms Busisiwe Ntuli, who worked as Public Administrator, Director of Schools and currently working at the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) delivered a presentation on municipalities building a relationship and working closely with DSI to bring about knowledge that will assist in innovation. She said the relationship between municipalities and DSI should be democratised and young people need to be involved to gain more knowledge and participate in breaking doors of policy makers.



Office of the Premier-Limpopo representative, Mr Phatu Letsoalo spoke on Limpopo Development Plan priorities. He indicated that this plan is a five-year plan overreaching growth and development strategy that aligns the contribution of the Limpopo province to NDP Vision 2030 imperatives as well as the execution of the five-year NDP implementation plan. Several guest speakers who were present also gave presentations on their research findings.



Mr. Nthambeleni Mukwevho from Statistics South Africa gave a presentation on general household surveys for 2021. He touched on a few household characteristics such as female headed households and those that have one parent.



UNIVEN's Research Professor, Prof Pascal Bessong spoke about diseases of poverty, a study that involves community participation. In his research, he indicated that there is poor sanitation, poor nutrition, poor transport facilities and, inability of society to access the health system. This leads to infections in children that consequently affect their growth, development, well-being, and cognitive development; all this is called the disease of poverty. Once the gut is infected by microbes, the children will have diarrhea and there is evidence of repeated infections. Due to these microbial infections, the children fail to retain nutrients leading to imbalance of sugars. The study has been done in many countries that include Brazil, Nepal, Peru, South Africa and Tanzania, with similar results obtained.



Prof Michael Chimonyo, also UNIVEN's Research Professor, presented about the contribution of livestock to sustainable rural development and livelihoods in resource limited communities. As he mentioned, for effective contribution of livestock to sustainable rural development, it is key to leverage on networking and collaboration hence, the LRF should be extended to other stakeholders including the farmers. Challenges that Limpopo faces are poverty, inequality, unemployment and low quality of life. Furthermore, farmers in the province are endowed with indigenous knowledge systems and a range of livestock species but they are not making income. Focus should be on livestock productivity and not production which is just about keeping the animals. Productivity refers to the products coming out from livestock thus, animal productivity is crucial to improve livelihood in the province and country at large.

Several other presenters made contributions that are aligned to research undertaken and making an impact within the Limpopo Province. MS Madikana Jackinah Mokgokong, a PhD candidate from Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), delivered her presentation on research and development collaborations within the context of a developmental state; Ms Thembi Ngotho from the Agricultural Research Council delivered a talk on climate smart agriculture skills training for responsive crop production; Prof Kingsley Ayisi from the University of Limpopo (UL) presented on assessing and analysing climate-induced feed gaps: constraints and management options for rural mixed crop-livestock systems; Dr Ndivhuwo Malindi, a UNIVEN alumnus, presented on documentation strategies of indigenous health knowledge of selected Vho Maine in Vhembe District Municipality of Limpopo Province; Dr Konosoang Sobane from Human Science Research Council (HSRC) spoke about unshackling the youth from the bonds of substance abuse through creative and performance arts: A case study of the Sekhukhune area.



Members of Limpopo Research Forum posing for a picture outside Research Conference Centre on day two

UNIVEN joins forces with Bankseta to launch a Data Science Skills for Future Programme



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Directorate of Community Engagement under Prof Vhonani Netshandama recently co-launched a Data Science, and Accounting Skills Programme called Skills for Future with Bankseta at Thohoyandou Technical High School. The UNIVEN Directorate of Community Engagement and student-initiated companies Belutics Data Science Academy and LutendoLwau Accounting Firm facilitate the programme. Both companies were incubated by UNIVEN. The event was attended by UNIVEN delegates, school learners and parents, Vhembe District officials and Bankseta representatives. The participants were 250 including 14 UNIVEN students.

The programme is operated at UNIVEN with 100 Grade 12 learners from Marude Secondary, Thohoyandou Secondary, Thohoyandou Technical High and Tshivhidzo Masiagwala Secondary Schools. This programme seeks to make awareness of 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) skills. It was influenced by how the world is rapidly changing, from the traditional way of doing things to automation and working for a company to being an entrepreneur.

The objectives of the programme are to teach learners mathematics and statistics, programming, accounting, and guidance. The benefits include entrepreneurial mindset development amongst school and university students; improving quality of learning for school learners, enhancing the emotional-life skills of school learners; peer mentorship; introduction to the 4IR as it relates to the banking sector; education, and development for school learners.



Prof Vhonani Netshandama, Director Community Engagement

As she was directing the programme, Prof Vhonani Netshandama simultaneously shared her insights and encouraged the learners that they should dream big and be

familiar with their surroundings, especially in 4IR. She emphasised that they should use essential gadgets to explore careers like the rest of the world. She also encouraged learners to research how they can contribute to their country and the world. This is related to contributing through revolutionising accounting and banking, mathematics, and relevant theory.

She further confirmed that nowadays learning is based on contact classes and the digital world. She added that the opportunity of being funded by Bankseta used to be wealthy universities associated as opposed to these days. She urged the learners to take advantage of the opportunity offered and that the gadgets provided will assist them in using them for beneficial purposes.



Mr Phillip Netshirondoni-Principal of Thohoyandou Technical High School

In his welcome address, Mr Phillip Netshirondoni expressed his gratitude for the programme. He also appreciated the parents for taking their time to show up for the programme launch that benefits their youth. He said one of the many reasons he is excited about the programme is that it brings a significant contribution to Thohoyandou Technical High School and other neighbouring schools in the Thohoyandou community.



Mr Ndamulelo Nelwamondo, (First) Programme Coordinator and Founder of Belutics Data Science Company

Mr Ndamulelo Nelwamondo presented about the way Skills for Future Programme is structured. He indicated that the programme seeks to create awareness and informing learners about relevant degree choices.

"The learners will enrol for courses in Data Science and Accounting of which the two courses will also add value in giving pupils entrepreneurial skills. The course will also provide awareness in cyber security," said Ndamulelo.

Mr Nelwamondo, a Masters's student in Data Science at UNIVEN, said the course is an NQF level 5. "Some of the aspects of the course include visualisation data science and machine learning, which allow application and packages," he added. He further said the course's assessment criteria include a basic understanding of mathematics, statistics, and programming, analysing basic financial statements and using different programming languages.

Towards his conclusion, Mr Nelwamondo said the programme would offer two certificates: a certificate of attendance and a certificate of competence. As for course materials that are to be used, include gadgets, data bundles, slide notes and pre-reading. The presentations included lectures, small group discussions, assignments, and tests. Mr Nelwamondo emphasised that the support of parents will add value to the programme's success. Therefore, parents should ensure that learners fully participate and care for their provided gadgets.



Dr. Livhuwani Nkondo, UNIVEN representative

Speaking as a UNIVEN representative, Dr Livhuwani Nkondo clarified that UNIVEN is not a rural University but a rural based University. This implies that UNIVEN produces locally relevant and globally competitive graduates despite its location. She further indicated that UNIVEN is shifting from being traditional to being an entrepreneurial university. "Therefore, one can make everything they study entrepreneurial in the form of venturing into business." She stated that entrepreneurship allows one to devise solutions to the problem. Hence, they should be able to provide answers to issues faced by the country and the institution.



Mr. Matamela Matibe, Regional Specialist: ETD Limpopo and Mpumalanga (Bankseta)

Mr Matamela Matibe indicated that the relationship between Bankseta and UNIVEN is mutual. Mr Matibe shared that Bankseta is funding UNIVEN students from the Department of Accountancy, which was also part of the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants in assisting UNIVEN to get accreditation. He said Bankseta invests in people through skills development. Mr Matibe mentioned that there are 21 Setas in the country, of which Bankseta is one of them. He then pointed out that learners should appreciate being selected as part of the 100 participants in the programme. "Learners should not be reluctant to adapt to 4IR changes as they provide opportunities that will allow them to be recognised," said Mr Matibe who is also UNIVEN alumnus.

Mr Matibe said the programme that the learners will be doing is the same as the one being done at other universities.



Mr Rendani Munzhelele, Chief Education Specialist at the Department of Education in Vhembe District

Mr Rendani Munzhelele stated that parents should allow students to enrol with UNIVEN if the learner's preferred degree is offered. He advised learners not to register for irrelevant degrees because they want to be far from home. He warned the learners not to sell gadgets, which would constitute a deviation from the purpose. "Gadgets should be used for research and data collection," said Mr Munzhelele. He further acknowledged the opportunity Bankseta provides free of charge for the Vhembe District.



Ms Khuthadzo Tshisikule, UNIVEN alumna and ex-beneficiary of Bankseta

Ms Tshisikule shared her amazing experiences about Bankseta. Bankseta funded her from 2019 until 2021. She studied Accounting Science at UNIVEN and Bankseta paid for her studies. She highlighted that Bankseta as a sponsor gave her support both academically and morally.

UNIVEN joins forces with Bankseta to launch a Data Science Skills for Future Programme continued..



Mr Rofhiwa Nyamande, Programme Coordinator at Thohoyandou Secondary School

Mr Rofhiwa Nyamande touched on the importance of communication to bring the best output, the sender should be eligible, and the receiver should be clear in providing feedback. He said they want to be part of the programme and applauded BankSeta for coming through.

Mr Nyamande appreciated the opportunity that UNIVEN has taken to select four schools. He said he believes the programme will positively impact the pupils as it aligns with the 4IR. He indicated that this new programme would create fresh minds to be applied in the banking sector. "I believe learners are wise and will adhere to the programme completion period." He encouraged the learners by sharing the names of outstanding academics and professionals from the Vhembe District. They are celebrated across the globe for the work they are doing.



UNIVEN signs a MoA with LABEX to assist laboratory interns stationed at the University's Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) and LABEX recently officially signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the sponsorship of laboratory intern staff by LABEX to assist in the chemistry laboratories. The Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture's former Executive Dean, Professor Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann signed this MoA on the behalf of UNIVEN. The Managing Director, Amanda Proost signed on behalf of

LABEX. The company made further donations of various laboratory equipment such as a fridge, excess glassware, centrifuge neofuge, microscope and other equipment which will further assist in the laboratories of the faculty. Prof Mokgalaka was very grateful and appreciated the generosity and commitment by LABEX to assist in improving UNIVEN Chemistry Laboratories.



Amanda Proost, Marlene Van Den Berg (Sales and Special projects Representative) and Zelda Neduhuleza (middle) who is a Chemistry Masters graduate that will be sponsored, pose for a photo after the signing ceremony



Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann signing a MoA



Dr Lutendo Murulana (representing chemistry department), Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann posing with the sponsors

Univen Bodybuilding Takes Part in the IFBB Boksburg Classic – Johannesburg

From 22-24 July 2022, UNIVEN Bodybuilding club took part in its first competition at the International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness (IFBB) Boksburg classic in Johannesburg. The Club was established in 2016 and has been competing in various Provincial and National competitions to date, with some athletes being selected for the prestigious Arnold Classic Africa as part of team South Africa.

The show is held annually as one of the IFBB's Platinum League Prestigious Competitions under which athletes compete and are selected to be part of Team South Africa during the Arnold Classic Africa for the year 2023.



Mr Honyini Gideon competed under the senior men under 90kg category and took 1st place in his category.



Mr. Maweto, third from left and Mr. Honyini proceeded on to fight for the Boksburg classic overall title.



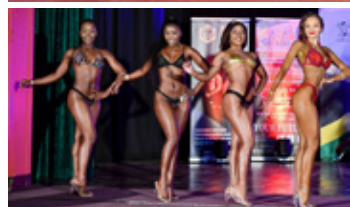
The UNIVEN Bodybuilding team 2022: from left, Mr. Mathode I, Mr. Moimane G, Ms. Muofhe M, Mr. Tshikhule PP, Mr. Maweto PP, Mr. Moguru L, Mr. Khoza N, Mr. Makhubela S and Mr. Honyini G. Sitting in front from left, Ms. Macheke K, Ms. Nefshivhambe I and Ms. Makhadzi E.



Mr Maweto Patrick, in red posing trunks, competed under the senior men Over 90kg category and placed 1st position.



Mr. Maweto was crowned the overall winner and was presented with a trophy and an award for the 2022 Boksburg Classic, making him the reigning Boksburg champion for the year 2022/2023.



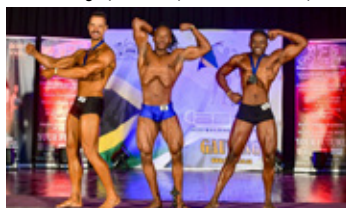
From left to right- Ms. Makhadzi Ednah, Ms. Nefshivhambe Idani and Ms. Macheke Katlego were amongst the participants from UNIVEN Bodybuilding team under their shared division of Beach Bikini u163 cm.



Ms. Muofhe Mbuelo, third from left, in blue costume, competing for the first time under the fit model category took 5th place on her line-up



Mr. Godwin Moimane in Blue trunks, first on the left & Mr. Moguru Lennon, third from left both competing for the first time ever on the under 23 junior men Bodybuilding and placed 2nd and 3rd.



Mr. Mathode Innocent, first on the right, also entering for the first time ever, under the men's classic physique division and took 3rd place.



UNIVEN Sport & Recreation staff member Ms. L. Miza in red T-shirt posing for a picture with the rest of the team.



Mr. Khoza Ntokozo, second from left, entering for the first time, under the Muscular physique division took 4th place under his division.



Mr. Makhubela Silence, first from right, and Mr. Tshikhule Pride, first from left, competed under men's athletic physique division and were placed 5th & 6th position respectively.

Internal Audit and Risk Directorate organises a resourceful Combined Assurance Workshop



On Tuesday, 23 August 2022, the office of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal's Internal Audit and Risk Directorate held the Combined Assurance Workshop. This workshop was held at The Ranch Resort in Polokwane and was attended by internal auditors, external auditors and UNIVEN Assurance Providers and Resource Persons. The combined assurance terms of reference requires that all role players that are critical in the implementation of the framework report to committees in a seamless manner.



In her opening and welcome message, Director Internal Audit and Risk, Mrs Diana Makwarela indicated that all staff members are settled into the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. She said this workshop contributes to the strategic objective 10 of the University of Venda in terms of governance systems. Mrs Makwarela continued to mention that management is there to ensure that policies and procedures are applied and used properly. This is also to ensure that controls of certain areas are being adhered to. "Council and Executive management saw a need to establish this forum because this forum is the one that is going to assist the Council in assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment and assessing the integrity of the information used for reporting and decision-making.

This forum will be meeting four times every year and I hope the information that we have shared will assist us to build the university in to being where it should be in terms of good governance, risk management and internal controls," she said.



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni in his scene setting remarks gave the overview of the University of Venda. He indicated that UNIVEN is an autonomous institution. This is a public funded institution, this means UNIVEN uses taxpayers' money for sustainability. "We exist to serve others." Dr Nthambeleni mentioned that the University is strategically aligned to and seeks to contribute towards collective implementation of the national development agenda as outlined in the National Development Plan (Vision 2030). He said that the University always makes sure that all its programmes are registered. "As we have been saying, we need to teach our students about how to create jobs

instead of teaching them how to look for jobs." Amongst other things, Dr Nthambeleni spoke about the context of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025. "We need to be productive, efficient, and effective in everything we do. We are student-centered because we realised that, about 80% of our students are undergraduates. We need to assist them to pass and complete their qualifications on time. We are the University of Venda but not the university of the Venda ethnic group. We need to work together because UNIVEN exists for all citizens."

"As the management, our collective responsibility to council is that management processes are operating within the parameters that have been established to achieve defined objectives. Risk management should work effectively. We need to work with each other to make sure that we address our challenges." He concluded his talk by pointing out the enhancement of implementation of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.



CEO of Motlano Inc, the Internal Audit service provider appointed by the University, Mrs Koko Khumalo, as one of the Facilitators of the workshop indicated that the University's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan requires us to ensure that we are consistent in order for us to remain relevant. She said through governance you win the mind and the hearts of stakeholders. "The combined assurance model came through as a way to prevent the risks that might hamper achievement of objectives. She defined combined assurance as a coordinated approach that ensures that all activities provided by management, internal assurance and the external assurance providers adequately address significant risks facing the university and that suitable controls exist to mitigate these risks.



Mrs Regina Erasmus, Head of Governance, Risk and Control at Motlano Inc presented about key benefits of combined assurance. Among others she said combined assurance structures assist to minimise operational disruptions of businesses; have reduced likelihood of not receiving assurance on significant risks; have coordinated relevant assurance efforts directed at the risks that matter most. She further mentioned that the UNIVEN combined assurance is rooted in the risk universe. The Combined Assurance Forum should engage with the council, through the Audit and Risk Committee, to determine the desired level of assurance required in each area. She, amongst other things spoke about reporting formats to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council.



Presentations per Assurance Unit were rendered and Mr Tinyiko Sibiya presented about Risk Management, Mrs Diana Makwarela presented about Internal Audit, Messrs Rhangani Mbhalati and Hebert Pambayi from Chapu Chartered Accountants presented on External Audit, Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo presented on strategy and monitoring, Dr Patience Mativandlela presented about Institutional Planning, Quality Assurance and MIS; Adv Eric Nemukula presented on Legal Services; Ms Mavis Madzhe presented about Financial Management and Reporting; Mr Thabelo Makananise presented on Occupational Health and Safety while Mr Sam Khoza presented about Information and Communication Technology.



UNIVEN students and staff participate in the EXAKT4YOU workshop held in Germany



Prof Sabine Moebs, Project Leader, DHBW; Dr Segun Obadire, Ag. Director International Relations and Partnerships, UNIVEN; Ms Brigitte Ilg, Director International Relations, DHBW and Ms Martina Schumacher, Head of Administration, DHBW

EXAKT4YOU is a project financed within the framework of the scholarship programme of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM, Germany. The aim of the programme is to establish and build on new relationships with foreign universities and intensify existing contacts for the long term. The project leader for the EXAKT4YOU project is Prof. Sabine Moebs, Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW), Germany. Partners in the African-European collaboration project for student and staff exchange include University of Venda (UNIVEN), South Africa, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha, Institute of Finance Management (IFM), Daressalam, St. Augustine University Tanzania (SAUT) and DHBW, Germany.

The meeting was attended by dignitaries including the Ambassador of Tanzania to Germany, HE Dr A. Poshu and industry representatives. The workshop was held between 4 and 12 August 2022 and was attended by six (6) students from different

faculties and Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director International Relations and Partnerships, UNIVEN who was a member of the project steering committee. The workshop focused on Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Sustainability Communication – Climate Change. Thus, students were able to work with their counterparts from Germany and Tanzania in developing strategies, applying new concepts in cultural intelligence and innovative mass communication tools, sustainability frameworks and reporting. These strategies and concepts will support different entities including businesses, NGOs, government and social organisations with the aim of answering the question on how to communicate sustainability needs and strategies to all stakeholders to mitigate climate change. Students were full of appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the various intercultural competency trainings, networking and exposure to different projects around effective and inclusive sustainability communication.



Student participants from left: Mr Babatunde Ojelade, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture; Mr Promise Nyalungu, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education; Ms Mulalo Maumela, Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law; Ms Lihuwani Vele, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture; Ms Phumudzo Mudau, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture and Mr Pfano Nefale, Faculty of Health Sciences.

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