



The University of Venda becomes the Home of Heritage



On 20 September 2022, the Limpopo Provincial Government Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture together with Kara Heritage Institute collaborated with the University of Venda (UNIVEN) to host the 2022 Limpopo Heritage Month Colloquium under the theme 'Mapungubwe History and Heritage Site'. This event was attended by traditional leaders from several communities of Limpopo Province, as well as students and staff of the University of Venda.



When presenting about the Greater Mapungubwe Trans-Frontier Park and its meaning for cultural and socio-economic integration of the SADC region and reclaiming Mapungubwe history and heritage for PAN African unity and social cohesion, the Executive Director Kara Heritage Institute, Prof Mathole Motshekga mentioned that Africa is the motherland where racism is not part of African culture.

He said, "Our ancestors called us people without ethnic backgrounds. He urged the audience to know that before they became Xhosa, Ndebele or Shona, they are people, before they are classified into tribal things, they are people".

Prof Mathole Motshekga emphasised that Mapungubwe heritage is important as it is an integral part of our existence. African people have a common heritage. "We are divided because our school curriculum is not designed by our own people of African origin." He further encouraged UNIVEN to partner with Kara Heritage Institute. "We should have a partnership so that our young

people know that they were created in Africa and nowhere else."

In conclusion, he said, "We must begin to value our adult population as they are the custodian of our culture." He mentioned that the African identity is something that has been there for ages. "Regard tribal names, your real identity is African." He further said, "To be an African is to be the child of the sun, we are black because Africa is a sunny continent." He declared UNIVEN as the home of African heritage.



Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr. Bernard Nthambeleni

The colloquium was opened by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Dr. Bernard Nthambeleni. "It is a great privilege to welcome you all, we are honoured to host the heritage colloquium. He mentioned that the view of the University is that we should be catalysts in providing relevant knowledge.

He highlighted that UNIVEN produces relevant output and research to help with the betterment of society. "Universities are not built to serve themselves but serve others to improve the quality of life. We are delighted to host this colloquium to showcase the Mapungubwe Heritage site."

The themes for this colloquium revolved around: Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Mapungubwe frontier Parks, their meaning for Cultural significance and Socioeconomic Integration of the SADC Region; as well as Reclaiming Mapungubwe History and Heritage Sites for Pan African Unity and Social Cohesion.



Cllr Rose Mathaka, introduced the Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Cllr Sarah Rambuda.



Thulamela Municipality Mayor, Cllr Sara Rambuda gave an overview of Limpopo on Mapungubwe History and Heritage sites. She expressed that in celebrating heritage month, South Africans cannot be ignorant that African ancestors left 10 heritage sites in Limpopo to inherit. She said, "We wish to thank many researchers, especially Prof Victor Ralushai for his role in Mapungubwe as a heritage site in 2004."

She mentioned that it does not need rocket science to know the history; Mapungubwe is part of who Africans are. "We are here so that some of the many questions remaining in our lives are answered."



The Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to South Africa, His Excellency David Hamadziripi when giving a message of support, mentioned that he was pleased that the South African government has seen the need to maintain a close relationship with countries like Zimbabwe and Botswana. He said, "We should look at how to develop our intercultural relations through the Mapungubwe Heritage Park." He further said, "As united countries, we need wider public celebrations of the fact that we are people who are coming from the same place and find our place in the global process and village."

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In her message of support, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana, Honourable Tshenolo Modise stated that it is upon all African countries to nurture the heritage sites. She said, "The biggest heritage that our ancestors left us is botho."

She mentioned that if we have inherited "botho", things like racism or human trafficking should not exist. She emphasised

that the Mapungubwe preservation site is way more than a tourism site. She said, "Botswana is eager to work with South Africa to ensure preserving heritage. She further said, "Here is a great potential to do this transfrontier, and let us make sure we know we are one."



Mr. Seane Mabitsela from the University of Venda, Department of Human Sciences in the

Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education, also gave a message of support.



The University Registrar Adv. Edward Lambani proposed a vote of thanks.



A cultural dance group from Bolobedu performing during the event



The University of Venda's Department of Forestry collaborates with four South African institutions of higher learning that provide the Forestry Programme

The University of Venda's Department of Forestry has collaborated with four South African higher education institutions that provide the Forestry programme. The partnership is made possible by the Erasmus+-funded project called FOREST21 (Partners | FOREST21).

FOREST21 is a collaborative effort to develop forestry expertise in South African higher education. The initiative is being carried out in partnership with five South African higher education institutions (HEIs) that have forestry curriculum or those that will soon begin to teach forestry. The partnering institutions are University of Venda, Stellenbosch University, Nelson Mandela University, Fort Cox Institute for Agriculture and Forestry and Tshwane University of Technology.

Promoting climate-smart forestry and entrepreneurial innovation in forestry education will result in employment creation as well as climate change mitigation. FOREST21 is being implemented through restructuring forestry entrepreneurship school curriculum to provide graduates with problem-solving competencies, an entrepreneurial attitude, and climate-smart thinking.

This project is a problem-based learning (PBL) methodologies and student-centered teaching. Students learn through tackling real-world business issues in international teams. FOREST21 is based on tight engagement with the industrial sector, as well as professors and administrative personnel at partner HEIs, in order to identify best practices in the local environment.



Professor Peter Adesoye, Mr Rollet Ramavhale and Mr Precious Munyanduki



coordinators who attended the symposium at the Nelson Mandela University

Three staff members in the Department of Forestry and FOREST21 coordinators Professor Peter Adesoye, Mr. Rollet Ramavhale, and Mr. Precious Munyanduki, recently attended a Forest21 conference at Nelson Mandela University with the theme: 21st Century ClimateSmart Forestry Education for Livelihood and Sustainability in South Africa. The programme was covered by SABC and can be accessed on this video link: <https://youtu.be/JQAI1h5b-Y8>. The meeting was designed to address the following three important issues: Contextualize climate change, its implications for the Forest Industry and entrepreneurial opportunities

towards improved sustainability; Identify and document appropriate and viable Student Challenges that can inform revised academic curricula; and Further training of academics in Problem Based Learning, using draft Student Challenges.

The meeting was attended by coordinators from other South African higher education institutions that offer the Forestry programme as well as coordinators from three institutions (Aalto University – Finland, Håme University of Applied Sciences – Norway and Håme University of Applied Sciences – Finland) and in the Nordic countries.

UNIVEN'S Department of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Heritage Studies host a Heritage Celebration



With the same spirit of celebrating heritage month, the Department of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Heritage Studies in partnership with the National Heritage Council celebrated their hybrid event on 27 September 2022. The event was held at the UNIVEN Auditorium.



The Keynote speaker, Dr. Thabo Manetsi from National Heritage Council mentioned that the National Heritage Council (NHC) of South Africa is an agency of the National Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture (DSAC) which is responsible for the preservation of the country's heritage. Dr. Manetsi's presentation was on the promotion of Indigenous music as per the National Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture theme for heritage month 2022. In his presentation, Dr. Thabo Manetsi indicated that the responsibility of the NHC is to promote and safeguard living heritage or intangible cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage consists of oral tradition, cultural practices, rituals, performances, languages, IKS, UBUNTU, and many others. His focus was on the promotion and safeguarding of African Indigenous music. He spoke about how African Indigenous music shapes our identities, languages, geographical location, IKS, traditional music instruments, socio-economic beneficiation of participants, and the application of Intellectual property laws. African Indigenous music has the potential to shape and define cultural and ethnic identities. "It is a signifier of distinct and unique cultural and ethnic identities. We need to unlock the economy of our Indigenous music," he concluded.



Dr. Mafemane Baloyi, Faculty Manager: Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, welcomed guests on behalf of the Executive Dean of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education, Prof Bongani Bantwini. He also delivered a message of support.

In his message of support Dr Baloyi mentioned that we cannot achieve our strategic thrusts and objectives without the support of our partners, the National Heritage Council of South Africa and Freedom Park. He stated that no matter how brilliant our strategic plan is, excluding you as the partners from our plans and planning activities will set us up for failure.

Dr. Baloyi continued to state that it is the Faculty's primary responsibility to ensure that the daily activities of each of the ten departments align with UNIVEN's strategic plan to create a road map to achieving the University's core mandate. He further said that this event helped to improve the University's relationship and collaboration with stakeholders. It is in line with the University's strategic focus on Linkages, Partnerships, and Internationalisation.



Dr. Mercy Madzivhandila giving a live performance



Head of the Department of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Heritage Studies, Dr. Matodzi Rebecca Raphalalani stated that South Africans celebrate National Heritage Day every year on 24 September by remembering the cultural heritage of many cultures, and the diverse population of South Africa. She said that various events are staged throughout the country to commemorate this day. Dr. Raphalalani emphasised that it is also in this context that the Department of Indigenous Knowledge System organised this event to celebrate this important aspect of our IKS. She mentioned that September is an incredibly special month, while it is recognised and celebrated as a heritage month where we showcase the cultural wealth of our nation. This month is considered the African new year, the time for new beginnings and renewal.



Ms. Jane Mufamadi, the Chief Executive Officer of Freedom Park, was one of the guest speakers. She opened her talk by mentioning that, as South Africans, we celebrate the day by remembering the cultural heritage of the many cultures that make up the population of South Africa, specifically what we call intangible heritage, which is the foundation of all communities. Ms. Mufamadi stated that

we cannot discuss living heritage without mentioning our languages, which include aspects of performing arts. Her presentation was a synopsis of the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture's national policy on living heritage. She said living means "cultural expressions and practices that form a body of knowledge and provide for continuity, dynamism, and meaning of social life to generations of people as individuals, social groups, and communities." She further said that we need to recognise the processes that are created to help people to record their heritage to identify and safeguard its values to communities.



When reflecting on the previous speakers, Mr. Andani Budeli said that claiming our indigenous knowledge has nothing to do with going backward but has much to do with going back and reclaiming back our culture and aligning ourselves with the cultures that are dominant in the modern day while giving ourselves a sense of identity.



Dr. Thizwilondi Madima giving a vote of thanks



Indigenous pots (Tshidudu) and cups (Khavhelo) that were displayed

UNIVEN launches the Vice-Chancellor's Merit Bursary Fund

On Wednesday, 07 September 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) launched the Vice Chancellor's Merit Bursary Fund. This event was held at 2Ten Hotel, Sibasa.



In his Keynote Address, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni described this launch as a very important event for UNIVEN because its impact will be felt. He said that "Research and Innovation improve productivity and help people improve their lives". For South Africa to compete internationally, we will need highly trained students and researchers who can produce good research outputs. We need to produce responsible leaders who contribute to our economy.

Dr Nthambeleni further mentioned that there is a dire need to produce ethical leaders of tomorrow. "It is a known fact that our country produces graduates that South Africa requires. Higher education sector suffers limited budgets, yet they are expected to do well with shortage of funds. We need to find ways to fund our students ourselves. We have lot of students who are unable to afford tuition fees and we need to find ways to address this challenge. As UNIVEN we will not turn away a student because of lack of funding, if a learner has passed well and has met the requirements, we will admit the learner. We want to assist these students because it takes a village to raise a child, so we invite all stakeholders to contribute in this fund to assist our students."



When giving the background and call for support, UNIVEN CFO, Mr Botwe Kraziya said our students are financially challenged and they need our support for a better life through education. He mentioned that through education, one can find a job that will assist them to live a better life. "Communities of Vhembe District rely on this University for a better life, and we are fighting the battle of student funding on daily basis. Let us invest in young people, let us invest our money in those who we believe are the future of this country. If you invest in a graduate, you will never regret." He advised attendees to contribute towards the Vice-Chancellor's Merit Bursary Fund and to support these future leaders.



When rendering opening and welcome address, Advocate Edward Lambani said, "we are meeting this morning on a journey that all of us had been working towards. we have realised that we need to create and open doors to provide education for all. The government has tried its best with NSFAS, but it does not cover for all."



In her message of support, Limpopo, Mpumalanga Bankseta Regional Manager, Ms Elelwani Netshituni mentioned that there

are 21 SETAs in south Africa and over the past years these SETAs have funded a lot of UNIVEN graduates. She further mentioned that they have a good relationship with UNIVEN. "We have produced a lot of graduates who today are leaders out there. Our focus is on the performance of our students; we don't only look at the background of the learner or student." She advised attendees and the public to donate and contribute towards this Bursary Fund because it takes the village to raise a child. Amongst other things, she advised UNIVEN to apply for PhD funding.



SRC President, Mr Sibusiso Mkhonto mentioned that the SRC appreciates and supports this initiative because it is going to have a great impact on students. SRC is also working on raising funds through the Advancement Unit. We welcome this Merit Bursary Fund, and we will in future be the ones funding this Merit Bursary as graduates of this University.



In her vote of thanks, DVC Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza said she is very proud to be at UNIVEN. She encouraged students and learners to never give up in life irrespective of the challenges that they come across. "Challenges are there to make us stronger. I am proud of UNIVEN because it has the leadership that acknowledges their background." Prof Feza continued to say that there is a funding from SETA worth 4.5 million that is going to fund postgraduate students in the Faculty of Health Sciences. "We are growing, we need to understand that we have a role to contribute in our economy to assist our students fund their studies. We need to explore opportunities for funding, and we need to keep the light burning for the African child," concluded Prof Feza.

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Attendees of the Vice-Chancellor's Merit Bursary Launch

Gender-Based Violence is a widespread problem in South Africa



The University of Venda's School of Law, Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights (under the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law) and Student Affairs in collaboration with Tshwane University of Technology's Faculty of Humanities, Department of Safety and Security Management, hosted Gender Based Violence Seminar which took place at the University of Venda Sports Hall on Friday, 30 September 2022. The seminar brought together stakeholders such as the South African Police Service, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, traditional and religious leaders, dignitaries from various disciplines, academics and students, to analyse the increased rates of gender-based violence in Limpopo Province. The seminar was further intended to analyse released crime statistics and implications thereof, as well as to map the GBV crime in all districts in Limpopo Province.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford when receiving the dignitaries at the Council Chambers said that the programme could not have come at a more auspicious time. He referred to President Cyril Ramaphosa's recent comments that a war was being waged against women in South Africa. He mentioned that the University of Venda is honoured to take leadership in the interventions on GBV.



SAPS Provincial Commissioner Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe mentioned that we all understand that the President has pronounced that GBV should be one of the issues that sit on top of the agenda of every department and in government. "GBV is a second pandemic in our country, and it is for this reason that the South African Police Service and the Minister of Police have raised serious concerns when it comes to GBV and ongoing killings of women and children and the LGBTQI+." All departments should come together and deal with this crisis. Lt General Thembi Hadebe said, "Limpopo Province is the province that has a serious challenge when it comes to GBV, in the main issues such as assault, common cases, and assault GBH cases". There are many GBV cases reported around Vhembe District Municipality wherein Thohoyandou policing area is at the top.



The MEC of Social Development, Dr Dickson Masemola started his address by giving the historical background of the GBV which is seen as a widespread problem in South Africa, impacting almost every aspect of life. GBV mostly affects women and girls and is systemic and deeply entrenched in institutions, cultures and traditions in South Africa.

Dr Masemola said that the struggle is to empower society to deal with GBV. We are experiencing huge GBV cases that are occurring daily, despite the education and empowerment that are being put in daily. LGBTQI+ is becoming part of the issues that we are going through, we must know and understand that we are faced with an ideological case and must be uprooted. He indicated that the President has passed regulations to strengthen the arm of the law to deal with these matters, such as the Domestic Violence Amendment Act and the Criminal Law Sexual Offences Amendment Act. Dr Masemola further emphasised that for the department to be in a better position to strengthen our laws, policies, programmes and actions, we have to be provided with the necessary tools. He indicated that Social Development would launch a forum within the district to deal with matters of GBV, femicide, and substance abuse.

The Interim Director of Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights, Professor Ademola Jegede who stood in for Professor Ndlovu, the Interim Director of the School of Law, in his opening remarks, expressed that the seminar aims to tackle GBV which is a very important problem of national significance, and is of great concern to everyone, from fathers to daughters, husbands to wives and uncles to sisters, including those of other identities. He indicated that the University and indeed the Faculty of Management Commerce and Law are well pleased to have all these dignitaries who have taken time from their busy schedules to honour this important occasion. Prof Jegede concluded by saying "I trust that by the time we are done with the programme, we will be equipped like David in the bible to throw stones against this Goliath called GBV".

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Prof Jan Crafford (middle) poses for a photo with the MEC Dr Masemola (on his right), SAPS Limpopo Provincial Commissioner, Lt Thembi Hadebe (next to Dr Masemola) and other dignitaries.

Gender-Based Violence is a widespread problem in South Africa Continued...



A representative from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Dr Nelly Mwaka gave a presentation on the role of a bystander in GBV prevention. The UNDP works with the government, civil society, academic institutions, and everybody else to provide government support towards development. Dr Mwaka's presentation focused much on addressing the question "What is a bystander?". She said "A bystander is someone who observes violence but also witnesses the conditions under which violence takes place. We should see ourselves as bystanders because none of us can say we have never lived under conditions where violence is perpetuated. As bystanders we need to do something, we should not only see it as a responsibility for police or community leaders".



Mr Solomon Phungo, the Coordinator of Student Housing, indicated that according to the UN high commissioner for refugees, GBV refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on the agenda. GBV is rooted in inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms and it is a serious violation of human rights. These acts must be identified, confronted, and dealt with. The Student Housing Unit stands ready to assist in the prevention of the GBV scourge. "We will continue to encourage students who are victims to report to us any acts that fall in the broad category of GBV".



Mr Mauluma Maane, a TVEP representative also gave a message of support. He said, "we want to bring these solutions to find the scourge of GBV. "Make your voice heard by declaring publicly that enough is enough, challenge the gender stereotypes, challenge the condoning of violence against women and children, do not blame girls and women for how they choose to dress and recognise that human rights are woman rights. Break the silence!!! Authorities should ensure the perpetrators are dealt with. Be supportive and believe the victim. As TVEP we are calling on all Men to help us in fighting GBV".

In his vote of Thanks, Prof Jegede expressed appreciation to all participants for their time. He summarised the presentations and reminded everyone about the urgency to tackle GBV. He also noted that, as one of its units of focus, the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law will continue to advance research and advocacy agenda around the issue of GBV. He charged the audience, once again, not to be scared to throw stones against the goliath of GBV in society.



Prof Kholofelo Annah Rakubu from TUT when introducing the MEC Dr Masemola



Dr Masemola signing a petition against Gender-Based Violence



Lt Gen Hadebe signing a petition against Gender Based Violence



SAPS Provincial commissioner Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe exchanging gifts with, the Interim Director of the School of Law, Prof Lonias Ndlovu



Dr Thizwilondzi Mudau, Head of the Department for Youth in Development and Ms Phiwinihlanhla Madida Deputy Director: Social Cohesion (DSAC)



SAPS Band entertaining the audience

UNIVEN and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) Sign a MoU at the Bio Africa Convention

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the margins of the Bio-Africa Convention on 31 August 2022. The UNIVEN delegation was led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal was supported by Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director: International Relations and Partnerships (IRP), Prof Jude Odhiambo, Acting Executive Dean, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture and the coordinator Mr Thabo Dikgale, Partnership Officer, International Relations and Partnerships. The signing of MoU took place at Durban International Convention Centre.

Dr Segun Obadire, and Dr Luiz Zerbini opened the meeting and facilitated the introduction of the panel and the meeting participants. In his opening remarks, Dr Obadire highlighted the fact that UNIVEN is delighted to be establishing this partnership with the ICGEB as it will unlock various opportunities for UNIVEN staff and students. Dr Obadire also highlighted the fact that there is already a number of initiatives that are underway, "this MoU is meant to officially cement the partnership and increase the number of activities". In his intervention, the Acting Executive Dean for the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Professor Odhiambo underscored the possible cooperation areas and activities currently underway.

Dr Nthambeleni provided a presentation which outlined the central tenets of the MoU and a brief synopsis about UNIVEN. He indicated that at a high level the MoU will prioritise the following cooperative areas for immediate implementation (subject to the availability of funds).



Dr. Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal (far left)

- Joint Fellowship Programme: Allowing for UNIVEN students to access and utilise training opportunities in ICGEB laboratories in Cape Town, South Africa, New Delhi, India and Trieste, Italy.
- Early Career Return Grants: Emerging researchers at UNIVEN can be supported through the ICGEB CRP Grant programme.
- Cooperation on areas of joint scientific interest and expertise: Focusing on Agricultural Biotechnology and Health Sciences.
- Community outreach and education: ICGEB and UNIVEN outreach units working together on joint programmes, contributing to the UNIVEN vision of a University leading in engaged scholarship.

When concluding his talk, Dr Nthambeleni indicated that UNIVEN is fully committed to the implementation of this MoU and will allocate the necessary resources to realise the full potential of this partnership. He also indicated that UNIVEN will host the ICGEB Director General, Dr. Lawrence Banks and his colleagues in early November 2022. The ICGEB delegation will visit the University to discuss the implementation of the MoU and to deliver a public lecture.

Speaking on behalf of the DSI, Chief Director, Africa Multilateral Cooperation, Ms Mmampei Chaba, outlined the evolution and bidding process for South Africa's hosting of the ICGEB. In her intervention Ms Chaba, noted that hosting the ICGEB positions South

Africa as a leader in health and microbiology research as well as a conduit between ICGEB and the region.

In his remarks, the ICGEB Director General, Dr. Lawrence Banks reiterated that although the MoU was signed on 31 August 2022, the cooperation is already in motion. In this regard, Dr Banks noted that plans are already in place for the establishment of courses as well as student and staff exchanges. Dr Banks highlighted that UNIVEN's geographical positioning in the region is also very strategic, allowing for ICGEB's work to be extended to the region and the community. In conclusion, Dr Banks indicated his delight for this initiative and wished all the parties well in the implementation phase.



From Left to Right: Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director, IRP (UNIVEN), Ms Mmampei Chaba, Chief Director, Africa Multilateral Cooperation (DSI), Dr Luiz Zerbini, Acting Director, ICGEB Cape Town, Dr. Lawrence Banks, Director General, ICGEB, Dr. Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice Chancellor and Principal, (UNIVEN), Prof Jude Odhiambo, Acting Executive Dean, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture (UNIVEN)

Disability Unit organises a Disability Awareness Day for the benefit of disabled students



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Prof Jan Crafford (blindfolded) participating in the disability awareness activities

On 16 September 2022, the Disability Unit of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held the 2022 UNIVEN Disability Awareness Day. Staff and students walked from the traffic circle near Disability Unit to Main Admin building blindfolded while others were on wheelchairs to feel what disability students are feeling while walking on campus. The formal proceedings of this Disability Awareness Day took place at Sports Hall.



The Keynote Speaker, Mr M. Mulibana said we all aspire to work, own properties, and raise families whether abled or disabled. "According to the publication, persons with disabilities tend to be more productive than their counterparts with abilities. With the advancement of IT, persons with disabilities are more productive and loyal to the employers." Mr Mulibana said in most cases we are cognisant that the society and employers have negative perception and attitude towards persons with disabilities. Amongst other things Mr Mulibana spoke about accessibility to buildings for people with disability; access to education; access to employment opportunities in both private and public sectors and business opportunities. He gave students with disabilities some tips for survival both at school and in the workplace. "Be your own brand, do not imitate anyone. Be eager to learn everyday until such time that you leave this world," he said.



Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said that UNIVEN is a public

university funded by government. He said UNIVEN is not a private university, so we need to comply with the regulations or set of rules on how we should operate on daily basis. He spoke about values that defines who we are as UNIVEN where he emphasised on respect and integrity. "We all need to act ethically. We all have the responsibility to act in a proper acceptable way. Everyone need to be treated with civility and integrity. We uphold any act of discrimination in all its manifestation against people living with disability. It is our role as the university that we provide all administrative services and the support to be where you want to be. We are not doing any favours to the disabled students, but it is our responsibility to provide them with administrative support."

He spoke about the Disability Unit that is still under construction to accommodate people with disability. Dr Nthambeleni further mentioned that the Faculty of Science Engineering and Agriculture has employed two staff members living with disabilities. He said even though it is not a huge margin, but the University is slowly getting there. "We all have a duty to make sure that people with disability are accommodated. No one will come here from anywhere to address these challenges, it is only us who can do that," he concluded.



Head of Disability Unit, Dr Tshifhiwa Mbuvha spoke on the purpose of the event where she indicated that every time when we do anything on campus, we need to think about disabled people.



Chairperson of Students living with disabilities at UNIVEN, Mr P Rathogwa said he is disappointed in students living with disabilities because of their low attendance to this event that was organised for their own benefit.



Prof Jan Crafford gave a vote of thanks.

The event was also attended by UNIVEN staff members, students, and partners from Vhembe TVET College.



Attendees of the event at the Sports Hall

DBSA visits UNIVEN to evaluate progress on Student Housing Infrastructure



DBSA Delegates and UNIVEN staff members during the visit to DBSA funded Male and Female residences

From Tuesday, 06 September to Thursday, 08 September 2022, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) visited the University of Venda (UNIVEN) to evaluate progress made on the Student resident infrastructure. On day one of the visit, Mr Sydwell Lekgau and Ms Mona Baleni from DBSA had a meeting with the University Management and later visited the Male and Female DBSA/DHET Funded Infrastructure. On day two of the visit, they had meetings with Project managers and leaders from the University's Technical, Facilities, Finance and Student Residence. On the last day, DBSA delegates had a meeting with selected students where focus group discussion and interviews took place regarding DBSA/DHET funded residences.

Mr Lekgau mentioned that the purpose of their visit to UNIVEN was to conduct the evaluation of DBSA funded projects. "We wanted to learn what is working and what is not working and where to improve". These evaluations assist us with allocation of budgets. When money is being allocated it must be used on projects that funding had been allocated for. Mr Lekgau further mentioned that the reason for evaluating these projects is to check if the construction is still in progress, or had been completed, if not then they will assist to seek solutions to what might had led to the failure or slow progress of those projects. "We also conduct surveys because they assist us to get answers that are critical for future references on similar projects and challenges."



Mr Sydwell Lekgau from DBSA gave an overview of the Development Bank of Southern Africa where he mentioned that 70% of the DBSA budget is allocated in South Africa and most of these funds are used by South African municipalities while 30% is used on projects that are in other African countries. "We also support the maintenance of the infrastructure." DBSA operates in fifteen (15) African countries.



In his Opening and welcome message, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni indicated that it is much expensive to build in Venda than in Gauteng because the building materials are sourced from Gauteng and there is a fee to be paid for transportation. "Same applies to engineers, we source them from Gauteng to provide their services this side." He said he is pleased to announce that the Management of the University of Venda has made sure that irrespective of the challenges, these buildings are completed and these DBSA/DHET funded residences are 97 % complete.



Dr Robert Martin said he likes the fact that DBSA also focuses on the maintenance of these infrastructure. He said infrastructure need to be maintained to last long. "There is no sense in wanting to build more infrastructure while you can't even maintain the existing infrastructure."



Mr Aluwani Magadani presented student housing infrastructure overview where he indicated the total number of students on campus residences. Amongst other things, Mr Magadani mentioned that, about 3955 students are accommodated in the on campus residences. There are currently 70 accredited off campus residences. Mr Magadani indicated some of the challenges in both on campus and off campus residences. He said safety remains the challenge especially in unaccredited residences. Maintenance of these buildings is another aspect that Mr Magadani shared with DBSA delegates. He said the DBSA/DHET funded residence will accommodate 1808 students after completion.



The survey results were presented by Ms Mona Baleni.



University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani gave a vote of thanks for the meeting that was held on day one of the visit where he mentioned that, historically, UNIVEN did not start well because the University did not receive the establishment grant, like other universities. "UNIVEN depended on the handout from homestead of the then Venda government. It started as a high school and later converted into a university to serve the local communities. So, we thank DBSA for the funding to make sure that we build the best University that we have all imagined."

The team also went on a tour to student housing projects (Female and Male Residences).

"UNIVEN depended on the handout from homestead of the then Venda government. It started as a high school and later converted into a university to serve the local communities. So, we thank DBSA for the funding to make sure that we build the best University that we have all imagined."

Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni educates the University community on matters of Digital Migration

On Thursday, 06 October 2022, the University of Venda Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education held a Public Lecture by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Hon. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni. This Public Lecture took place at UNIVEN Auditorium.



In her address, Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni started by congratulating UNIVEN on the 40th milestone and she wished the University another successful 40 years of creating future leaders.

Minister Ntshavheni said the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies is in the process of finalising the replacement of analogue networks that were introduced in South Africa in 1975 with digital transmitters. She said South Africa is leading in the migration from analogue to digital transmissions in Africa.

Digital transmission is better than analogue transmission because Digital signals convey information with less noise, distortion, and interference. Moreover, digital circuits can be reproduced easily in mass quantities at comparatively low costs.

She said the South African government decided in 2012 to assist to connect households with income of R3200 and less from analogue to digital. According to Minister Ntshavheni, there are 14 million television-watching households in South Africa and the department has already connected 1.3 million households while other households are connected by Top TV, MultiChoice and other service providers.

She encouraged those who qualify for government assistance to apply because the time to switch from analogue to digital for all is closer. Ms Ntshavheni spoke about radio and television broadcasting where she mentioned that there will be more opportunities for graduates, television stations and radio stations because they will attract national and international advertisers.

"The fact that the world has gone digital, and the economy also went digital, there is a lot of money that people are making through online social media platforms. There is nothing you cannot do online nowadays, and you can make a lot of money as well." She advised students to use online platforms to make money.



In his opening and welcome message, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford thanked the



Some of the attendees listening to Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni during the Public Lecture



Minister Ntshavheni during the interview on Phalaphala FM

Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education for taking the lead to bring the Minister to UNIVEN to educate staff and students on matters of digital transformation.

When reflecting on the minister's talk, Prof Jan Crafford as the Acting Vice-Chancellor said the University is already digital. He said UNIVEN is the first University to distribute tablets to all students for study purposes. This has assisted the University to migrate quickly during Covid -19 lockdown. The pass rate even increased due to digital migration or online learning. Even though we are far from industries, there are entrepreneurial activities that the University has rolled out to assist students to create jobs for themselves instead of searching for jobs after graduating.



When reflecting on the purpose of the event, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities,

Social Sciences and Education, Prof Bongani Bantwini mentioned that as part of the University's 40th Anniversary celebration, the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education saw a need to bring the Minister to UNIVEN to educate students and staff on matters of digital migration. He said this is part of positioning the University for impact and relevance in the rural setting. Prof

Bantwini concluded his talk by mentioning that this Ministerial Lecture is an opportunity for students to engage in the matter of entrepreneurship because this matter is also part of the objectives of this University.



The University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani gave a vote of thanks message.



DVC Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza



A group photo of UNIVEN representatives and the entourage of the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies in the Vice-Chancellor's office

Positioning the University of Venda for Impact and Relevance

The University of Venda Executive and Senior Managers came together at Kievits Kroon Gauteng Wine Estate in Pretoria for a two-day Strategic Session in preparation for the 2023 Annual Performance Plan (APP) as part of the implementation of the 2021-2025 University Strategic Plan. The workshop took place on 22 to 23 September 2022. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni opened the workshop and expressed a word of welcome to the delegates. In his welcome, he briefly outlined the purpose, expectations of the workshop as well as the implementation of consequence management. His presentation was in three phases.



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said this strategic planning session is to ensure that the University is working towards 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Amongst other things, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal spoke about positioning the University for impact and relevance where he mentioned about the importance of the brand promotion, that is the image of the university. It takes a lot of time and money to build a brand and just one incident has the capacity to destroy that image. In phase two of his presentation, he spoke about turning the University of Venda for impact and relevance into reality.

He continued with phase three where he talked about key strategic issues that emerged during the implementation phase where he highlighted some of the challenges. "We want our faculties to be self-sustainable. Collectively, the management will address the key strategic issues raised. We need to go into the direction that we should be moving, otherwise nothing will be achieved at the end", stressed the Vice-Chancellor and Principal. When setting the context of the strategic planning session, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin advised all senior managers to play their respective roles in making sure that the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan is respectively implemented.



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin also presented on the Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance's 2023 major focus areas; Human Resources 2023 Major focus areas; Facilities Management major focus areas; Marketing; Branding and Communication major focus areas; Protection Services 2023 Major focus

areas. Amongst other matters, Dr Martin spoke about the progress on UNIVEN's entrepreneurial University initiatives; support to IC4LED Project, ENACTUS, CE projects, Demystifying Entrepreneurship Workshop; support to Entrepreneurial CoPs; SEW; EDHE engagements; workshops and engagement with staff and students; Establishment of UCEfRI; business advice centres in collaboration with school of law; implementation of spatial development review plan and proactive preparation for next cycle IEG and SB-DG funding. He also touched on the issue of fast tracking the Nkuzana/Nkuna and Makhado Campuses.



Director: Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance (IPQA), Dr Patience Mativandelela presented on the performance overview (2022 Annual Performance Plan in the context of 2023 Annual Performance Plan). Amongst other things, she spoke about analysis of the 2022 mid-year performance, first and second quarter performance output (predetermined objectives); current challenges (what is working and what is not working); process for the development of 2023 Annual Performance Plans and implementation of remedial actions/appropriate interventions.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza spoke about Research performance overview in the context of University research strategy. In her presentation Prof Feza reflected on the University's current research capability, research targets and overall output, shortcomings and proposed improvements interventions. She presented that there are 37 NRF rated researchers at UNIVEN this academic year (2022).



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford gave the overview of teaching and learning performance. In his overview presentation, Prof Crafford gave a comprehensive report on student enrolment

(student enrolment targets, student success, and throughput, programme reviews and academic structure/PQM/HEMIS. He further talked about synopsis of academic staff and teaching infrastructure capacity, staff-student ratio, staff evaluation, and student support. He also talked about student leadership and student institutional culture, teaching and learning support; 2023-2025 Enrolment targets; programmes review, removal and renewal.



The University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani spoke about contribution to 2023 Annual Performance Plan. In his presentation, Advocate Lambani further spoke about Registrar administrative support in the context of implementing 2023 Annual Performance Plan and achieving the targets; modernisation of student application, admission, registration and accommodation process; and an overview of institutional governance success, shortcomings and proposed improvement interventions. Amongst other things, he spoke about student admission; campus health; Committee Administration; records and Archives Management; Student Affairs Department; Student Governance; Student Housing; Sport and Recreation; selections and admissions as well as institutional governance.



Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Mr Botwe Kraziya gave the overview of financial planning and performance. In his overview, Mr Kraziya reflected on strategy-aligned budgeting/costing and budget implementation for 2023. He further spoke about financial challenges and proposed improvement interventions.



The Director Financial Management and Reporting, Mrs Mavis Madzhe presented about 2023 budget proposals; key budget principles; 2023 budget analysis.



The Acting Director Revenue and Financial Aid, Ms Tshilidzi Ramulondi presented on SO1: Student wellbeing; SO3: strengthening engagement of students, staff and community stakeholders; and SO7: ensuring financial sustainability



Director Human Resources, Mrs Uanda Ndou also presented on the Human Resources operations and plans for 2023 talent management.



Director Strategy and Monitoring, Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo presented the abridged integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation to 2023 Annual Performance Plan. In his reflection, Dr Ratombo presented about the state and readiness of implementation of the integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation framework.



Risk Officer, Mr Tinyiko Sibiya presented the risk descriptions; strategic risks not adequately managed.

In his vote of thanks, the University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani said the idea was to prepare the 2023 Annual Performance Plan for submission to the Council for approval. He thanked members for their contributions and ideas shared during this strategic planning session.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni in his closing remarks said "these could have happened in 4 days but due to the level of commitment and the efforts that these staff members have put, they have managed to do it in two days. You are a resource for this institution".

Students are advised to know how to be Locally Relevant and Globally Competitive

The Department of Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science, Faculty of Health Sciences recently held its annual Prof LO Amusa Memorial Lecture and the 20th Department anniversary. The spirit of the late Prof Lateef Amusa, the founder of the Department was also honoured. This year's guest speaker was Prof Paul Singh who is a Research Professor from the Da Vinci Institute for Business Leadership in Johannesburg. He spoke about how students and lecturers should engage in order to become future leaders. He advised them to know how to be locally relevant and globally competitive. "If you don't know what the local needs are then there is no way you can be locally relevant. Know the global needs in order for you to be globally competitive" said Prof Singh.



Prof Singh further spoke about Sport Management in South Africa. His reflections were on the discipline, profession, practices, opportunities, and challenges in the sport arena. He paid tribute to Prof Lateef Amusa where he mentioned that Prof Amusa's contributions in the field cannot be measured. "Prof Amusa has achieved a lot".

"Sport has a huge role to play globally. You also need to ask yourself how to contribute to the National Development Plan. If you want to be a coach or leader in life, lead by example. Our country was known to be the best in creating harmonious democracy without a single drop of bloodshed. But today South Africa is known as the most violent country with inequality in race, gender, wealth, and all other things. In unique ways, we can all transform our societies through sport. Be grounded, start small, and grow from there," he said.

Prof Singh further advised lecturers that students in sport also need media training on how to handle interviews. "Think about the way you structure your degrees in order to produce great products. Modules like Sport Psychology and Sport Communications should not be left out of the curriculum of sports degrees for instance. These modules prepare your students on how to handle certain situations."

He told students to do self-introspection about what they will do after completing their degrees because irrespective of the shortage of jobs, there are plenty of opportunities. There is a lot of entrepreneurial opportunities in sport and in all fields. "Do not limit yourselves to sport participation". For further development of the field of Sport Management, Prof Singh emphasised the need for a professional body to regulate the profession and protect the interest of participants in sport. "All fields need professional bodies. There is still time, and it can happen though it is not going to be an easy task," he advised students.



When welcoming attendees, Prof Lufuno Makhado said it is worth mentioning that the Department of Biokinetics, Recreation, and Sport Science rose from only three (03) lecturers in the Department to having 12 staff members under the leadership of Prof Amusa, hence the memorial lecture to honour him on an annual basis.



Speaking as one of the late Prof Amusa's products, Mr Gideon Ramulifho said there is still a lot to be achieved here at UNIVEN with regards to sport. "Let us prepare students not to struggle to get jobs in the sports arena," he said.



Dr Ndiafhi Mugwedi explained the late Prof Amusa as not just the former Director of the then Centre for Biokinetics Recreation and Sport Sciences, but also as a leader, a coach, and mentor to all his staff members on a personal level. Both Dr Mugwedi and Mr Patrick Thaba paid tribute to Prof Amusa. Dr Mugwedi continued to mention that he has learned a lot from Prof Amusa. "He was a selfless leader who always wanted to develop everyone who was taking sport seriously. He would even use his own money to make sure that he equips everyone."



Mr Patrick Thaba also explained Prof Amusa as a selfless leader. He said Prof Amusa was a father and a great leader.



The programme was directed by Mr Thabo Dikgale



Dr Meriam Mohlala introduced the keynote speaker.



A group photo of UNIVEN staff members with Prof Paul Singh

Univen collaborates with Educational Foundation in creating Future Leaders

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Dr. Bernard Nthambeleni applauds Mualuwa Shuma Foundation for the contribution it is making to rural community development. He was amongst the speakers during the launch of Mualuwa Shuma Foundation held at Biaba Community Hall.



UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor Dr Bernard Nthambeleni addressing audience during the launch of Mualuwa Shuma Foundation.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal said that education is a collaborative aspect that requires intervention and support from various stakeholders such as communities, foundations, businesspeople, churches, and traditional leaders. The audience at the event such as schoolteachers and principals, circuit managers, education unions such as SADTU and PEU, traditional leaders, church representatives, local businesses representatives, and non-profit organizations which are providing care to the underprivileged and orphanage children were happy to hear Dr. Nthambeleni outlining the developments taking place in the University of Venda.

Dr. Nthambeleni briefly shared with the audience about UNIVEN's 40 years celebration that would take place on 27 October 2022. He also highlighted the University enrolment which is increasing and that 45% of students are enrolled in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture. He indicated that there is growth in National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researchers which is important, considering that research forms part of the University's mandate. UNIVEN will continue to produce quality graduates, many of whom occupy positions requiring big responsibilities in the government and private sectors. "We are proud to announce that the current Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr. Ronald Lamola is one of our alumni. For the past six years, UNIVEN has been receiving unqualified audit reports from the Auditor General which shows good financial management".

Dr. Nthambeleni added that the University of Venda is always striving to make an impact in society by providing solutions to daily challenges such as poverty, food security, fostering human rights, gender-based violence, and so forth. The Vice-Chancellor indicated that the University is working on the establishment of a satellite campus in Makhado where some of our programmes will be offered.



The University of Venda Assistant Schools Liaison Officer Mr. Justice Lebopa talking about application for admission and UNIVEN programmes.

The Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Mr. Justice Lebopa talked about four faculties and programmes available at the University of Venda. He encouraged learners to apply before the closing date of 27 September 2022. Mualuwa Foundation has goals that are comparable to those of UNIVEN. The Foundation does schools visit campaigns to conduct motivations, organises careers exhibition and as such the University of Venda is prepared to partner with the Foundation in these projects".



Tebogo Singo, the Managing Director of Mualuwa Shuma Foundation said the Foundation takes education seriously more than anything else. "We are launching this Foundation to encourage youth to use education as a key to open doors of prosperity. "Our youth must play a meaningful role in community development, and this will be possible if education is taken into consideration. We have invited the University of Venda because it plays a meaningful role in our communities to further their studies."



Poetry, Drama, and traditional dance were major entertainment during the occasion.



The Founder of the Mualuwa Shuma Foundation, Mr. Jack Ndwakhulu Ramantswana said he believes that education brings prosperity and that's the reason why he established the Foundation which gives motivational talks, organises career guidance, and awards best-performing learners. The Foundation also provides support to orphanage homes, and care to poor community members, and solves problems such as misconduct, sex, and drug abuse. Mr. Ramantswana said parents are failing to take control of their children. Children are sleeping at taverns and abusing alcohol and there is a high rate of teenage pregnancy which is negatively affecting learners' performance at school. Our children can't read their home language; therefore, teachers must put more focus on the foundation phase educational level which will lead to producing best matriculants.



Chief Ravele encouraged teachers to do their job with passion. "We must respect education; our education must be beneficial to the society both local and international". If you are educated and not helping the society, it means your education is not significant. Society needs guidance and information from you because you are educated".



Mualuwa Shuma Foundation awarded living legends awards to stakeholders who are contributing to community development.

UNIVEN hosts Internationalisation Evening to unleash Internationalisation for inclusive development and global competitiveness

On Tuesday, 06 September 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) hosted the 2022 UNIVEN Internationalisation Evening under theme 'Unleashing Internationalisation for inclusive Development and Global Competitiveness'. This was to support the University's Strategic Thrust 4 of the University's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, particularly Strategic Objective 15: Strengthening the University's local, regional, and international profile and visibility.



Dean of the African Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Ambassador of Central African Republic, His Excellency Andre Nzapayeke, spoke about the significance of African Solidarity in the struggle against Neo-colonialism. He said, "The name of this event gives it the dimension for people to travel the world and learn diversity and cultures." He advised young people to never forget their history as the African struggle against colonialism has a vibrant and dynamic history. "We didn't only suffer colonialism, but we fought tirelessly for our freedom that we are enjoying today," he said.

His excellency said that African solidarity is well stimulated by bantu movement, and it played an important role in the independence process of Africa. He mentioned that African countries need to create better living conditions for their people. He said, "Africans should come back home to serve their people and build their continent for the better. We need a stronger African union that can push and make things happen." He urged the audience to be Afro centrists. "We are the continent of the future; let us all unite and rebuild the Africa that we want to have."

"We are the continent of the future; let us all unite and rebuild the Africa that we want to have."



In his opening and welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni mentioned that this event is really valued because it addresses the challenges that the world is exposed to. He mentioned the goal of developing those competencies as being to work together with people from other nationalities, to cultivate the desired social cohesion.

He further mentioned that UNIVEN was recently awarded a huge grant by the South African Medical Research Council. He said, "This is a very big achievement for this University. With these milestones, UNIVEN is challenged to do much better, especially for its communities." He mentioned that UNIVEN is leveraging the space in engaged scholarship to serve its communities. He said, "For us to be globally competitive, we need to connect with the world. This is to position UNIVEN for impact, for relevance and impact globally."

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Dr Nthambeleni alluded that the success of the African continent depends on internationalisation. He said, "we need to work together to build this continent and need to celebrate our diversity." He mentioned that the gathering was to confirm that we are connected to the issues facing this continent. "The challenges of Africans can only be solved by Africans themselves."



The purpose and objectives of the event were outlined by DVC research and post Graduate Studies Prof Nosisi Feza who said "UNIVEN has occupied its place in the internationalisation space." She mentioned that the process of Internationalisation at UNIVEN is fully functioning. She urged the UNIVEN community to appreciate the value of Internationalisation.

Amongst other things, Prof Feza spoke about the Coil programme. She emphasised the fact that UNIVEN students have displayed tremendous confidence when compared to their European counterparts. The DVC noted that "we need to be proud of who we are and shine in the international arena." She mentioned that UNIVEN is going to compete internationally with the wine that is produced in South Africa, Venda. She said UNIVEN continually promotes social cohesion and showcases our projects internationally. "This event is also in celebration of the University's 40th year to reflect on our past and present achievements." She concluded.



Bule Hora University, Director International Relations, Dr Eyasu Getu said he travelled more than 1000 kilometers to honour this important evening. He described Bule Hora University as one of the biggest universities that are contributing to socio-economic factors in Ethiopia. He said, "This University is not limited to Ethiopians only, it is for everyone internationally." He mentioned that Bule Hora wants to collaborate with all universities across the globe especially UNEVEN. Dr Getu said, "Bule Hora invites all universities who are open for partnerships as we want to excel in indigenous knowledge and need other partners who are excelling for us to also excel because we are a young university that seeks mentors in these fields." He invited scholars that are interested in doing research to work with them. They are welcome. He said, "Today we have started our Internationalisation and South Africa is the first country for MoU because we believe their universities will teach us a lot and we will also teach them some of the things that we know."



Warwick University Representative, Ms Ana Maria Pirianu said Internationalisation is very important because now they know about Africa. She said her experience of Africa made it possible for her to get to know about different cultures, different ways of thinking. "This was a fascinating experience for us. We have never been exposed to international environment before and this experience is very different." She thanked UNIVEN for hosting them and advised the University to continue changing the lives of international students.



UNIVEN SRC President, Mr Sibusiso Mkhonto said we are moving into a global world. "It is important that the education they are giving us is in alignment with the international standards." He spoke. Mr Mkhonto mentioned that the fact that UNIVEN is in a rural area does not mean it is rural or cannot compete globally. He further said the opportunities that are brought by internationalisation cannot be measured "We need them to learn about other cultures. To operate internationally means you need to know other people's culture so that you don't step on their toes because of lack of knowledge."

"It is important that the education they are giving us is in alignment with the international standards."

UNIVEN hosts Internationalisation Evening to unleash Internationalisation for inclusive development and global competitiveness continued...



In his remarks, the Acting Director International Relations and Partnerships, Dr Segun Obadire said few students were able to travel internationally and they have changed their way of thinking. Dr Obadire, noted that this event is meant to create awareness around Internationalisation, to promote social cohesion and to showcase and promote Internationalisation at the University.



In his vote of thanks, University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani said UNIVEN is indeed a university, that produces graduates that are locally relevant and globally competitive and a university leading in engaged scholarship. "Internationalisation is part of it," he said.



Bule Hora University representatives handing over the gifts to UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal and to Dr Segun Obadire



Attendees of the Internationalisation Evening

UNIVEN's Executive and Senior Management visit Vhembe TVET College to explore areas of possible collaborations

On Thursday, 08 September 2022, the University of Venda's Executive and Senior Management led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni visited Vhembe TVET College, at Sibasa Central Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss areas of possible collaborations and partnerships that could benefit both UNIVEN and Vhembe TVET College students and other stakeholders. The team from Vhembe TVET College was led by

the Principal, Mrs BR Hlekane who made a presentation on the college's projects, programmes offered and achievements. The purpose of the visit was also to support the University's Linkages and Partnerships. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be prepared and signed by both parties soon for implementation of this partnership. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies will coordinate a Team from UNIVEN that will take the process forward.



Delegates from both UNIVEN and Vhembe TVET College during the meeting



3 THINGS TO DO IF YOU'RE EXPERIENCING A SUICIDAL EPISODE

01 *Don't consume any drugs or alcohol.*

02 *Make your home safe by removing any objects that can harm you.*

03 *Seek help from an expert helpline.*

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UNIVEN signs MoU with Bule Hora University – Ethiopia

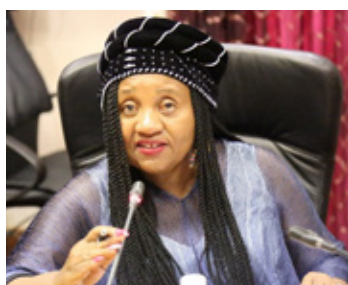


Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Mr Takala Utura Kerro signing the MoU

To strengthen the University's local, Regional, and international profile and visibility, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) on Tuesday 06, September 2022, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bule Hora University (BHU) from Ethiopia. This is to reinforce Strategic Thrust 4 of the University's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which talks about Linkages, partnerships, and internationalisation. This signing of MoU took place at UNIVEN's Council Chambers.



In his opening and welcome address, UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni mentioned that the signing of MoU between UNIVEN and Bule Hora University is exciting because it will strengthen UNIVEN's visibility in Africa and internationally. He said it will add value to graduates that will be produced by both UNIVEN and BHU.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza explained the occasion as very important because it talks to the mandate of taking forward the idea of educating African children. "Our children should be guaranteed a bright future. As Africans, we owe it to ourselves that we should reclaim what belongs to Africa. We need each other to bring back our continent."

"Our children should be guaranteed a bright future. As Africans, we owe it to ourselves that we should reclaim what belongs to Africa. We need each other to bring back our continent."



Chief Executive Director of Institute of Health at Bule Hora University, Mr Takala Utura Kerro said this year marks ten years since BHU was established. He said BHU has seven colleges, and it is striving to be excellent in the fields of agriculture, health, mining, and indigenous knowledge systems. Mr Kerro said this MoU will assist BHU to grow and to produce the best students who will in turn excel in their various fields internationally. "We are a young University, and we are ready to learn from experienced universities like UNIVEN. However, BHU also has some of the areas that it excels in and that is where UNIVEN students will also benefit from this MoU. Both Universities will benefit from this MoU," he said.



Group photo after the signing of the MoU



UNIVEN Registrar, Adv. Edward Lambani said the University of Venda appreciates this collaboration. He mentioned that the signing of this MoU should not only be in writing but to make impact in the products or graduates that both Universities will produce for the betterment of Africa.



In his remarks, Dean of African Heads of Diplomatic Mission who is also the Ambassador of Central African Republic to South Africa, H.E Andre Nzapayeke mentioned that he is excited to be working with South Africa because they are a welcoming country. "I hope that this MoU will continue to produce the best out of African countries. We need to reverse the process that was done to us by colonisers and bring back the Africa we want. We need to focus on educating the youth of Africa because they are the future of this continent," said H.E Nzapayeke.



The signing of MoU was facilitated by Ms Sephiwe Lubisi from UNIVEN's Legal Services Department.



UNIVEN's Acting Director International Relations and Partnerships, Dr Segun Obadire thanked all parties present and mentioned that he is ready to work together with BHU on exchange projects.



Exchanging the signed MoU



UNIVEN earns a Diamond Arrow Award following PMR.africa Limpopo Provincial Survey



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (Left) and Dr Takalani Dzaga (right) displaying the Diamond Arrow Award Certificate

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) won the Diamond Arrow award, the highest awards in the category of institutions of higher learning, during the PMR.africa Limpopo Provincial Survey Business Excellence Awards which took place on 25 August 2022 at Fusion Boutique Hotel in Polokwane. The awards are the culmination of a research process in which companies and institutions are rated based on respondents' perceptions. The rating has a strong focus on evaluating and measuring customer service as well as customer satisfaction. UNIVEN was

competing with other Limpopo based institutions of higher learning that were doing well in their sector over the past twelve (12) months. This is a great achievement, more especially because the University is celebrating 40 years of existence this year. Over the past four decades the University has made strides in producing graduates who are leaders.

UNIVEN was rated the best institution of higher learning based on random ratings using provincial sample of 150 respondents comprising of Chief Executive Officers,

Managing Directors, Company Directors and Managers including senior government officials based in the Limpopo Province. The award was received by the Director Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga, on behalf of the University Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni.

"We are extremely happy to receive this award. It is nothing less than an absolute honour. We thank PMR.africa and all those who participated in the survey for this prestigious recognition. I have no doubt that

UNIVEN community will live up to the level of success this award demands", Dr Dzaga said when receiving the award. "UNIVEN is honoured with this Diamond Arrow award because of teamwork from all staff members whose intention is to position the university for impact and relevance. I treasure this award as a precursor to greater achievements that lie before us as the University. I attribute the University's success to the diligence of all our strategic stakeholders and their accommodating nature. I would like to thank all staff and students as well as other stakeholders for their unfaltering commitment in the future we aspire to build." The University Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said during his interview with Nendila newsletter. Dr Nthambeleni concluded by urging all staff members to continue working towards achieving the university's four strategic thrusts and 15 strategic objectives as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communication channel.

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University of Venda

If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus - contact the University Hotline by calling toll free number **0800 212 755** or email: **univenhotline@tip-offs.com**

Improper conduct includes the following...

1. Financial misconduct,
2. Misuse or misappropriation of University assets,
3. Health and safety risks,
4. Plagiarism,
5. Fraud and corruption.