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Vice Chancellor and Principal declares the 2023 academic year officially open



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni officially opened the 2023 academic year in an event that took place on Monday, 06 February 2023 in the University Auditorium. "Your academic journey has just begun, the progress of completing your studies and courses you have chosen would largely depend on how you conduct yourself. Always remember that the prize of success is hard work and dedication," these were the words by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni as he welcomed the first entering students. The official opening ceremony marked the commencement of the 2023 academic year of the University.



Dr Nthambeleni further told new students that success in life does not come easy. "All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them. You have now become the sole author of the next chapters of your story. You have the opportunity to determine the direction and the pace at which your story should go." He encouraged first year students to vow to themselves that they will complete their studies within the

minimum stipulated time for their respective degrees because most of them have passed matric with good grades. "We expect you to do very well in your chosen fields of study."

Dr Nthambeleni told students and staff to make UNIVEN proud through their contributions, especially by being hard working, innovative, and ethical in their conduct.

He welcomed UNIVEN class of 2023 and recognised the 2022/2023 SRC leadership. "I am particularly impressed with the calibre of the young men and women who represent you in the SRC." He cited that the UNIVEN SRC leadership has demonstrated a satisfactory level of understanding and maturity in handling difficult issues and dealing with serious challenges facing the higher education system. "As University management, we are committed to work with the SRC and University staff in general to create a conducive environment for teaching and learning."

In his official opening address, he also expressed his appreciation to academic staff members and all-support staff who are ready to make 2023 a successful year for UNIVEN.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal outlined how the students and staff can make meaningful contributions toward the implementation of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. As he talked about the UNIVEN Strategic Plan 2021-2025 he said "In line with our motto of "Creating Future leaders," we want to educate and produce leaders who not only have a command of the core knowledge in their chosen academic disciplines but who also possess the qualities needed to succeed in an increasingly socially, culturally, and technologically interconnected, complex world".

In addition, Dr Nthambeleni indicated that the University identified four (4) strategic thrusts to guide its direction for the next five (5) years with the focus on Student Centeredness and Engaged Scholarship; Entrepreneurial University; Attention to our governance frameworks to ensure outstanding Scholarship and Linkages, Partnerships, and Internationalisation.

He advised students to resist patriarchal ideologies that view and treat women as inferior to men and perpetuate violence against women and children. "As an institution of higher learning, we must lead in this fight of eradicating gender-based violence and embrace diversity in our campus," said Dr Nthambeleni.

"In line with our motto of 'Creating Future leaders', we want to educate and produce leaders who not only have a command of the core knowledge in their chosen academic disciplines but who also possess the qualities needed to succeed in an increasingly socially, culturally, and technologically interconnected, complex world".

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Dr Nthambeleni told the students at the University that they are always expected to live and uphold and adhere to the University values. He further advised first entering students in particular, to avoid drugs and alcohol abuse.

He continued to advise students to abide by the core values and guiding principles that the University subscribes to. He said, "We are driven by the following sets of values: We believe in Quality and Excellence, Accountability, Transparency, Integrity, Respect, Diversity, Social Responsibility and Community Engagement and lastly Ubuntu."

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal informed the audience that the University has taken a decision that all first-year students will be expected to do a compulsory online Entrepreneurship course in partnership with Technological Higher Education Network South Africa and all our final year and Honours students will be required to do a compulsory Artificial Intelligence course partnering with the University of Johannesburg. Students will receive certificates upon completion at no cost to them.

"Our University should not only lead in research output but must provide relevant solutions that will contribute to South Africa's development priorities, especially employment creation, poverty alleviation, food security, redress and development, nation building and promotion of human rights culture."

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal pointed that the University of Venda is a well-managed institution of higher learning and for the past five years the University continued to achieve unqualified audit reports by the Auditor General South Africa.

When it comes to the Improved Facilities and Student Housing, Dr Nthambeleni reported that the University is nearing completion of facilities designed to cater for the needs of students living with disabilities.

During the ceremony, Dr Nthambeleni also handed over awards to students with outstanding performance from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education and Faculty of Health Sciences as part of the Vice-Chancellor's Student Academic Excellence Awards.

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Director of Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning (CHETL) Dr Lindiwe Mulaudzi gave the background of the Vice-Chancellor's Student Academic Excellence Awards. In her brief talk, she said that another significance is the awarding of Vice Chancellor's Student Academic Excellence Awards and we do this with great excitement since for the past two years, we have not been able to award best students due to the compulsory Covid-19 hiatus. The following are awards categories: Foundation, First year, Second- and Third-year students. In terms of prizes, Foundation and First year receive an amount of R8000, 2nd year: R9000.00 and 3rd year: R10 000.00. 20% of the award is in cash while 80% is in kind and the awardee may choose from items such as tuition fees, book, accommodation etc. A trophy is awarded to the best overall student at each level and to the best overall performer.

Ms C Maravanyika, a Second-Year student in the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law was announced as the best overall student performer of the Vice-Chancellor's Student Academic Excellence awards 2023. She received her award in absentia.

The main reason for the awards is to promote the culture of teaching and learning in all faculties. The awards are a recognition of hard work by both students and lecturers. They are given at the beginning of the academic year to honour students' outstanding performance of the previous year and to motivate all students to aim for the stars.



To conclude the official opening of the Academic year 2023 the University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani congratulated first entering students for passing their matric and managing to register for the programmes of their choice at UNIVEN. He said, "You are authors of your success stories, your behaviour, your lifestyle and conduct will determine your future."

He stated that the event was a success and acknowledged the sponsorship received from Mr Andries Ndlovu, from Standard Bank.



Prof Bongani Bantwini when announcing top performers of the Vice Chancellor's Student Academic Excellence awards



Dr Takalani Dzaga when facilitating the programme



Above photos: The Vice-Chancellor posed with some of the students with outstanding performance during the Vice-Chancellor's Student Academic Excellence Awards.

NRF-Ratings for two staff members from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture



Dr Lawrence Diko-Makia

Two University of Venda (UNIVEN) staff members in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Prof Milingoni Peter Tshisikhawe and Dr Lawrence Diko-Makia received new NRF Ratings. Dr Lawrence Diko-Makia is now a C2 NRF Rated Researcher while Prof Milingoni Peter Tshisikhawe is a C3 NRF Rated Researcher with effect from 01 January 2023.

Prior to the re-evaluation, Dr Lawrence Diko-Makia held a Y2 rating (2017 - 2022). He is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Earth Sciences. He holds a PhD in Geology

(from UL – South Africa), an MSc in Applied Geology and BSc (Hons) in Geology and Environmental Science from the University of Buea, Cameroon. His research interests include Applied Clay Science, Environmental and Medical Geology, with current focus on clays and clay minerals, geohealth and georesource-climate change interactions for sustainable development. He is a recipient of several fellowships and awards such as; PhD scholarship courtesy of UNESCO/IUGS/IGCP 545 Project on Clays and Clay Minerals in Africa, Cambridge Certificate for Outstanding Scientific Achievement 2013, and Vice Chancellor's Award for Best Researcher in the School of Physical and Mineral Sciences, University of Limpopo, 2016. Dr Diko-Makia was a nominee for the NSTF-South 32 Awards 2021/2022 in three categories (TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Researcher, Innovation Award: Corporate Organisation; and the Special Annual Theme Award: Application of basic sciences for sustainable development). His nomination was based on contribution to science and innovation in the area of clay and clay minerals valorization for industrial and geomedicinal application. His application for registration of a patent is currently under consideration. Lawrence is a member of several professional bodies, notably the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), Geological Society of America (GSA), the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and the African Clays and Clay Minerals Research Group. He is the head, and co-founder of the Soil, Water and Climate Extremes (SWACE) Research Group, which prides itself on an expanding network of national and international researchers and partner organisations. Dr Diko-Makia has an impressive publication record and is also actively involved with postgraduate student supervision and mentorship.



Prof Peter Tshisikhawe

Prof Milingoni Peter Tshisikhawe is an Associate Professor and Interim Head of

the Department of Biological Sciences in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture. He completed his junior degree to Master of Science in Botany at the University of Venda. He graduated with his PhD in Plant Science at the University of Pretoria and his Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education with Rhodes University. Prof Tshisikhawe is a plant ecologist whose research interest is centered around indigenous plant use and their sustainability thereof. He is a researcher who has graduated several postgraduate students (Masters and PhDs) and published extensively in accredited peer-reviewed journals of plant science. He had mentored postdoctoral and junior staff members over the years.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza congratulated these two staff members. She said that the Faculty led by Prof Natasha Potgieter is truly inspired by the achievement of these two staff members, Prof Tshisikhawe and Dr Diko-Makia".

Professors Modimowabarwa Kanyane and Mzo Sirayi receive the Star of Discovery Award by WHITRAP under the auspices of UNESCO



Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane, Executive Dean, Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law

In response to the call "World Heritage Education for the Future" made by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for Asia and the Pacific (WHITRAP) region under the auspices of UNESCO, a total of 30 cases were selected for the awards from nearly 100 cases worldwide. Professor Modimowabarwa Kanyane, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law and Professor Mzo Sirayi UNIVEN Adjunct Professor made the University proud as the winners of the Star of Discovery Award for their case: "Smart Village Through Indigenous Knowledge and Fourth Industrial Revolution in South Africa." Ms LOU Ya, Partnership Officer of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in China, announced the 10 winning cases of Star of Discovery in the 2022 "Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases". The case emerged from their smart village project funded by the DSI. While there are rural push and urban pull factors linked to movements from rural to urban

areas, a smart village is necessary, used as a catalyst to reverse the movement for job creation and prosperity to enhance country life in rural areas through IKS and the 4iR binaries.

As a key activity recommended by UNESCO to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, the 2022 "Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases" International Sharing Forum was held in December 2022 to announce the awards. The Forum was presided over by Li Xin, Deputy Secretary-General (WHITRAP). Nearly 50 representatives of international institutions, award winners, cooperative partners, and an expert panel from all over the world attended the Forum online. An audience of 8,008 also joined the Forum via live streaming. All winning cases will automatically enter into related cooperation networks and will be given priority to participate in relevant international cooperation and innovative pilot projects. The list of the Global Awards and relevant events will be published on UNESCO's websites worldwide.

<http://whitrap.org/index.hp? classid=1461&newsid=3411&t=show>

In the verbatim words of Professor Nosisi Feza, DVC Research and Post Graduate Studies said that "UNIVEN ended 2022 on a very high note as we were celebrating our 40 years. It is also an honour to keep the bar high. The significance of this award for UNIVEN is tied closely to our strategic agenda specifically on Smart Villages. "The Star of Discovery Award by WITHRAP under the auspices of UNESCO won by Prof Kanyane and Prof Sirayi is evidence of research that responded to the UNIVEN niche area "African Heritage and IKS" which is about African heritage, Indigenous knowledge systems and decoloniality, among others.

The University Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni congratulated Prof Kanyane on receiving this prestigious Global Award. "Well done. This is exciting news for the University as we start the new academic year," said Dr Nthambeleni.

First entering students attend the UNIVEN 2023 Official Opening of Orientation in numbers

On Monday, 30 January 2023, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held its Official Opening of the 2023 Orientation programme to allow the first entering students time to assimilate all the required information. The orientation programme is a critical programme that makes first entering students feel that they are part of the University and increases student engagement and loyalty. The UNIVEN 2023 Official Opening of the Orientation took place at the University Auditorium.



In his official opening message, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford, started by congratulating the students for identifying UNIVEN as their University of choice. Amongst other things, he spoke about issues that ensure that students succeed at the tertiary level. He mentioned that the first entering students are the ones that measure the success of the University if they complete their degrees within the prescribed period.

In addition, Prof Crafford said the first year at tertiary institution is a student's important year. He advised first year students to attend all their classes but that can only happen if they balance their life on campus. "Deal with your freedom responsibly; make use of the services that are available on campus; use your SRC Office and hold them accountable because that Office exists to serve your needs," said Prof Crafford. He further told students not to see their lecturers as enemies but as people who are there to assist them and to always strive to achieve their goals. As he continues with his talk, he said to students, "Please do not run this University down – treat it as your home and give it the respect your home deserves."

Prof Crafford further advised the first entering students to strive to empower themselves academically, economically, and personally, more so to believe in themselves. He appealed to students to have faith in themselves and become entrepreneurs before they even finished their degrees. He concluded his official opening message by saying "You are the hope of our better future and for our country at large."



UNIVEN SRC President, Mr Gudani Tshamano took the opportunity and congratulated all first entering students who got spaces at the University of Venda. He indicated that we are indeed honoured by the fact that out of all 26 universities, you chose the University of Venda, which simply means that there is something special about it. Mr Tshamano stated that the SRC makes sure that first entering

students register for free because UNIVEN understands the struggle of people. As the SRC President, Mr Tshamano mentioned that students register for free because education is not a commodity to be sold, education is a birth right. "The moment you are born you have the right to education", says Tshamano, UNIVEN SRC President.

He finally advised his fellow students to study hard and make sure that they graduate in record time and that they should avoid becoming permanent residents of the University.



When welcoming the new students, Prof Natasha Potgieter who is the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, mentioned that UNIVEN's motto is CREATING FUTURE LEADERS and produces graduates who understand societal needs and respond accordingly. She further said to do this, UNIVEN strives to make sure there are high-tech laboratories, research facilities, IT facilities and a well-resourced library. "All of these tools will be at your disposal now". She urged them to use the facilities and make a difference in their own lives as well as in the communities who need them to look for solutions for the problems they are facing daily.

Prof Potgieter encouraged new students to do something meaningful every day. "Your time will be taken up by many demands. So, it is up to you, to carve out the space to do something important to you. It can be something small, but it should be there, and you should attend to it". She further encouraged every student to pursue and achieve academic excellence.

There were also addresses coming from different departments, and centres. Different directors shared information about the programmes, services as well as procedures and processes on how things are done and handled at their respective departments. Some of the departments which gave their presentations include Revenue and Financial Aid, Community Engagement, International Relations and Partnerships, Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning (CHETL), Student Affairs and Legal Services.

Faculty Managers were also given an opportunity to talk about the programmes and services available in their respective faculties.



In his closing remarks, Adv Edward Lambani, University Registrar encouraged the new students to make use of the opportunities that UNIVEN offers to become successful. "Students at the University of Venda are representing UNIVEN very well and we are proud of that, be like them", so says Adv Lambani.

Below is a photo gallery of attendees and speakers:



The Department of Biological Sciences scooped an award from the SAAB 2023 conference



Miss Takalani Matodzi (in the middle) receiving her Best Overall Honours Oral Presentation Award during SAAB 2023 Gala Dinner.

A delegation of postgraduate students from the University of Venda, Biological Sciences Department in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture participated in the 48th Annual South African Association of Botanists (SAAB) conference hosted by the University of Limpopo. The conference was held at The Protea Hotel Ranch Resort from 17 to 20 January 2023.

The University of Venda delegation of honours, masters, and PhD students participated in posters and oral presentations under different themes. Miss Takalani Matodzi an Honours student in the Department, scooped the Best Overall Honours Oral Presentation award during the Gala Dinner event. Takalani's topic was presented under an ethnobotany session with the title: 'The quantitative survey of medicinal plants found in the home gardens of Vhavenda residing in Vuwani Area, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, South Africa'.

Her supervisor Dr Khathutshelo Magwede was also given the responsibility of chairing an ethnobotany session during the conference.

The SAAB conference is a national festival of plant science which is held at the beginning of each year.



Dr Khathutshelo Magwede chairing an ethnobotany session during SAAB 2023 conference



Prof Peter Tshikhawe delivering a Plenary Talk during SAAB 2023 conference

Prof Peter Tshikhawe (the Interim Head of the Department of Biological Sciences) presented an invited plenary talk titled: 'Population ecology through a prism of sustainable practice: a case of *Brackenridgea zanguebarica* Oliv'. His talk was centred around meeting the conservation strategies embedded within the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) goals and goal 15 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

The SAAB conference is a national festival of plant science which is held at the beginning of each year. This year's conference attracted more than 160 presentations. The University of Venda contributed three (3) posters and eight (8) oral presentations. The conference also gave the accompanying staff members an opportunity to network and understand the current trends of research within their different areas of expertise.



Takalani Matodzi (middle) poses for a photo with Prof Natasha Potgieter (left) and Dr Khathutshelo Magwede (right)

Introducing the VeraLab Computer-booking System

From this academic year, 2023, all registered students will be required to make prior bookings before using library computers. Bookings can be made online at <https://studentbookings.univen.ac.za/booking>.

The following booking rules apply:



4 daily maximum sessions per user



2 hours per session



1 hour break between sessions



Booked session expires after 15 minutes of no show



Booking can be made 2 days in advance

The booking process is relatively simple. Should students need any assistance, they can visit the library for contact assistance or alternatively, contact the library.

For challenges related to the booking system contact library ICT via these channels:

Email:



Library.Systems@univen.ac.za



Thanyani.Mpeiwa@univen.ac.za



Uadivha.mpofu@univen.ac.za



Hope.Nephiphidi@univen.ac.za



Nditsheni.Siliga@univen.ac.za

Telephone: 0159628148 / 8832

For general booking related challenges, suggestions, and feedback contact Library Client Services via these channels:

Email:



violet.malabi@univen.ac.za



jerrykehla.mahlangu@univen.ac.za

Telephone: 0159628461 / 8559

Making a difference - Community engagement is critically needed



Prof Angelina Maphula is attached to the Faculty of Health Sciences in the Department of Psychology at the University of Venda. She is a qualified Clinical Psychologist who is passionate about young people.

2022 was a year when Prof Maphula identified a dire need for impactful engagement with young people, given the various social issues that continue to paralyse their goals. It is essential to note that young people are more susceptible to challenges because of their developmental stage, although, currently, on one hand, knowledge in social media has advantages in many ways, on the other hand, it also amplifies young people's problems. Prof Angelina Mapula highlighted that young people go through depression, anxiety, bullying, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, witness domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, peer pressure and academic problems, just to mention a few. Many come from dysfunctional families where no one is a role model, which often compromises prospects of success.

Prof Maphula started a drive to make a difference. She immersed herself in schools around Vhembe District in an effort to encourage young people to focus on their studies, despite the challenges they continue to face. This drive was aimed at improving their psychological well-being (health

benefit) and resilience by reviving their sense of purpose when it comes to education as well as social responsibilities.

Visiting schools in 2022 was beneficial for many young people who confessed that they would want to do better than they are doing now. Prof Maphula managed to visit the following schools: Mugoidwa, Lwandani, Edson Nesengani, Lwamondo, Nndamuleleni, Dimani, Shayandima, Mukhwantheli, Kolokoshani and Ndaedzo Secondary School, Tshiwedza, Rasivhetsele, Avhatondwi Primary School; and Hilmly Child Centre for their graduation.

During the 2022 drive, Prof Maphula observed the following:

- Each time she visited a school, there will be parents in the principal's office, resolving a problem (either the learner did not obey certain protocols, bullying, or misconduct of one kind or another).
- In every school it was reported that there are learners who are consuming alcohol, using drugs which are detrimental to their health, as well as disruptive to their academic progress, and the smooth running of the school.
- Teachers confessed that learners are more focused on intimate relationships than schoolwork hence, learners are often fighting for boyfriends and/or girlfriends.
- It was also reported that some learners come from extremely poor families and its impact interferes mostly with their health leading to deteriorating progress.
- Teachers also indicated that they are mostly solving problems from dysfunctional families, who offer little support to their children, causing them extreme amounts of stress and suffering.

The message that came strongly was that young people in rural areas need to be engaged constructively for attitude change.

It is crucial to communicate the message that being born in rural areas does not nullify learners' capacity to thrive and becoming a success story. Our young people yearn for a positive word from someone they can look up to, who would acknowledge the potential to achieve their goals. To curb the high rates of - teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, depression and low academic performance, young people must conceive a new message to invest their energies into positive tasks instead of destructive behaviours. In addition, Prof Maphula also reached out to Ha-Mangilasi community where she spoke to girls about "Protecting

one's dream and quality decision that influences success;" she was also requested multiple times to provide expert opinion on Phalaphala FM, UNIVEN Radio, Vhembe FM and Capricorn FM addressing "Mental Health Issues."

In conclusion, it is important to indicate that making a difference might not come easy, but if as a nation, we stand together and work in our communities, surely change will occur. Prof Maphula, thus, is encouraging everyone to play a part in making a difference; influence some to keep them away from unhealthy habits and influence others to fight against feelings of helplessness.



Prof Maphula using the back of a bakkie at Edson Nesengani High



Prof Maphula at Avhatondwi Primary School



Prof Maphula at Ndaedzo High school

Professor Lufuno Makhado was inducted as a Hall-of-Fame in Research Excellence of Nursing during the FUNDISA Conference

The Faculty of Health Sciences' Deputy Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies, Professor Lufuno Makhado was recently honoured with induction into the Hall of Fame for Research Excellence in Nursing alongside Prof. Charlene Downing from the University of Johannesburg. The induction ceremony was part of the Forum for University Nursing Deans in South Africa (FUNDISA) Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference that took place from 05 to 07 December 2022, at CSIR in Pretoria. The FUNDISA conference 2022 was held under the theme "Resilience in Nursing: Reimagining Research Scholarship to Inform Education, Practice, and Policy".



The FUNDISA Hall of Fame for Research Excellence in Nursing was established to honour exceptional South African nurses who excel in nursing research. The candidate researcher must be a nurse and be recognised both nationally and internationally as a scholar and a leader in research.

Prof Makhado had shown multiple levels of commitment to nursing and collaborative research both nationally and internationally. This is evident with his NRF rating and extensive publications (articles and book chapters) in national and international accredited journals.



Prof Lufuno Makhado and Prof Rachel Lebeso



In his induction and award acceptance speech, Prof Makhado indicated that his journey couldn't have been this successful if it wasn't watered and pruned constantly by his mentors, advisors, wife, collaborators, research projects team members, his PhD graduates and all friends through their varying levels of contribution, which had continued to be impactful in his growth. He also indicated that his growth was not only encouraged and motivated by those who touched his life positively but also by those who negatively impacted his life.

Prof Makhado further indicated that through the support of others, he learned that "we grow by lifting others. It is important to mention that others lifted me, and I feel it is safe to say I am passionate about developing others and lifting others in my path and carrying the nursing and health sciences research forward," added Prof Makhado.

The induction was also attended by the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Professor, Prof Rachel Lebeso to support and congratulate Prof Makhado on this prestigious award continuing to place the faculty and the University on the map.

UNIVEN appoints Ms Mpho Netshiavha as the Personal Assistant to the CFO



Ms Mpho Netshiavha joined the University of Venda (UNIVEN) as the new Personal Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with effect from 01 January 2023.

She brings a wealth of experience in Office Management and Administration support, spanning over 13 years.

Ms Netshiavha holds an MBA from Regent Business School, a B-Tech in Project Management, and a National Diploma in Office Management and Technology from Tshwane University of Technology. She has recently completed her Post-Graduate Diploma in Supply Chain Management from Regent Business School.

Netshiavha has previously worked for

the following organisations: Armscor (Armaments Corporation of South Africa), Eskom (Matla Power Station), Eskom (Grootvlei Power Station), Property Sector Charter Council and Intertoll Africa.

UNIVEN CFO, Mr Botwe Kraziya said he believes that Ms Netshiavha will assist the office and the University to confidently create value and develop strategies to ensure University financial sustainability, managing risk in relation to setting and achieving the University's financial objectives and implementing and monitoring effective internal control systems. He wished her well in her new role and he called on all staff members to give Ms Netshiavha the necessary support.

UNIVEN presents its state of readiness to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science, and Innovation



On Wednesday, 01 February 2023, the University of Venda (UNIVEN), hosted the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science, and Innovation led by its Chairperson, Honourable Nompandolo Mkhathswa. The purpose of the oversight visit was mainly to engage with the University Council, Management, Student Representative Council (SRC), Unions and Institutional Forum (IF) about the state of readiness for the 2023 academic year. The meeting was held at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education building.

The Portfolio Committee visited the following buildings: Health Sciences (still under construction), Life Sciences Laboratories (Biochemistry lab and Microbiology TB, General water, and Molecular labs) as well as Mvelaphanda Male and F3 Student Residences.



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni delivered a comprehensive presentation that covered the following: State of readiness for the 2023 academic year; 2023 Registration and enrolment process; Overview on the state of governance, administration, teaching and learning at the institution; Plans on funding of new and returning students; Overview of student accommodation and infrastructure development projects; Overview of the institution's finances; Overview of research and innovation as well as Partnership with industries and related stakeholders.

Dr Nthambeleni demonstrated the way UNIVEN, working from the basis of its 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan was able to move from vision to implementation. "UNIVEN is financially healthy, but it can do much better if more resources can be made available," he said.



The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Honourable Nompandolo Mkhathswa

Following presentations by various UNIVEN structures, including the presentation by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Honourable Nompandolo Mkhathswa, emphasised that management has a duty to maintain the University infrastructure. "Mechanisms need to be put in place to maintain the student accommodation and other buildings on campus." Hon Mkhathswa also mentioned that the Portfolio Committee exists solely to make sure that students and University staff are in a safe and conducive environment.

All Members of the Executive Management, Chairperson of Council and the Deputy Chairperson as well as some members of Senior Management were in attendance. UNIVEN structures were well represented. The SRC was represented by President, Mr Gudani Tshamano; Labour Unions were represented by Mr Nditsheni Tshithavhane, and Institutional Forum was represented by the Chairperson, Mrs Mushoni Mulaudzi. They all presented the University of Venda's state of readiness for the 2023 academic year as well as challenges.

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) was also represented at the meeting.



The University of Venda Chairperson of Council, Mr Juneas Lekgetha welcomed the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science, and Innovation on campus.



Below are the photos of some labs and student residences visited by members of the Portfolio Committee:



ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Secretary-General appoints the University of Venda Chancellor, Adv Mojanku Gumbi as Special Adviser for Addressing Racism in the Workplace



The Chancellor of the University of Venda, Adv Mojanku Gumbi has been appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres as Special Adviser for Addressing Racism in the Workplace. Adv Gumbi has been appointed with immediate effect.

The Special Adviser will provide strategic advice to the Secretary-General on addressing racism and racial discrimination, as well as to oversee the implementation of the long-term Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Organisation in 2022 to address racism in the workplace. The Strategic Action Plan was the culmination of the work of a task force established by the Secretary-General of United Nations in October 2020. During 2023, every Secretariat entity will work on its own action

plan, while an Implementation Steering Group under the leadership and stewardship of the Special Adviser will monitor and guide corporate-level actions to implement the Strategic Action Plan. The Special Adviser will be supported by the new Anti-Racism Team in the Department of Management, Strategy and Compliance.

Adv Gumbi is currently the Chancellor of the University of Venda since 01 January 2020.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni on behalf of the University, wished the Chancellor both strength and courage as she takes over this international strategic role. "We wish you well and great success on this well-deserved appointment," he said.

Meet the University of Venda Faculty Managers



L-R: Mr Takalani Nyelisani (Faculty of Health Sciences), Mrs Julia Sigama (Faculty of Science Engineering and Agriculture), Mrs Mampuele Legodi (Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law), Dr Matemani Baloyi (Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education).

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.**

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