



# “Cleaning Citizen Mindsets to Trigger Responsible Action” Campaign is Jointly Launched in Thulamela Local Municipality



Participants during the cleaning campaign at Mvusuludzo Taxi Rank

South African citizens and residents are concerned about numerous man-made issues that make them fail to enjoy enviable ways of life. This concern saw about 120 residents of Thulamela joining Hon Cllr Sarah Rambuda (Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality), Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda), and Ms Muvhulawa Booi (Deputy Principal of the Vhembe TVET College) to launch the “Cleaning Citizen Mindsets to Trigger Responsible Action” campaign on Monday, 13 March 2023 at the George Phadagi Hall in Thohoyandou, next to Mvusuludzo Taxi Rank.

Among the participants were representatives of the Pastors Forum, Bus and Taxi Owners Associations, Hawkers Association, Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, Government departments,

municipal officials and Councillors, NGOs in the environmental management sector, and staff and students at the University of Venda and Vhembe TVET College.



When welcoming the participants, Mr Masala Makumule the Municipal Manager of

Thulamela Municipality expressed gratitude and joy that diverse stakeholders responded positively to the call to action. Mr Makumule said, “This is important because Thulamela, Vhembe TVET college and the University of Venda have seen it fit to start this cleaning campaign and we want to encourage residents of Thulamela not to litter. Let us promote cleanliness as we are launching this campaign, which should be our lifetime commitment”. He further highlighted the campaign’s importance in striving towards achieving the Vision 2030 of the Municipality.



Representing the Principal of Vhembe TVET College was the Deputy Principal, Ms Muvhulawa Booi who emphasised that cleanliness is next to Godliness. “This is a strong partnership and will see the town becoming a better clean town. We are declaring zero tolerance to littering”, she added.



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# “Cleaning Citizen Mindsets to Trigger Responsible Action” Campaign is Jointly Launched in Thulamela Local Municipality continued..



UNIVEN's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni sweeping at the taxi rank

Delivering his address on behalf of the University of Venda, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (Vice Chancellor and Principal) said as we rewrite our history through this milestone event, "I have no doubt that today, we are taking a bold and huge step towards being formidable agents of change. Working together can make a huge difference in our respective societies". He revealed that he was delighted that the Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality and the Deputy Principal of Vhembe TVET College had embraced the campaign after the University had brought the idea to them. Continuing with his address, Dr Nthambeleni recognised and thanked the Institute for Rural Development at the University of Venda led by Prof Joseph Francis for developing and leading this unique concept, which goes beyond our normal business of teaching, learning and research.

Dr Nthambeleni clarified that the campaign that was being launched was designed to destroy negative attitudes, behaviours and perceptions that we as people cannot determine and direct achievement of our destiny. It rests on loving ourselves as people and ensuring that we love our environment. To buttress his argument, he quoted from the book of Proverbs 11:14, which reminds us that, "Without wise leadership, a nation falls, but in an abundance of counsellors there is safety."

Dr Nthambeleni listed several challenges that society is faced, which the campaign was targeting. Among them were the following: erosion of our rich cultural heritage, Indiscriminate cutting of trees causing extreme deforestation, corruption and nepotism, gender-based violence, deplorable littering, dumping diapers and other filthy things in rivers, ritual murders, and the tendency of members of society to celebrate criminal behaviour. He highlighted that the challenges are all linked to one another and are all driven by the same thing: dirty mindsets, which we have a collective obligation to clean.

"Our aim is to take this campaign to all corners of our Municipality – decentralising to all nodal areas, areas under traditional authorities, and townships", the Vice Chancellor and Principal continued with his address. He shared his dream of ensuring that "by the end of the year, communities in Collins Chabane, Makhado, and Musina Local Municipalities will have been mobilised and joined us in our march towards a great Vhembe District that influences universal social change". This, he explained was aimed at addressing Sustainable Development Goal 12, which focuses on responsible production and consumption, targeting to achieve environmentally sound management of all

waste through prevention, recycling, reuse and reduction of food waste. He concluded his address by reminding the audience that the campaign was not just about cleaning up our streets and public places in our communities. Rather, it is about cleaning up our mindsets, behaviours and our negative attitudes towards our environment and other facets of society.



The Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Honourable Cllr Sarah Rambuda (middle)

The Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Honourable Councillor Sarah Rambuda, recognised and appreciated the presence of so many individuals representing such a diverse range of stakeholders. "As Thulamela Local municipality, we strive to clean this town all the time. The challenge is that after cleaning, people start littering soon after we have cleaned. So, our people need to be educated on not to litter. Our people's minds need proper training and education on how to keep our towns and villages clean. Let us not only talk about these things. Let us practice what we preach. What we have started today, needs to be sustained. If we all work together, we will conquer and overcome this challenge", she explained what bothered her and the Municipality. The Mayor encouraged residents and citizens of Thulamela Local Municipality to develop a culture of putting dirty plastic bags in places where refuse and waste collection trucks can easily pick them. She expressed her Municipality's commitment to the "Cleaning Citizen Mindsets to Trigger Responsible Action" campaign by saying, "we are going to continue and do our best until our Municipality, especially Thohoyandou, is clean".

Soon after the address by the Mayor, the University of Venda signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Thulamela Local Municipality and Royal Foundation. Royal Foundation is an organisation established by three young men from the Mphephu, Mutele and Tshimbupfe Royal Families to contribute to provision of School infrastructure, offer need-based training and also offer leadership in career guidance to learners in primary and secondary schools.



Prof Nosisi Feza, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies (2nd from left) and Adv Eric Nemukula (2nd from right) as he facilitated the signing of MoU

Reflecting on the launch function, Prof Nosisi Feza (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Postgraduate Studies) said, "There was a huge talk on continuous engagement through such practical activities and creation of short learning programmes to re-educate our municipal workers. The type of short learning programmes needed, are for re-building citizenry and pride. Also, possibilities started

emerging for the University to continue and cement itself in building a University town. However, in that launch of the campaign, one key University stakeholder that is crucial to this campaign - our students, was missing." Mr Shumani Razwiedani, Senior Manager of Community Services in Thulamela Local Municipality noted that, "This initiative is massive and has the potential to solve several challenges that our nation is facing at present."

"We will play our part and our campus is more than ready to implement this noble initiative", said Mr Zwiitani Steven Malima, Manager of Thengwe Campus of the Vhembe TVET College.



Mr Masala Makumule, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Cllr Sarah Rambuda



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (left) exchanging the MOU with the Royal Foundation representatives



Dr Bishop Mbadi



One of Mvusuluzo Taxi Rank hawkers (middle in a red top) talking to the participants about the importance of always keeping the town clean



The Mayor of Thulamela Municipality together with UNIVEN Vice Chancellor and Principal posing for a photo with some of the cleaning campaign participants



Executives pose for a photo with some of the participants

# Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples Rights (IMCHPR) commemorates the International Women's Day themed: innovation and technology for gender equality

The International Women's Day originates from the women's rights movement and has since become a global call to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This is in recognition that there is more work to be done on advancing women's rights to achieve substantive equality and a reminder that women are the focal point of change. It is for these reasons that the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples Rights (IMCHPR) of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, University of Venda organised a symposium to mark the 2023 International Women's Day under the theme 'innovation and technology for gender equality'. The event took place at the University's Research Conference Centre and was attended by staff, students, and stakeholders outside the University.



Prof Tharien van der Walt, the Interim Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning welcomed attendees on behalf of the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, Prof Barwa Kanyane. In her view, the issues that women and girls suffer in relation to digital technology are part of the broader problems that women suffer in today's world. Other issues which require urgent global attention include poverty, hunger, inequality, crime, climate change, sustainable development, clean water, and sanitation as well as energy crises. She called upon the participants to commit to and serve the international woman's day slogan #EmbraceEquity.



In his remarks, the Interim Director: Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples Rights, Prof Ademola Oluborode Jegede provided vital statistics to show that women and girls continue to experience deficit of access and rights in the digital technology and communication sectors. Hence, the



Photo credit: UNICEF/Pirozzi

theme DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality for this year International Women's Day event could not have come at a better time. In his further view, digital technology has a beautiful face as it can open the door of opportunities for women and girls. However, it also has its ugly side as digital platforms can be used to multiply the reach of pornography or child abuse, as some may call it, objectify women and girls, provoke gender-based violence, disseminate hate speech and threats against women and girls. While affirming that the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples Rights stands with women and girls everywhere in South Africa and indeed Africa on their fundamental human rights to digital technology, Prof Jegede advised that appropriate law and measures should be put in place so that digital platforms can drive gender equality and propel women and the girl's child rights.



Dr Allison Anthony

When delivering her keynote speech via Microsoft Teams, Dr Allison Anthony noted that the International Women's Day is not about putting men against women. It is not about comparing two genders but about

equality and equity. People need to be treated equally irrespective of their gender. Amongst other things, Dr Anthony discussed matters relating to poverty, unemployment, and economic empowerment, safety and wellbeing including political empowerment. She highlighted that women, particularly rural women, suffer digital deficit and experience other challenges such as access to water and energy for cooking. They lack access to safe energy for cooking and mostly utilise wood which exposes them to health risks. Discrimination also exists in the workplace where in some instances there is unequal pay/salaries between men and women. Therefore, institutions must seriously consider the bridging of gender gap by instituting gender equality committees, incorporate gender principles into courses, mentor female students and young staff members, increase percentage of female employees, and address pay discrepancy where such exists.

Dr Anthony further suggested that there should be anonymous and trustworthy online complaint procedure where violence and harassment in the workplace could be reported. Social media can be used to educate staff and students on how to close the gender gap. Gender sensitivity and inclusivity training can be conducted to allow staff and students to recognise and address prejudices and stereotypes. In her view, "women need to speak to their partners at home about roles in the households. Before we look outside, we need to look inside our homes. We need to take responsibility and speak to our partners to address these household challenges." Dr Anthony concluded her keynote by highlighting that women need to support each other. They should not wait for men to bring the required change but should work with men to achieve equality.

Dr Allison Anthony is a Senior Lecturer in Public Procurement Law at the University of South Africa and a Deputy Director of the African Procurement Law Unit at the Stellenbosch University. She is also an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa. She specialises in construction procurement law, general public procurement law and administrative law. She published the first book on Construction Procurement Law in 2021 as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters on these topics. She has trained public officials in South Africa on public procurement matters and teaches the infrastructure procurement law course in the LLM and Postgraduate Diploma in Public Procurement Regulation and Policy based at Stellenbosch University. She has recently been Y2 rated by the NRF and is currently pursuing an LLM in Government Procurement Law at the George Washington University.

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# Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples Rights (IMCHPR) commemorates the International Women's Day themed: innovation and technology for gender equality cont...



Staff members and students were also given an opportunity to comment and to ask questions



Ms Crystal Mokoena gave a vote of thanks



Dr Chiedza Simbo introducing themes of the International Women's Day



Dr Isabel Moodley introducing the keynote speaker



Panel response: (from left, Ms Livhuwani Nethengwe (Legal Practitioner), Ms Sharon Sikhwai (Minister of Gender- UNIVEN), and Dr Thizwilondi Mudau, (HOD for Youth in Development University of Venda) The members of the panel responded to the discussion lead by Dr Anthony and addressed several relevant comments and cultural questions raised by participants regarding digital technology, gender equality and transformation within the local context They advised students to stand together and say no to all forms of abuse.



Attendees at Research Conference Centre during the International Women's Day Commemoration



Group photo of attendees outside the Research Conference Centre

# UNIVEN SRC hosts Human Rights Dialogue to educate students about the importance of Human Rights

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Student Governance under Student Affairs Directorate together with the Student Representative Council (SRC) recently hosted the Human Rights Dialogue as part of commemorating the Human Rights Day. The event was hosted outside UNIVEN Student Center.



When welcoming attendees, Minister of Finance Bursaries and Projects, Tsebishe Mmaboshego encouraged attendees to engage freely without any fear of intimidation. She further encouraged them to contribute into build this University through this dialogue.



When sharing the department's reasons for hosting this important dialogue, Mr Andisani Mathelemusa from UNIVEN Student Governance indicated that the intention was to educate students about the importance of human rights. Mathelemusa mentioned that it is important for students to know about human rights because there are people who have died fighting for all South Africans to benefit from these. He further encouraged all students to contribute during the engagements that was organised for all to understand the meaning of human rights so that they know their limits and to avoid violating other people's human rights.



Advocate Thanyani Mphephu from the University's Legal Services Directorate who was one of the panelists presented about bullying at tertiary institutions. Advocate

Mphephu said everyone has equal rights and no one should live in fear because of another person. "As much as we have rights, we must always know that there are limits, we need to respect the rights of others. Violating other people's rights is an offence. Students should also be made aware that violating other people's rights is an offence."

**"As much as we have rights, we must always know that there are limits, we need to respect the rights of others. Violating other people's rights is an offence."**



Head of Student Counselling and Career Development Unit, Dr Refilwe Pila Nemutandani who was also a panelist presented about students who are advocating for the protection of other students' rights. Dr Pila-Nemutandani told attendees that when they abuse someone emotionally it is the violation of human rights, and it can lead to others committing suicide as a result of failing to manage the pressure and the abuse with which they are faced.



SRC President, Mr Gudani Tshamano who was also a panel member said that the University should respect the rights of students as well and it is the rights of all students to have water, electricity, data/access to Wi-Fi, access to books in the library and other things that

would make the lives of students easier which lead to students completing their studies in record time.

All students who were in attendance made their contribution by either asking questions or commenting on the presentations.



# Prof Nosisi Feza receives Alumni Achievers Award



thousands of lives with her career that is dedicated to empowering others.

Prof Feza is a prolific researcher and a publisher who holds among other qualifications, a PhD in Mathematics Education (State University of New York) and an MA in Education from the former Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

She started working as a School Teacher on a farm, specialising in science and mathematics. In 1991, she received a British Commonwealth Scholarship and later joined an NGO as a rural coordinator for Mathematics teacher training in the Eastern Cape.

She began her tertiary teaching career at the then University of Port Elizabeth as a Mathematics Lecturer. In 2006 she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for a United States PhD programme.

Prof Feza became a sought-after academic in the USA, receiving a scholarship for both research and her PhD and a research fellowship post at the University of Northern Iowa. Back home, she was associated with several top institutions before joining the University of Venda in 2021.

She has published extensively in mathematics education and early childhood mathematics and supervised more than ten (10) PhD and master's theses.

She has served numerous organisations, including the Tshikululu Foundation, Chairs for NRF academic funding, is a committee member of the community of practice for Postgraduate Studies in South African Higher Education, an active member of Female International Research (FIRE) and made a significant contribution to the Human Sciences Research Council's illustrated EnglishIsiXhosa mathematics for Grade R – 9.

An NRF C-rated professor in mathematics education, she has balanced an iconic Academic career with a dedicated focus on community development initiatives.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies at the University of Venda, Prof Nosisi Feza was honoured by the Nelson Mandela University as one of the selected few of the Nelson Mandela University's most successful graduates. Prof Feza was honoured at a ceremony that was held on Thursday, 23 March 2023 at the Madibaz Sport Centre, South Campus of Nelson Mandela University. The Nelson Mandela University presented eight awards in three categories for alumni from a wide spectrum of disciplines including sport, law, psychology, and academic.

During this ceremony, a Mathematician, Professor Nosisi Feza, University of Venda's (UNIVEN) Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies received the Alumni Achievers award.

From being a farm teacher to formidable mathematician, Prof Feza's contribution has made impact in the lives of academics and South African education. She has impacted



Prof Nosisi Feza (middle)



Prof Nosisi Feza (Seated - 2nd from left) posing for a photo with other award recipients

## Finance Division announces the appointment of Director Revenue and Financial Aid



As part of the plan to contribute positively towards the implementation of the University of Venda Strategic Plan, the University is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Tshilidzi Ramulondi as Director Revenue and Financial Aid, responsible for Financial Aid, Student Debtors and Cash Management. She took on her role as the Director with effect from 01 March 2023.

Ms Ramulondi was the Acting Director of Revenue and Financial Aid at UNIVEN since February 2022.

She is a highly experienced finance professional with over 16 years of work experience. Ms Ramulondi completed articles with the Auditor General in 2010.

She joined UNIVEN in September 2017 as the Manager Financial Aid. Prior to joining UNIVEN, Ms Ramulondi worked at the country's Crime Intelligence Unit, managing Secret Services Account where she was serving as the Deputy Director between 01 March 2010 and 31 August 2017.

Ms Ramulondi holds an Honours degree with specialisation in Financial Accounting from UNISA and she is a member of the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA). Ramulondi is now at advanced stage of completing her Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with Henley Business School.

She has successfully integrated with the

University's senior management and is ready to take her career to the next level. Her strategic financial, analytical and management skills will drive efficiencies and positive relationships in the business to the benefit of all stakeholders.

"Tshilidzi has immensely contributed to the financial rigour of the University, and I have no doubt that she will continue to do so. Please join me in welcoming Ms Ramulondi into the Senior Management role and wishing her the best of luck in executing her duties as the Director Revenue and Financial Aid", said the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Botwe Kraziya.

# A call to safeguard all campuses against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) by UNIVEN Protection Services, SAPS and CPF



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Protection Services in partnership with South African Police Services (SAPS) held a two-day Campus Community Safety Workshop from 14 – 15 March 2023 at UNIVEN Sport Hall. The workshop was attended by members of SAPS, SRC members from UNIVEN, Vhembe TVET College, Members of CPF across Vhembe Region, UNIVEN staff and students.

The aim of the workshop was to engage students in plans that will aid to develop their skills while engaging with various communities and finding solutions to the many issues surrounding GBVF. The rate of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in South African universities and surrounding communities are at a crisis level. GBVF has a big impact on the lives and wellbeing of survivors, families, and communities.

The workshop has created a link and strengthened the connection of safety between University of Venda, Community Policing Forum, and the SAPS.



In his opening of the workshop message, Mr Andisani Mathelemusa of UNIVEN Student Affairs encouraged the attendees to contribute positively to make sure that there is safety on and off campus. "We must make sure that whatever is discussed here will be implemented," said Mathelemusa.



UNIVEN's Head of Security, Mr Nditsheni Mathanya, presented the University challenges in terms of GBVF. Mr Mathanya pointed out that like any other learning institution, UNIVEN is not exempted from any kind of crime. South African tertiary institutions are often affected by the country's high crime rates. Many would perceive universities as being safe environments where education is the common language for everyone. However, it is an unavoidable fact that students often become victims of crime within the campus and even in their own residences.

"UNIVEN staff, students and visitors are a high priority when it comes to safety and security," asserted Mr Mathanya. In addition, he said there are initiatives like Campus Policing Forum and Security Guards who are stationed all around campus, with proper research and implementation of high safety and security."

He mentioned that UNIVEN is surrounded by villages and some of UNIVEN students are accommodated in these villages where they are confronted by crimes such as break-ins, theft of cell phones and laptops and some of them get raped.

He said UNIVEN has a good relationship with SAPS and Community Policing Forums. Mr Mathanya indicated that Protection Services in collaboration with SAPS and Social Development Department conduct awareness campaigns around GBV and other crimes that affect the lives of students and surrounding communities every semester to reduce GBV and other crimes happening on and off campus.



South Africa Police Service, Policy Framework of SAPS, Major-General Thokozani Mathonsi made a presentation on behalf of SAPS. He spoke about safety in institutions of higher learning. Major-General Mathonsi alluded to the fact that crimes at Institutions of Higher Learning in South Africa have the potential to undermine the primary mandate of teaching, learning and research.

He cited that the sector has a population of about 15 million inclusive of 26 universities, 54 TVET and 1445 colleges. Major-General Mathonsi said South Africa needs to create and grow nurturing of skills which will serve as a pipeline to feed and supply the human skills base required by economy, therefore, the creation of a conducive atmosphere to achieve the objectives of this sector is important at a personal and governmental level for the future of leaders.

Mathonsi advised UNIVEN to implement GBV Policies and Stick them on notice boards all over the campus because the National Campus Safety initiatives are using an intervention approach with specialised training of students, key personnel, and campus protection services. He said this could be the first step in creating the required capacity for the campus to engage in developing student safety programmes where students drive the process.

He urged the Protection Services and SRC to have a Five-Year Crime Prevention Strategy for GBVF programme. He said, "It must be deliberate not by chance or luck, prevention is important." He called on the University leadership to put the safety of students and staff at the top of the agenda through resourcing, capacity building and clear strategy. "Campus safety programme belongs to the entire University community. Hence, without safety, the mandate of learning, teaching and research is not possible," highlighted Major -General Mathonsi.



UNIVEN Student Representative Council President, Mr Gudani Tshamano highlighted the importance of knowing the issues surrounding GBV. He said the change must begin at home, saying parents should teach their children that violence is not the only solution. He mentioned that Protection Services Department need proper attention and education. "We should teach people to stop abusing their partners," he said.



On day two of the workshop, UNIVEN's Director Protection Services, Mr Ratshilumela Mulaudzi echoed that crime is everyone's responsibility. He appreciated the initiative by SAPS led by Major-General Mathonsi to address the scourge of GBVF that affect our students and the community at large.

UNIVEN appreciates the initiative to enhance and re-invent Protective services. He said this workshop will help in addressing the issues affecting the community and the University. He further said as UNIVEN Protection Services, they are committed to working with different stakeholders that are involved in the fight against crime. The police were advised to engage with the University, students not only when there is a problem but also to frequently stay connected.

## A call to safeguard all campuses against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) by UNIVEN Protection Services, SAPS and CPF continued..



One of the facilitators, Mr Stephen Ngobeni presented on how to prevent GBV in a sustainable way on campus and beyond, using real and practical systems that are workable and impactful with minimum resources. He spoke of the centrality of women and the difference between gender equality and gender violence. He mentioned that we need to tighten the protection services to have crime-free campuses in our country and the world.



Chairperson of Vhembe CPF, Adv Tshimangadzo Muthobi advised students to be disciplined and focus on their studies. He urged students to use NSFAS and other financial aid money responsibly.

**Adv Tshimangadzo Muthobi urged students to use NSFAS and other financial aid money responsibly.**

Below are some of the participants during comments and questions time:



## Dr Mercy Masakona Madzivhandila receives the 2023 Best Musical Composition Award



Winner of the 2023 Best Musical Composition Award

On Thursday, 16 March 2023, Dr Mercy Masakona Madzivhandila who is an alumna of the University of Venda, received an award from the Human and Social Sciences (HSS) under National Institute for Human and Social Sciences (NIHSS) in the category of Best Musical Composition/Arrangement. These awards honour outstanding, innovative, and creative as well as digital contributions that enhance and advance fields in the HISS. The same album, in August 2022 was also awarded a trophy by the South African Music Awards (SAMAs) in its 28th edition as the Best Traditional Album. These awards attest to the fact that Dr Mercy's artwork is currently recognised both locally and nationally.

Dr Mercy Masakona Madzivhandila holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Music from the University of Venda. Her recognition became pronounced in both the music industry and academic circles in November 2021 after graduation, when she released her latest traditional album – 'Tshihwillili Tshanga'.

Her doctoral study focused on 'A descriptive analysis of Tshifasi – an ordinary African musicological study.' In her study Dr Masakona Madzivhandila argued that 'Tshifasi' has somehow been marginalised and overlooked by many people when compared to other cultural or traditional dances. She decided to focus on 'Tshifasi' genre because she felt Tshifasi should be included in the Department of Basic Education's curriculum as a means of promoting South African Indigenous music.

Dr Masakona Madzivhandila expressed that she is confident that her study has successfully identified the social roles of

Tshifasi.' She further mentioned that 'Tshifasi' taught children to grow with love, respect and care for the sake of others. 'Tshifasi' music genre can be used to address some of the challenges faced by the country. Dr Masakona Madzivhandila is also holding MA in African Studies, a BMus degree, and a Certificate in music.

During her studies, she managed to participate in choirs such as Bel Canto, UNIVEN Choir, ELCSAMO (Lutheran church) choirs and SAPS choir in the Vhembe District. She also coaches and conducts choirs in her local church and is currently at UNIVEN to remain appropriate. Dr Masakona Madzivhandila trains primary school learners to appreciate their traditional value and teach them indigenous performances such as 'Malende,' 'Tshigombela' and 'Tshifasi.'

Like many artists, her love for music became clear when she was still attending Sunday

school. She later joined the International Christian Centre (ICC) Ministry Band under the leadership of Apostle (Dr) Maxwell Masakona. The band released two albums with Dr Masakona Madzivhandila as a leading vocalist on most of the songs.

She went solo in 1997 and released her debut full-length album the following year, titled 'Yesu wa vuthu'. Her other albums, among others, are 'Haho' released in 2001, 'Haho 2' released in 2006, 'Dzina lawe' released in 2012, 'Ha shanduki' released in 2013, 'Tshilangano' released in 2018, 'A ri edeli' released in 2019, and she has a post-production album titled 'Tshihwillili'. Composing songs is her passion that makes the music unique and relevant to the public. She said she hopes to showcase the skills that she has been accumulating during her studies through her teaching and lecturing at the University of Venda.



Dr Mercy Masakona Madzivhandila (in a blue and yellow Tshivenda traditional attire) holding her award



# Prof Augustine Dzathor delivers a Public Lecture on the Infusion of Entrepreneurship into University Culture



Some of the attendees of the public lecture at research conference centre

On Wednesday, 22 February 2023, the Department of English Media Studies and Linguistics under the Faculty of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (FHSSSE) hosted a public lecture that was delivered by Prof Augustine Dzathor who is a full professor of Business (Management) at Grambling State University in Louisiana in the United States of America (USA). This was a hybrid event with physical attendance held at University of Venda Research Conference Centre.



Prof Dzathor, amongst other things, spoke about universities at financial crossroads; most effective entrepreneurial traits; evolution of Entrepreneurship; various entrepreneurship paradigms; as well as three stages of Entrepreneurship.

He further discussed several entrepreneurship paradigms where he spoke about how to infuse entrepreneurial culture in a university and mentioned strategic planning as the main starting focus. Prof Dzathor said there is a need for universities to review the organisational missions and vision statements to measure or align it with the new strategic plan. "New academic programme and curriculum need to be introduced to meet the need of future employers. The curriculum must be relevant to the needs of the community in which that university is situated."

Prof Dzathor said all programmes need to be revised, they need to be quality assured and to be accredited before these programmes could be offered to the public. "Policies must be put in place to make sure that these programmes are marketed well, they need to be engaged by both universities and the communities where these universities exist," he concluded.

Augustine Dzathor is a full professor of Business (Management) at Grambling State University in Louisiana, USA. Augustine has 18 years of university teaching experience and a research focus on entrepreneurship.

He has successively led his current institution through two Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation reviews and reaffirmations in the past eight years. AACSB International accreditation is the premier business school accreditation body in the world.

He also has expertise in curriculum review and assessment. Prof Dzathor has a Ph.D. in Business Administration (Management) from Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi AACSB International Accredited 2010; Master of Business Administration (Distinction) Valedictorian Africa University, Zimbabwe 1997; Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Administration Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) 1994; Bachelor of Commerce-Accounting (Honours) Degree and Diploma in Education University of Cape-Coast, Ghana 1990.



This public lecture was virtually opened by DVC Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin.



Head of the Department of English, Media Studies and Linguistics, Dr Matodzi Lambani introduced the speaker, Prof Augustine Dzathor Deputy Dean of Postgraduate Studies and Research in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Prof Takalani Mashau gave concluding remarks and a vote of thanks.



The programme was directed by Prof Mashudu Mashige

**“New academic programme and curriculum need to be introduced to meet the need of future employers. The curriculum must be relevant to the needs of the community in which that university is situated.”**



When giving the purpose of the Lecture, DVC Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza said the University has pronounced itself as an entrepreneurial university, therefore we need to work towards achieving entrepreneurial goals. Prof Feza indicated that this public lecture was aligned with what the University of Venda intends to achieve. She anticipated that this public lecture would also assist the University staff members and students to convert ideas into practice and start making money for themselves and for the University.

# UNIVEN graduates gather for the Pre-launch of Mpumalanga Highveld Alumni Chapter



The University of Venda intends to launch a Chapter in the Mpumalanga Highveld Region. The envisaged alumni chapter will serve as a platform for interaction among UNIVEN alumni and their alma mater. The President of Convocation, Mr Sylvester Motadi and other members of the Executive Committee of Convocation held a successful Alumni Chapter pre-launch meeting with selected alumni from the Highveld region. The session was held at ANEW Witbank Hotel in eMalahleni on Saturday, 11 March 2023.

work in the Mpumalanga Highveld Region. He further told the audience that the session was the first step towards establishing a fully fledged Alumni Chapter in the region.

He informed the attendees about the chapters which Convocation has already launched, including the Mpumalanga Lowveld Alumni Chapter which was recently launched in Mbombela.



The President of the Convocation as the programme director highlighted the purpose of the Alumni Chapter pre-launch. He informed the gathering that UNIVEN is in the process of reconnecting and building relationships with its alumni who live and



Adv Siphoshe Mashela rendered the welcome and set the context of the occasion. In his remarks, he thanked alumni for their commitment to their alma mater by attending the alumni pre-launch session. He made a call for unity among alumni in the Highveld region. Adv. Mashela concluded the pre-launch gathering by proposing a vote of thanks.



In his presentation on "What is an Alumni Chapter". The Alumni Relations Officer, Mr Mashudu Ramaleba gave a background on how the oldest and first Alumni Chapter started in 1840 and the subsequent

chapters in different countries and different universities. He informed the audience that chapters began as an intellectual society of graduates, and then grew to adopt constitutions and held annual general meetings. He went on to explain the focus of subsequent alumni associations, which varied: friendship and unity among graduates, the welfare of the alma mater, good relationships with the alma mater and enhancing the experience of registered students. He highlighted actionable steps for starting an Alumni Chapter. He described the focus of UNIVEN Alumni Chapter: being an ambassador, supporting strategic goals, unity of graduates, fostering a positive image, building relationships between industries and UNIVEN and also engaging in fundraising.

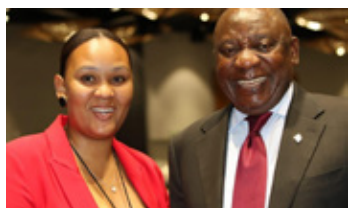


Ms Shonisani Masutha expressed her appreciation for those who attended the occasion of the pre-launch. She cautioned and reminded graduates that the reputation and prestige of UNIVEN lie in its graduates or alumni. She implored alumni in attendance to assist UNIVEN Convocation in launching a successful chapter. She concluded by urging alumni to constantly update their information on the website through the Devman link.



Attendees during the meeting

## The journey of a University of Venda Masters student who won a global essay competition



Khodani Madula and the President of South Africa, His Excellency Dr Cyril Ramaphosa

A 25-year masters' student in Agricultural Economics at the University of Venda, Ms Khodani Madula has been granted an opportunity to travel to Switzerland to represent her University in an International Symposium Global Essay Competition. Khodani will be leaving for Switzerland on 29 April 2023 and returning to South Africa on 07 May 2023.

In February 2023, Ms Madula submitted an essay towards the annual St Gallen Symposium. The symposium is held annually in the Swiss city of St Gallen. It brings together thought leaders, decision-makers, and young talents from around the world to discuss pressing economic, political, and social issues. Part of this event includes an essay competition for young people under the age of 30. The competition offers young people the opportunity to share their perspectives on important issues facing the world, and to engage with other young people and thought leaders in a global dialogue.

The theme chosen by St. Gallen for this year's essay competition is "A New Generational Contract." Ms Madula's essay has already been accepted and is in the running for the top three (3) spot globally. She has received a formal invitation to attend the St Gallen

Symposium and her sponsorship for the trip has been confirmed by the organisers of the event. Khodani is counting down the days until she can embark on her exciting journey to Switzerland.

"I'm thrilled to have been granted an opportunity of this kind and to attend the symposium. I am so excited to be representing my University at international level. For me this is a dream coming true, I know the symposium experience is going to have a significant impact on my life going forward" said Khodani.

Khodani's essay focused on "Intergenerational Inequality: An Assessment of the Unfairness and Inequalities Present in the World, its Impact on Economic Development and Possible Measures to Implement." The academic jury was impressed by the

essay and its high relevancy to this year's perspective; hence it was selected as one of the top 100 submissions.

The St. Gallen Symposium has a long history of attracting high-profile speakers and attendees. Khodani will have the opportunity to attend keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops with other participants from around the world. She will also have the chance to network and rub shoulders with business leaders and policymakers and to attend cultural events in St. Gallen and the surrounding region.

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Prof Natasha Potgieter wished Ms Madula a safer trip and to go after her dream. "May you get all the success and happiness you deserve!" said Prof Potgieter.

# UNIVEN Sport and Recreation Unit welcomed an International Wheelchair Tennis Player



Mr. Ronewa Mudzanani (On wheelchair) with a group of staff members and students

On Friday, 03 March 2023, Mr Ronewa Mudzanani who is an international wheelchair tennis player visited the University of Venda Sport and Recreation Unit under the Department of Student Affairs. The purpose of the visit was to raise awareness of the wheelchair tennis sport among University of Venda students, inspiring students living with different forms of disabilities by sharing accolades and other achievements as well as looking at other possible ways for collaboration and partnerships in developing the wheelchair sport.

During his visit to the University of Venda Tennis Club, Mr Ronewa Mudzanani spoke about the obstacles and challenges he faced as a Wheelchair Tennis athlete, both on and off the play courts. He further encouraged all students living with different forms of disabilities to use their respective God-given talents and showcase their sports skills and show the world that they are able to do so many remarkable things in life.

When welcoming the guests and other attendees, Dr Ndiafhi Percy Mugwedi (Sports Administrator) in the Sport and Recreation Unit under the Department of Student Affairs expressed sincere gratitude and appreciated the efforts by Mr Ronewa Mudzanani for choosing the University of Venda as a rightful place to do Wheelchair Tennis Exhibition, particularly with UNIVEN Tennis Club. Dr Mugwedi shared with the audience that Wheelchair Tennis is not a new sport in the University of Venda's history. Over the years, UNIVEN managed to produce other internationally known and ranked wheelchair players such as Ms Kgotatso Montjane and Mr Sydwell Mathonsi. The Sports Administrator further remarked that this visit also serves as a wake-up call to the Sport and Recreation Unit to think about re-introduction of the Wheelchair Tennis Sport in the future.

In attendance were members of the student leadership from various structures namely: the SRC Minister of Sport and Recreation (Ms. Mahladasa Rkgadi),



Mr Ronewa Mudzanani during a Wheelchair Tennis Exhibition on the UNIVEN Tennis Court

Mr. Ronewa Mudzanani is a remarkable international wheelchair tennis player who hails from a rural disadvantaged community, Vhurivhuri Village where he was born and raised. He was born with a specific type of disability that affected his mobility, particularly his Spinal Cord which made it difficult for him to enjoy daily movement and as a result he relied on wheelchair for limited mobility. His love for wheelchair tennis sport started at the tender age of 14 while doing Grade 10 attending at Tshilidzini Special School. He has since traveled and participated in global wheelchair tennis in places such as Turkey recently, Italy, South Korea and France to mention a few. Mr Mudzanani expressed his wishes to further compete at global competitions such as the Paralympics and Wimbledon Wheelchair Tennis to represent South Africa, his native rural areas, the Vhembe District as well as the Limpopo Province.



Dr Ndiafhi Mugwedi (left) and Mr Ronewa Mudzanani interacting with the audience



Mr. Ronewa Mudzanani, Dr. N.P. Mugwedi and Mr. T.J. Mashimbyi

Minister of Gender and People Living with Disabilities (Ms. Sikhwai Tshifhiwa Sheron), the SRCC (Sport, Recreation, Culture Council) Chairperson (Mr. Remember Ragimana) and other members representing students from the Disability Council. The student leadership structures shared message of support, expressed happiness and wished Mr Mudzanani well in his Wheelchair Tennis endeavors. Students extended a special request to Mr Mudzanani to always visit and partners with UNIVEN Tennis Club to revive Wheelchair Tennis Sport for students with different disabilities. Mr Gadisi represented

Members of Staff from the Disability Unit. UNIVEN tennis coaches Mr Gideon Ramulifho and Mr TJ Mashimbyi co-facilitated the programme and further played an exhibition tennis singles and doubles matches respectively with Mr Ronewa Mudzanani and other UNIVEN Tennis Club Players.

The last part of the Tennis Exhibition ended with a live radio interview at UNIVEN FM on Sports Talk Show with Mr TJ Mashimbyi (Presenter and UNIVEN Tennis Club Coach) who interviewed both Mr Ronewa Mudzanani and Dr Mugwedi about the overall reflection of the event on the day.



Members of Student Leadership Structures sharing message of support

# University of Venda receives a visit from Counsellor Xodong Li, Head of the Education Division, Chinese Embassy to South Africa



The internationalisation of higher education has become a priority among most universities globally. It is for this reason that the University of Venda hosted the Head of Education Division, from the Chinese Embassy to South Africa to enhance a distinct advantage in the quality of the University's core business and services. These engagements will enable UNIVEN graduates to be competitive in the global village. The event took place at the University of Venda's Research Conference Centre on Wednesday, 08 March 2023.



University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani expressed that he was delighted to welcome the delegation from China. He mentioned that (UNIVEN) is looking forward to having exchange programmes with students and staff from China. Adv Lambani ensured the Chinese delegation that UNIVEN is indeed creating future leaders who are globally competitive and locally relevant.

Adv Lambani spoke of the mixed diversity of academic staff, support staff and students, both local and international. He concluded with the words that he was proud to say UNIVEN has linkages and partnerships with local and international universities.



Counsellor Xodong Li, Head of the Education Division, Chinese Embassy to South Africa mentioned how happy he was to have come all the way to UNIVEN to get information full of facts and relevance. He explained that it was his first physical visit to the University of Venda but was glad to say China has had discussions with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni regarding collaborations and partnerships and the main purpose of his visit was to offer Chinese government scholarships. Counsellor Xodong was impressed with the UNIVEN slogan 'Creating future leaders.'



Chinese Embassy, Education Division First Secretary, Mr Fenghe Qiao gave a briefing of the Chinese Government Scholarship. He mentioned that there are two types of Scholarships namely the unilateral and the bilateral programmes. He mentioned that in order to qualify, one must be a South African Citizen who is in good health. He urged academics to apply, to be nominated by Department of Higher Education and Training South Africa as the Chinese Education Division nomination agency. For more information on the Chinese scholarships please contact the UNIVEN International Relations and Partnerships office through Ms Vusani Mavhungu at [Vusani.Mavhungu@univen.ac.za](mailto:Vusani.Mavhungu@univen.ac.za).



The University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani receives gifts from Counsellor Xodong Li Head of Education South Africa division



# Vuwani Science Resource Centre continues to equip Early Childhood Development (ECD) educators with STEM skills



*ECD Educators during the STEM presentation*

Vuwani Science Resource Centre staff members are passionate about imparting science skills to ECD educators. They do it with the hope that children will gain interest in science at their earliest stages of life. Day Care Centres from Shayandima, Tshisaulu, Itsani, Vyeboom, Vuwani, and Tshivhulana (Tshimbupfe) areas were invited to participate in the skills nurturing workshop. More than eight Day Care Centres attended this Skills Nurturing Workshop. These Day Care Centres are: Superkids, Perseverance Day Care, Faranani Early Learning Centre, U a Londa Daycare Center, Aluwani, Mutshidzi Day Care Center, Vuwani Day Care Center, Tshikurukuru, Lotsha, and Ziggy Children Center.

Dr Shonisani Mulovhedzi from the ECD Department of UNIVEN's Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education was invited as the main facilitator of the day for the workshop. Dr Mulovhedzi is one of the experienced ECD educator's trainers, as she has been working in the field for many years before joining UNIVEN. She is one of the best facilitators of play-based learning

methods for early childhood development. During her facilitation, she has engaged the ECD educators in real play-based learning, bridging the inequality gap in science learning and leveraging science knowledge and findings to bring transformative science learning to the classroom. She followed the curriculum to build STEM skills and climate change awareness through recycled materials.

Dr Sophie Mulaudzi was the programme director of the workshop and the key person who was interacting with the ECD facilitators during the workshop. She has engaged them in different activities showcasing the importance of engaging young ones in science activities.

A post workshop survey was done to obtain whether the attended educators gained skills and would like to attend the workshop again. Responses from the educators indicated that there is a need to continue engaging the ECD educators on STEM subjects. Educators agreed that they would be able to engage and implement some of the skills obtained to Day Care Centre children.

The presentation was interactive because educators were expected to use different activities and draw them on charts to redefine the learning activities through drawing art. Different group activities were developed for educators to redefine STEM

in a simple way that the children could understand. Teachers were also taught how to set up a STEM classroom, art drawing, and other simple activities relating to Day Care Centre children.



*Dr Sophie Mulaudzi in action during the facilitations*



*Dr. Mulovhedzi (Middle) in action during the STEM ECD workshop*



*One of the groups displaying their science kit activity*

## Vuwani Science Resource Centre continues to equip Early Childhood Development (ECD) educators with STEM skills continued...



The winning group displaying their science activity



The workshop facilitation team made it possible on the day



Above: Educators during the hands-on STEM and climate change activities



# UNIVEN continues to position itself as a significant participant in Higher Education Internationalisation



The Director Marketing Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga and the Senior Manager Centre for Entrepreneurship Ms Shumani Nembudani participated in the Erasmus+ Mobility programme, Internationalisation Week 2023, with partner countries at Kauno Kolegija Higher Education Institution in Lithuania from 6-10 March 2023. This year's theme 'Internationalization at home' is a programme aimed at sharing of best practices by professionals from different institutions of higher learning globally. Participants came from Spain, Poland, Latvia, Finland, Germany, Mexico, Belgium, Estonia, Turkey, Portugal, Malta, Bosnia, South Africa, and Herzegovina. The topics covered amongst others include Globalisation's Impact on Cultures, the English language in business and communication, Marketing and Brand Internationalisation, Digital and Brand Marketing technology, Entrepreneurship. This was a highly interactive and participative methodology whereby participants present on respective areas of specialisations.

During the Internationalisation Week, Dr Dzaga and Ms Nembudani had the opportunity to share experience and knowledge about Internationalisation at Home and participated in the events of the Internationalisation week as well as establishing connections.

The Department of International Relations and Partnerships is responsible for staff and student mobility as part of promoting internationalisation. The University has established a particularly good relationship with local and international institutions.

It is for this reason that Kauno Kolegija / Higher Education Institution considered it necessary to extend a call inviting the University of Venda and partnering institutions to participate in the International Week "GOING INTERNATIONAL". The International Week is a significant event where participants share innovative ideas. The programme was further intended for the participants to exchange experience and knowledge about the "Internationalisation at home." It is worth reiterating that during this week, participants had the opportunity to share their expertise and establish new connections.

The preliminary programme of the visit was oriented to sharing experience and knowledge about the Internationalisation at home and participation in the events of the International Week.

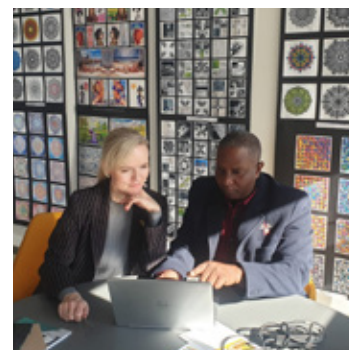


Dzaga says "This programme has enriched my life in ways that I have not even imagined. Participating in an international programme is a wonderful way to set yourself apart. The visit helped me in comparing UNIVEN's Marketing Branding and Communication with a range of institutions of higher learning from all over the world. This certainly helps in UNIVEN's performance assessment in Brand Enhancement initiatives in an international context. It is evident that UNIVEN is doing well in terms of use of multiple platforms to reach out to a range of stakeholders. It is worth reiterating that the session enabled us to gain an independent perspective about how well UNIVEN is performing in its endeavour to position itself for relevance and impact. On the other hand, the session enables a mindset and culture of continuous improvement."

Fellow participants confirmed that through the internationalisation week, they had the opportunity to make lifelong colleagues and develop professional network. The network provides fresh perspectives, insights and ideas that expand the mindset. The professional connections will grow, development of intercultural communication skills, broadening of global awareness, there are also more subtle experiences and knowledge gained from the foreign environment, by interacting with the locals you learn new perspectives as well as learn how to better identify with people who come from diverse backgrounds and outlooks.

This internationalisation week turned out to be a rich and rewarding professional development opportunity. This programme promotes innovation, and this would undoubtedly foster innovative ideas among the Marketing Branding and Communication team. Other areas to be explored further include partnership in academic programmes, research activities, staff, and student exchange, through these initiatives, the advancement of international students' perspectives and skills will be emphasised hence access to cross-cultural understanding.

Use of technology and social media as important influential tools for increasing access to relevant and valuable information is of critical importance. Through these initiatives, UNIVEN will realise improved academic quality, internationally oriented students and staff, production of graduates who are internationally knowledgeable and culturally sensitive. As part of the benefit of participating in the internationalisation week, we are optimistic that UNIVEN will realise improved internal communication; Provision of professional development for staff; break down the silos between teams; improve the understanding of the university's strategic direction and unremitting exchange of staff and students. It is important for institutions of higher learning to embrace an international outlook, not only for staff but to also cater to the needs of students who should be locally relevant and globally competitive.



Participants also had the opportunity to know Kauno Kolegija Higher Education Institution and Kaunas, as well as participation in the guided tour to the Pazaistis Monastery and Church of the Holy Mary Arrival and excursion to the ninth fort of Kaunas fortress.

This was indeed a successful internationalisation at home week which is in line with the University of Venda's fourth Strategic Thrust, Linkages, Partnerships, and Internationalisation.

# UNIVEN honours student is awarded a comprehensive scholarship by the South African National Biodiversity Institute

The South African National Biodiversity Institute has awarded this comprehensive scholarship to Muvhumbi Candy Mutengwe to investigate the invasiveness of a potential alien plant invader, *Ipomoea quamoclit* (Cypress-vine morning-glory). This study was conducted under the capable supervision of Dr Moleseng Moshobane (South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)), Dr Lutendo Mugwedi of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and Prof Peter Tshisikhawe (UNIVEN). Her project was titled: 'An assessment of the invasiveness of *Ipomoea quamoclit* Linn in the Vhembe biosphere reserve, Limpopo Province South Africa.' Mutengwe is currently working on her manuscript emanating from her honours that will soon be submitted for publication. This cooperation is the fruits of the MoU signed between SANBI and UNIVEN.

This comprehensive Scholarship pays 100% for the tuition fees and research running costs, including additional 60 000 directly into student's account, overall is the sum of roughly 160 000 rands.



Muvhumbi Candy Mutengwe demonstrating some of the uses of the microscopic experiment

Muvhumbi Candy Mutengwe was born and bred in Tshilungoma village outside Thohoyandou. She began her primary school at Lufule primary school, matriculated at

Azwifarwi Secondary School and proceeded to complete BSc undergraduate in Botany and Microbiology degree at UNIVEN, subsequently she submitted her honours research project which concludes her BSc honours studies, UNIVEN.

She thanked the South African Department of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries (DEFF) for funding her project.

Between 17 to 20 January 2023, she was afforded the opportunity to present her research at the 48th Annual South African Association of Botanists (SAAB) Conference that was held at Protea Hotel Ranch Resort in Polokwane.



She is earmarked to attend and present at the SANBI Annual Student Research Day on 25 and 26 April 2023.



Ms Mutengwe at SAAB Conference

She described her supervisors as cross pollinations of great minds, critical thinkers, above all, as diligent workers, and accomplished scholars.

Dr Moleseng Moshobane, a Senior Scientist at SANBI said their job is to listen to students, ask some critical and guiding questions, get them to think beyond just one point, and to go beyond thinking out of the box, to creating the box.

This research has revealed multiple locations in the country where *Ipomoea quamoclit* can be found, and the researcher has contributed to this knowledge by discovering eight new locations. Moreover, the study indicates that *Ipomoea quamoclit* can withstand temperatures as high as 40 degrees Celsius, which was previously unknown. This is an incredibly significant finding, as it expands our understanding of this species' survival capabilities and resilience. With this added information, it is essential that we take measures to control this potential invader before the cost of controlling it becomes exorbitant.



Displaying her project at the herbarium for herbarium orientation

## We would like to hear from you!

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