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The UNIVERSITY OF VENDA is the Number One Coolest University Brand in South Africa



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) was named one of the top brands in South Africa according to the recent Sunday Times GenNext survey. The survey unearthed the most admired South African brands across 70 categories, including institutions of higher learning. UNIVEN came out top beating all well-known South African universities located in the urban areas. The survey revealed that the UNIVEN brand is popular amongst the youth of the South in both rural and urban areas.

The University of Venda was followed by Yale University in position 2, Stanford University in position 3, Oxford university in position 4 and the University of Fort Hare in position 5.



“UNIVEN’s ranking as the number one coolest University brand is a culmination of dedication and commitment by the University community and it is indeed an inspiration to all of us. I am incredibly proud of the University of Venda community for this rare achievement.”

This really shows that UNIVEN is in a league of its own when it comes to being the coolest brand in the country. This outcome calls for the University to keep on promoting its brand in all communities. The use of digital technology is one of the advantages of the University of Venda because it can reach many people in a short period of time.

According to the survey stats about 5 900 young people formed part of the survey. The Sunday Times GenNext survey was audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for validity. The survey covered 98 schools to survey teens (8–12 years) and teens (13–18 years), and other engagements took place to survey young professionals (25 – 30 years).

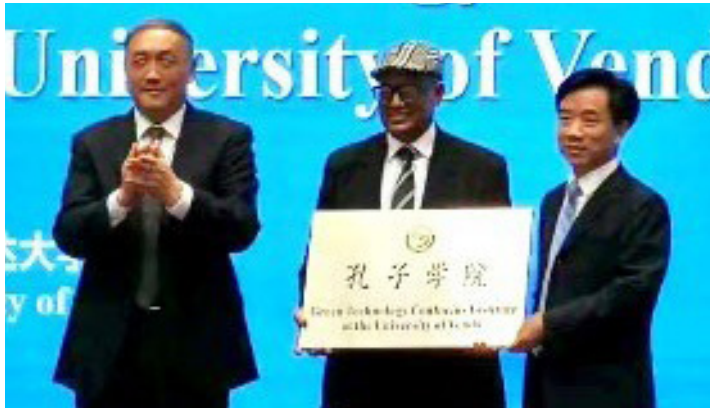


Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni said “UNIVEN’s ranking as the number one coolest University brand is a culmination of dedication and commitment by the University community and it is indeed an inspiration to all of us. I am incredibly proud of the University of Venda community for this rare achievement. This impressive ranking clearly demonstrates that UNIVEN is on track to position itself for impact and relevance. We are committed to augmenting our efforts to make a difference and effectively contribute to addressing global challenges. We are very proud of this achievement”, he concluded.

Read inside

The UNIVERSITY OF VENDA is the Number One Coolest University Brand in South Africa	1
UNIVEN awarded the Plaque to establish the University of Venda Green Technology Confucius Institute by the Chinese International Education Foundation	2
UNIVEN is the winner of the IRMSA Industry Awards Education category	2
UNIVEN celebrates its first ever UNESCO certified Master Trainer in Entrepreneurship	3
University of Venda launches Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP) UNIVEN Chapter	4
Dr Joel Baloyi is the new University Registrar	4
ACERWC appoints Prof Ademola Jegede to serve as an External Expert on Children and Climate Change	5
Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command (EFFSC) is leading the UNIVEN 2023/24 SRC elections	5
Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education hosts Research Week aiming at attaining success in research	6
Social Work Department hosts a Colloquium to redefine the pedagogy of Social Work	7
Mukhethwa Munzhedzi is on the cusp of completing her groundbreaking thesis	7
The Internal Audit and Risk Department conducts an informative Risk and Compliance Champion Training	8
The University’s Finance Division successfully hosts Finance Open Day	9

UNIVEN awarded the Plaque to establish the University of Venda Green Technology Confucius Institute by the Chinese International Education Foundation



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr. Robert Martin recently represented the University of Venda (UNIVEN) during the award of the Plaque of University of Venda Green Technology Confucius Institute at the conference centre of Beijing Language and Cultural University. UNIVEN was invited by the Chinese International Education Foundation to receive a plaque to establish the University of Venda Green Technology Confucius Institute (GTCI). The event took place on 27 September 2023.

In his address, Dr. Martin said "It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to

give a short address at this auspicious occasion on behalf of the University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni. I sincerely hope that our participation today in this momentous event reflects our deep commitment to fostering cultural exchange, education, and understanding between our nations".

"We as a university are also most appreciative of the invitation extended to us by the Chinese International Education Foundation to be awarded the Plaque of University of Venda Green Technology Confucius Institute, and I am today a proud representative of the University of Venda,



the hosting institution, newly authorised to establish a Confucius Institute in the Limpopo Province, South Africa", said Dr. Martin.

He further alluded that the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Nthambeleni, has requested him to also pass on UNIVEN's sincere gratitude to the President of Hubei University of Technology, Prof Feng Zheng, and the Vice President, Prof Song Xiaochun for ensuring the excellent commitment, cooperation, and coordination from the Department of International Relations and Partnerships team and Hubei University of Technology.

"We will also be well positioned to significantly contribute towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals on behalf of both China and South Africa, and we hope that these contributions will also spill over for the benefit of the African region via the African Union Agenda 2063 goals", he said. He further said that the GTCI at UNIVEN is not just an institution of language education; it embodies the essence of cross-cultural enlightenment.

In his concluding remarks, he said "On behalf of the University of Venda I want to give you the assurance that the establishment and operation of the Green Technology Confucius Institute at the University of Venda will be a success. We have already ensured that the appropriate resources are made available to ensure that the Institute becomes operational as soon as possible".

The Universities of Venda and Hubei University of Technology started their engagements in 2019 and this relationship has developed into a strong partnership which culminated in the signing of a MoU between the two institutions on 06 November 2022. The University of Venda Green Technology Confucius Institute was one of the 26 approved projects announced by President Xi Jinping during the recent BRICS S.A. summit and is the seventh Confucius Institute to be established in South Africa.

UNIVEN is the winner of the IRMSA Industry Awards Education category



Front Row L-R: Mrs Diana Makwarela, Dr Nalini Maharaj and Mr Tinyiko Sibiya

The University of Venda's Internal Audit and Risk Directorate was announced as the Industry Awards Education category winner. This prestigious Award was announced during the Annual Institute of Risk Management South Africa (IRMSA) awards that took place at the Gallagher Convention Centre on 12 October 2023.

Chairperson of the UNIVEN Risk Management Committee, Dr Nalini Maharaj said "IRMSA is a prestigious organization both local and international and it gives me immense pleasure to be part of the Risk Committee of UNIVEN to whom IRMSA awarded such an amazing award." Dr Maharaj commended the entire risk team, internal audit, managers, Vice-chancellor, executive deans and various risk champions who contributed towards UNIVEN receiving the IRMSA award for risk awareness and advancing risk processes in the institution. "Well done and keep up the good work," she added.

The Institute of Risk Management South Africa's annual awards acknowledge and celebrate achievements made by members who continue to make a difference in their risk management roles and within their dynamic teams.

"To be recognised as a winner amongst the big brands means a lot to us as UNIVEN. The

achievement indicates that we are making headway when it comes to the implementation of Enterprise Risk Management. However, this is also a challenge to us, which requires us to continue improving the institution's risk maturity," said Mr Tinyiko Sibiya - Head of Risk Management at UNIVEN.

The Director of Internal Audit and Risk, Mrs Diana Makwarela indicated that UNIVEN hosted a successful 2022 Strategic Risk Leadership Conversations on Higher Education Conference, and this paved the way to winning the Award.

She added that this recognition by the IRMSA would not have been possible without the hard work and support of the 2022 Risk Conference Organising Committee, Risk Champions and the University Executive Management who all made the event a resounding success.

"For us, seeing the UNIVEN brand being celebrated alongside other big brands in various categories was very encouraging. It shows that we can all play our part in enhancing the Corporate Identity of the University and really see our institution becoming the University of choice, not only for those seeking quality education but for partnerships as well," concluded Mrs Makwarela.

UNIVEN celebrates its first ever UNESCO certified Master Trainer in Entrepreneurship



Newly crowned master trainer, Mr Tendayi Gondo posing for a photo with his newly trained facilitators from the SADC region together with master trainers Janina Peschmann and Paul Jasper Herrmann of Leuphana University

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) has achieved a major milestone on its entrepreneurial mandate through its staff member, Mr Tendayi Gondo from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture for successfully completing a UNESCO-sponsored master training programme in entrepreneurship. Mr Gondo successfully completed the third final phase of his training as a UNESCO-certified Master Trainer under the mentorship of Janina Peschmann and Paul Jasper Herrmann of Leuphana Universität Lüneburg based in Germany.

The third and final phase of his training involved him facilitating a one-week long 'train the trainer' workshop in which he successfully trained 12 Student Training for Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) facilitators from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, including, Zambia (1 facilitator), Malawi (1 Facilitator), Namibia (1 facilitator), Lesotho (3 facilitators) and South Africa (6 Facilitators). South African trainee facilitators mainly came from the University of Venda (2 facilitators) and University of Limpopo (4 facilitators).

The awarding of the first-ever master training certificate to a UNIVEN staff and a second such in South Africa comes at a time when the University of Venda is stepping up its entrepreneurship mandate by finalising the UNIVEN Integrated Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Biodiversity Plan (UIEIBP).

As the University continues its journey of becoming an entrepreneurial University, such newly acquired skills will go a long way in making UNIVEN a higher education institution that actively fosters an entrepreneurial culture, promoting innovation, incubation of start-ups and knowledge transfer.

Special focus will be placed on training the staff to become effective facilitators who are able to not only infuse an entrepreneurial mindset into their curriculum but to become effective student trainers on entrepreneurship matters.

Prior to the certification, Mr Gondo was already and continues to be an active UNESCO-certified STEP facilitator in the University, where the facilitation mainly revolved around preparing undergraduate and postgraduate students for harnessing opportunities, creative problem solving and creating jobs through the (STEP). He has been and continues to be actively involved in representing the University at the national level through the Community of Practice (CoP) responsible for academic entrepreneurship. The Master Training certificate will also help raise the profile of the University internationally as Mr Gondo is now qualified to impart his entrepreneurial skills and abilities to the wider international community under the UNESCO banner. He joins a small pool of UNESCO-Certified



Master trainer Janina Peschmann (centre) and Paul Jasper Herrmann (left) of Leuphana University in Germany awarding the Master Training certificate to Mr Tendayi Gondo (right)

Master Trainers in South Africa and Africa as a second Master Trainer.

The Executive Dean, Prof Natasha Potgieter, said that she is very proud of the achievement of Mr Gondo and states that she sees that the skills Mr Gondo acquired to be playing

an essential part of the University's vision and mission on becoming an entrepreneurial University through specific skills development workshops that will promote innovation and knowledge transfer in staff and students in the University.

University of Venda launches Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP) UNIVEN Chapter



The University of Venda's (UNIVEN) Research and Innovation Directorate launched Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP) UNIVEN Chapter. This event took place on Thursday, 19 October 2023 at UIGC Seminar 1.

The SWEEP initiative is a brainchild of Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE), aimed at empowering student women by training them to be entrepreneurs in the context of women empowerment, partnerships and collaborations. The purpose is to foster relationships with fellow women and create networks that will enable women to plant a

seed of development in the world.

In his keynote address, the Economic Activation Officer, Dr Anyway Mikioni spoke about Entrepreneurship in the context of women. He said entrepreneurship does not only prepare people to do business but to have connections and build networks with other people. Dr Mikioni urged students to engage in entrepreneurship as it opens doors and empowers people socio-economically.

When introducing the Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme, Chairperson, Ms Nhlango Rampfumedzi mentioned the importance of coming together as women to empower each other.

She said SWEEP Chapter provides a platform for women to connect, support and empower each other.

Ms Rampfumedzi highlighted the SWEEP mission as "A safety net and a platform providing skills and opportunities, ensuring options in the economic participation of students women, backed by academic studies and supported by a network professional sisterhood." She said SWEEP will focus on building a leadership and professionalism platform, building entrepreneurial skills and opportunities for women, as well as sustainability and resilience.

"The benefits of joining the chapter are

endless, and that students will have access to the necessary support, connecting with like-minded individuals, grow through mentoring, networking, coaching, and training. It will also give access to other women entrepreneurs and women in business." She encouraged students to join the chapter and looked forward to working with all the students.

Coordinator at the Office of Technology Transfer, Ms Makole Magoro said the purpose of Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme is to empower female students by fostering their economic independence, professional growth, and leadership skills. She said the programme seeks to address the systemic barriers hindering women's economic empowerment in educational institutions and beyond. Ms Magoro further advised students who have business ideas to come to her office to protect the intellectual property and commercialise their products and services.

The founder of Fafies_Cucire Fashion Designer Ropafadzoyashe Tsiga started her business in 2020 majoring in wool making crochet products, she also designs and sells fabrics. Her main business is producing and selling hair scrunchies to raise money for wool since wool is expensive. "My goal is to sell these scrunchies locally and globally.

In her vote of thanks, SWEEP Chairperson, Ms Munyai Brilliant mentioned that affiliation forms will be made available, and the joining fee is R20. "If you do not have it let us know don't feel discouraged."

Ms Tshilidzi Ratalulani from the Marketing, Branding and Communication, facilitated the programme while Ms Mmalehu Seabi from the Marketing, Branding and Communication, introduced the keynote speaker.

Dr Joel Baloyi is the new University Registrar



Dr Joel Baloyi has been appointed as the Registrar of the University of Venda (UNIVEN), effective from 01 November 2023. Dr Baloyi is no stranger to the university, as he was a student in the early 90s, where he successfully completed his BJuris

Dr Joel Baloyi brings a wealth of experience to his new role as University Registrar at the University of Venda. With a background in academia, including six years as a Senior Law Lecturer at the University of South Africa and another six years as Deputy Registrar: Governance. Dr Baloyi is well-versed in the intricacies of higher education. Not only has Dr Baloyi contributed to international publications in the field of copyright law, but he has also published articles in peer-reviewed journals. This demonstrates his commitment to staying at the forefront of his field and his dedication to advancing knowledge in academia.

Continuing his academic journey, Dr Baloyi went on to obtain his LLB degree from the University of Venda in the early 2000s. He then pursued further studies, earning an LLM degree from the University of the Western Cape, followed by an LLD degree from the University of South Africa. Dr Baloyi is a qualified lawyer and was admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa in 2006. He has also undergone extensive training in various other fields, including corporate and organisational governance, compliance management, coaching, and

church ministry.

He has a wealth of experience in the governance and legal sectors. He has previously served as a Company Secretary and Head of Legal Services in industry, and most recently held the position of Deputy Registrar: Governance at the University of South Africa. Additionally, he is recognised as an expert in Copyright Law, having written the first doctoral thesis in Music Copyright Law in South Africa. His expertise in this area has led to numerous national and international consultations. In fact, in 2018, he was invited by the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry to provide expert advice on the Copyright Amendment Bill.

Dr Baloyi's commitment to professional development is evident through his completion of the Executive Development Programme at Stellenbosch University. This programme has further enhanced his skills and knowledge, equipping him to excel in his role as Registrar. With his impressive background and extensive experience, Dr Baloyi is poised to make a significant impact as the new Registrar of the University of Venda. His expertise in governance, legal matters, and Copyright

Law will undoubtedly contribute to the university's academic administration and good governance.

When asked about his feelings on returning to the University of Venda, Dr Baloyi said he fondly recalls his time as a student at this esteemed institution and now feels it is time to give back to his alma mater. Dr Baloyi looks forward to collaborating with management, the student body, the academic and administrative staff, and the broader University community to propel the University of Venda to even greater heights.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, expressed his excitement about having Dr Joel Baloyi as the new University Registrar. Prof Nthambeleni said, "We firmly believe that his wealth of experience from different sectors will significantly contribute to taking the University to greater heights. We call upon all the internal and external stakeholders to support the new University Registrar during his tenure at UNIVEN. The University of Venda looks forward to a progressive tenure under the guidance of Dr Joel Baloyi as the new University Registrar."

ACERWC appoints Prof Ademola Jegede to serve as an External Expert on Children and Climate Change



The African Union (AU) Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) has appointed Professor Ademola Oluborode Jegede of the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights (IMCPHR), Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, to serve as an external expert to its Working Group on Children and Climate Change with effect from November 2023 to October-2025. The ACERWC is an AU Organ mandated to monitor the implementation of the African Children Charter and promote and protect children's rights in Africa. The ACERWC established the Working Group on Children and Climate Change during its 35th Ordinary Session in 2020 and further renewed the mandate of the Working Group during its 41st Ordinary Session held from 28 April to 06 May 2023.

The ACERWC established the Working Group due to the increasing concern of the impact of climate change on children in Africa. While climate change has a devastating impact on all human beings, the ACERWC notes with concern that children, particularly those living in least developed and developing

countries bear the most impacts. The ACERWC believes that the Working Group can allow it to closely assess and investigate the impact of climate change on children in Africa and provide guidance on rights-based response to the challenges posed by climate change on children's rights.

Professor Jegede is an NRF rated researcher with research expertise on the interface of climate change on rights of vulnerable populations. He is widely published on that theme and is expected to use his expertise when called upon to help fulfil the mandates of the ACERWC. These include to provide support to the activities of the Working Group on Children and Climate Change; to assist the Working Group in facilitating the completion of the ongoing Continental Study on the Impacts of Climate Change on the Rights of Children in Africa and disseminating its findings and recommendations; to assist the Working Group in developing a strategy to mitigate and adapt the impacts of climate change on the rights of children in Africa, as well as in its dissemination; to assist the Working Group in developing guidelines,

policies and standards on matters related to the rights of children in the context of climate change; to undertake extensive research, gather information, and draw experiences from other mechanisms with a related mandate; and to assist the working group engage with governments of states in Africa with a view to establish laws, policies and strategies that protect the rights and welfare of children in the context of climate change, as well as in its efforts to mitigate and adapt to its impacts. The position is a non-remunerative appointment and resonates with the work of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, particularly the IMCPHR that he is leading.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Post Graduate Studies of UNIVEN, Professor Nosisi Nellie Feza, in congratulating the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management Commerce and Law, Professor Modimowabarwa Kanyane, expressed great delight about this invitation extended to Professor Jegede, which showcases again that UNIVEN is gaining significant recognition regionally and internationally.

Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command (EFFSC) is leading the UNIVEN 2023/24 SRC elections



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) has once again successfully held the 2023/24 SRC online elections. The elections were conducted by the Institute of Election Management Services in Africa (IEMSA). The 2023/24 SRC Online Elections were conducted on Thursday, 12 October 2023.

The SRC elections were contested by three (03) student political organisations, Abantu Batho Student Congress (ABSC), South African Student Congress (SASCO) and Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command (EFFSC). During these SRC elections, 9159 UNIVEN registered students



have participated and EFFSC emerged victorious with 5 572 votes, which secured them eight (08) seats, followed by SASCO with 3 084 votes which is equivalent to four (04) seats and lastly, the ABSC with 503 votes, resulting in 1 Seat.

This decisive victory by the EFFSC marks the third consecutive victory as UNIVEN student leaders. Mr. Lebogang John Ndaka has been elected as the new UNIVEN SRC President for

2023/24 term. Ndaka is a Bachelor of Arts second year student.

The University leadership congratulates all student' leaders who have been voted to lead students towards the right direction and hopes that the elected student leadership will work together with management to ensure that UNIVEN becomes a university of a choice. He has promised to address most if not all student challenges during his tenure.

Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education hosts Research Week aiming at attaining success in research



Attendees listening to speakers on day one of the Research Day



From 16-20 October 2023, the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education held a Research Week under the theme 'Self-care for Researchers: towards attaining success in research as one key strategic plan'. This Research Week was held at the University's Art Gallery and has been organized to empower, assist, and ensure practical outputs for the University of Venda (UNIVEN) researchers in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education.

Prof Takalani Mashau indicated that it is critical to advance the quality teaching and learning, supervision, community engagement, and publication outputs for any university which purports quality in all the afore mentioned key strategic plans for Researchers. Representatives from the University's HR department and the Union (NEHAWU) also participated in this Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Research Week.



Prof Angelina Maphula (left) spoke about Self-Care, giving a physiological perspective. Amongst others she spoke about components of self-care, the importance of self-care, self-awareness, effects of self-care, effects of poor self-care, ways to minimize stress, and benefits of practicing self-care.

Prof Sibusiso Masondo (right) spoke about constructing research that is excellent. The Research week covered the following topics: Research Support in Action, A mentor in a selfcare journey of a researcher, Research Productivity as self-care, results of a self-care and results of self-care as self-care.



Social Work Department hosts a Colloquium to redefine the pedagogy of Social Work



A group photo of stakeholders from various institutions, government departments, and organisations

On Thursday, 12 October 2023, the University of Venda's (UNIVEN) Department of Social Work held a Colloquium under the theme 'Redefining the pedagogy of Social Work: Roles and responsibilities of institutions in fieldwork trajectory'. This colloquium took place at the University's Research Conference Centre and was attended by staff and students from the universities of Venda and Limpopo (UL).



In his keynote Address, Dr Mbedzi who is the HoD: Social Work at UNISA and the President of the South African Council for Social Services Professions (SACSSP), Dr Paul Mbedzi spoke under the topic: the role of council on work integrated learning. His presentation covered matters such as the structure of the SACSSP where he mentioned that the SACSSP executes its mandate through its council, two professions boards and the secretariat. Dr Mbedzi continued to mention that the core mandate of SACSSP is to protect and promote the interest of the profession of Social Work, child, and youth care work. "This is to maintain and enhance

the prestige, status integrity, dignity of the professions and to protect the public. We want to ensure that every social service professional registered with the SACSSP is qualified and able to render quality services to individuals, groups, and communities in an ethical professional and effective manner.

Dr Mbedzi concluded his talk by mentioning that there is a need to enhance the relationship between placement organisations and universities.

The Director: Research and Innovation, Prof Jabulani Makhubele said UNIVEN has signed many Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various communities. Prof Makhubele advised the social work departments of both universities to work with their communities. "Start solving local communities 'challenges before you can serve other communities outside this province. We need to enter these spaces and start making our communities better places. We don't need to travel to places that are far in order to service communities. Start here in Limpopo before you could spread to other places." He further told the attendees to educate communities on social innovation as social workers to address the psychosocial challenges within our communities. "We need to be relevant and make impact. The aim is to make footprints in our communities," he said.

Dr Jimmy Budeli who is the UNIVEN Interim HoD: Social Work gave the Departmental remarks. He indicated that the Social Work Department produces graduates that are locally relevant and globally competitive. He



mentioned a number of social work graduates who are working abroad, in countries such as United Kingdom, United States of America, Ireland, etc. This is an indication that, indeed, UNIVEN social work graduates are competing amongst other graduates in the world. He also mentioned that students should also take opportunities to study abroad. He shared with the attendees that one of the social work graduates and now a lecturer in Sociology Rudzani Mamphweli pursued his postgraduate studies at Zech Republic, where he had opportunities to travel more than 10 countries. Recently, he visited China, where he visited three provinces and eleven cities. He encouraged final year social work students who were in attendance to look for the opportunities to study and work in other countries. In his departmental remarks he also mentioned that this Colloquium was done in honor of Prof Lobelo David Mogorosi who will be retiring at the end of this year. Dr.

Budeli concluded by requesting all people in attendance to give Prof. Mogorosi a standing ovation in respect of the work and the time he spent at the University of Venda.

Presentations were delivered by Ms Livhuwani Mafela (Junior Lecturer - UNIVEN); Ms Tsireledzo Sikhitha (Part Time Lecturer-UNIVEN); Mrs Motshidisi Kwakwa and Mr Theminkosi Singwane -University of Limpopo).

Former UNIVEN HoD: Department of Social Work, Prof Lobelo Mogorosi gave a vote of thanks. He indicated that social work is not a profession for making people wealthy but to assist people to get emotional satisfaction. "It is more of a calling profession where you are called to help people to overcome their challenges. Prof Mogorosi started his career in this field 40 years ago.

Mukhethwa Munzhedzi is on the cusp of completing her groundbreaking thesis



Photo supplied

Mukhethwa Munzhedzi is a Microbiology PhD student in the AIDS Virus Research laboratory at the University of Venda, under the supervision of Prof. Pascal Bessong. She is wrapping up her thesis which is focused on the burden of malaria in Limpopo Province, South Africa. She recently published an article on her work. She has been part of the Wastewater Based Epidemiology (WBE) University of Venda team, which focuses on SARS-COV-2 surveillance in Limpopo Province, South Africa, since 2020.

Joining the ICGEB Unit as an HDI Fellow, Mukhethwa explains 'The project I am working on is an initiative of the SAMRC-UNIVEN Antimicrobial Resistance and Global Health Research Unit. My research here focuses on gaining bioinformatics skills to be able to analyse data on acquisition of antibiotic-resistant gut bacteria and impact of microbiota. Additionally, I would be doing some pilot studies at ICGEB on this aspect. I'm excited to learn as much as I can at ICGEB and I'm very grateful for the opportunity to be an ICGEB fellow.

"My research here focuses on gaining bioinformatics skills to be able to analyse data on acquisition of antibiotic-resistant gut bacteria and impact of microbiota."

The Internal Audit and Risk Department conducts an informative Risk and Compliance Champion Training



On 25 and 26 October 2023, the University's Department of Internal Audit and Risk held a Risk and Compliance Champions training for thirty-six (36) staff members who were appointed from various University directorates, departments, and faculties. The University currently has only two risk officials and due to the number of directorates, faculties and departments, the management took a decision to appoint risk and compliance champions per department, directorate, and faculty. These risk and compliance champions will assist with monitoring and reporting of risk and compliance matters within their directorates, departments, and faculties. The training took place at Zebula Golf Estate, Bela-Bela.

This training has amongst other aspects covered matters related to roles and responsibilities of Risk and Compliance Champions, Risk management processes to be followed, the quarterly responsibilities towards risk and compliance management,

monitoring and identifying of risks, including compliance risks and business continuity updates.



Dr Christopher Whittle

This training was provided by Dr Christopher Whittle of Universum. On the first day of the training, Dr Whittle presented about the overview of Good Governance, Global Risk Outlook (WEF), the South African Risk Report (IRMSA), Risk Management process (Establishing context, risk assessment, risk evaluation, and treatment). On the second day of the training Dr Whittle presented about Business Continuity Management and Process, and the roles of risk and compliance Champion. He said the champions act as a change agent in the ERM process. "To derive optimal benefits, risk management ought to be conducted in a systematic manner, using proven methodologies, tools, and technique." Dr Whittle continued to say that the Risk Champions are not risk owners, they are there to guide, advise and support risk owners. He concluded his talk by mentioning that the Risk and Compliance Champions are catalysts for risk management activities and have a critical role in implementing the effective management of risk.



On the second day of the Risk and Compliance Champion's training, Director Internal Audit and Risk Department, Mrs Diana Makwarela presented the Introduction to compliance, ethics, fraud considerations, and management. Amongst other things, Mrs Makwarela presented ethics management; Conflict of interest; conflict of interest dilemmas, Fraud, and corruption Prevention; fraud triangle; ways to curb fraud and corruption.



Attendees during the training



Ms Mahlatse Shokane presented the Business Continuity Management Plan. She advised directorates, departments, and faculties to review their business Continuity and Recovery Management Plans.

The University's Finance Division successfully hosts Finance Open Day



Ms Mahlatshe Shokane, Mrs Diana Makwarela, Mrs Uanda Ndou, Mr Botwe Kraziya, Ms Tshilidzi Ramulondi, Mrs Mavis Madzhie, Mr Tebogo Monageng and Mrs Beauty Mutheiwana

On Wednesday, 11 October 2023, the University of Venda's (UNIVEN) Finance Division held its first Finance Open Day at the Auditorium. The open day was aimed at providing a platform for information sharing and engagement where participants could visit and learn from different stalls. Participants also shared their expertise through exhibitions.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Mr Botwe Kraziya, said the Finance Department has opened its doors for all staff to come in and talk to them about services that the Finance Division provides to the University. "As finance people, we make things happen within the university. We know we are not as strong as staff members expect, but we are increasing the capacity of our team to meet your expectations. We are committed to using technology to simplify processes," said Mr Kraziya

Mr Kraziya encouraged staff members to work together to achieve a common goal. In his closing remarks, the CFO urged colleagues to join and be part of the solution. He said he is excited to be associated and working with Travel IT because it has solved many previous challenges. "The name of the game today is called collaboration. There is no way you can make it without collaborating with others," said Mr Kraziya

The Director of Revenue and Financial Aid, Ms Tshilidzi Ramulondi, presented the services offered by the Revenue and Financial Aid (RFA). RFA is a newly formed Directorate within the Finance Division that oversees student debtors' management, cashier and investment management, financial aid administration, and account receivables management. NSFAS, Bursaries, Debtors, Cash Management, and ad hoc projects are some of the finance administration responsibilities RFA deals with daily.

Director Financial Management and Reporting (FMR), Mrs Mavis Madzhie presented a high-level overview of the key financial processes within the FMR department. The Department is responsible for budget compilation, Monitoring of financial performance against the projected budget and General Ledger management.

The department is also responsible for New Cost Centre Application; Allocation of Grant Funds; Access to Finance I-Enabler Application and Advance requests. Amongst others, Mrs Madzhie spoke about the role the department plays regarding university tax compliance matters, coordination of external audits, creation of cost centres, and the assigning of rights on the financial subsystem (ITS). She said they are moving towards automating their system.

Ms Mahlatshe Shokane presented the Internal Audit and Risk Directorate's existence within the University. She also spoke about services offered by the Directorate, where she advised staff members to report financial misconduct, misuse or misrepresentation of University assets, suspicious health and safety risks, plagiarism, fraud and corruption that is happening on campus using the University Hotline univenhotline@tip-offs.com or by calling the Hotline number 0800 212 755. She further invited colleagues to consult with Internal Audit and Risk when implementing new processes for advice and assessment for effectiveness.

Mrs Beauty Mutheiwana presented the services offered by the Department of Supply Chain Management and Expenditure (SCM&E). Mrs Mutheiwana further spoke about the responsibilities of all sections within SCM&E, including Asset Management, Procurement, Stores, Transport, and Expenditure.

Mr Tebogo Monageng, a Consultant from Travel IT, spoke about the services offered by Travel IT. He explained the system's benefits, including convenience through mobile bookings and approvals, the ability to choose the most cost-effective solutions to manage costs, and the app's user-friendliness.

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.**

We would like to hear from you!

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