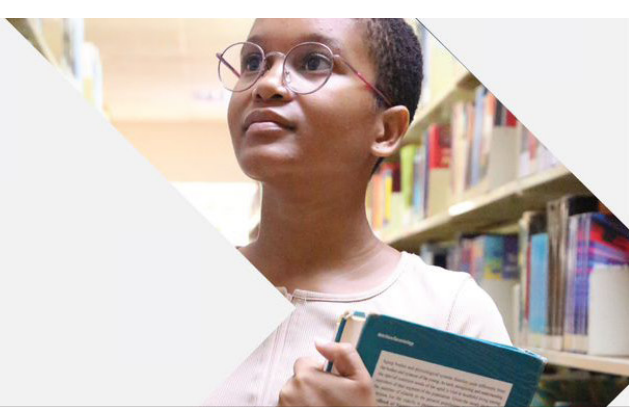




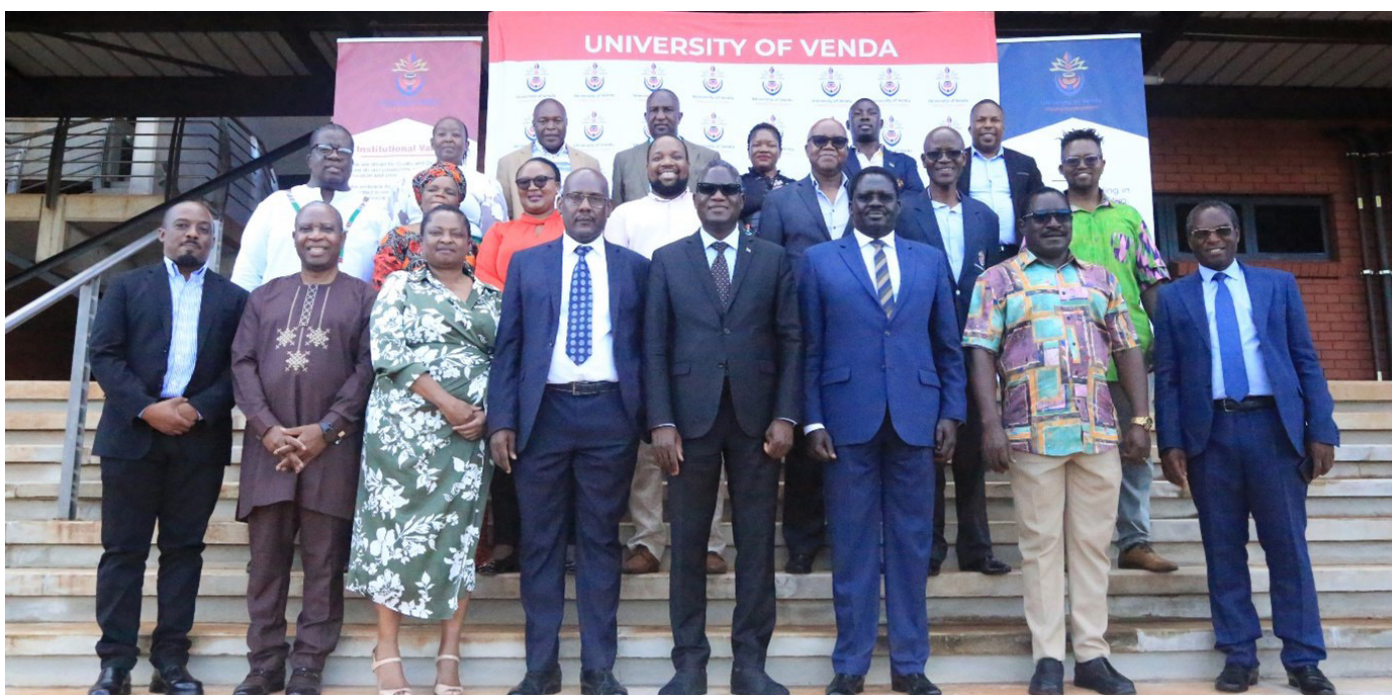
University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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The University of Venda and Kabarak University Move a Step Closer towards the Establishment of the African Musicology Institute



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) in a vibrant demonstration of cross-border academic collaboration recently played host to a distinguished delegation from Kabarak University, Kenya. Led by their Vice-Chancellor, Prof Henry Kiplangat, the visit from 5 to 9 April 2025 marked a milestone in the deepening of institutional ties between the two universities.

The official programme, held at UNIVEN's Health Sciences Building, was a convergence of intellect, leadership, and shared vision. The morning session on 7 April opened with a warm welcome from UNIVEN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, setting the tone for a day of productive engagements. Prof Nthambeleni provided an overview of South Africa's higher education landscape, noting that there are

26 public universities divided into traditional, technology, and comprehensive institutions of which the University of Venda (UNIVEN) is a comprehensive university.



Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, UNIVEN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal

He emphasised UNIVEN's strategic positioning near the borders of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, its student population of 16,000, and its focus on research, innovation, and diversity. The university is developing a new strategic plan emphasising excellence, impact, and relevance. Prof Nthambeleni also highlighted the importance of African partnerships, expressing gratitude for the collaboration with Kabarak University and stressing the need for intra-African academic engagement.



Prof Henry Kiplangat, Kabarak University Vice-Chancellor

Prof Henry Kiplangat presented a compelling overview of Kabarak University's mission, vision, and strategic thrusts, highlighting Kabarak University as one of Kenya's top private Christian universities. Located in Nakuru City, the university offers holistic education based on Biblical values. Established in 2000 by former President Daniel Arap Moi, it boasts a diverse student body, strong academic growth, and over 118 accredited programmes across seven schools. It holds high national and regional rankings, is ISO 9001:2015 certified, and actively collaborates with international institutions. Professor Kiplangat emphasised a desire to deepen partnerships with UNIVEN in research, innovation, and academic excellence.

An insightful message of support from Prof Tawanda Runhare, Acting Executive Dean at UNIVEN showed immense gratitude to university leadership and key stakeholders for supporting the renewal and expansion of the MoU between the University of Venda and Kabarak University, highlighting the proposed establishment of the African Musicology Institute (AMI) as a key milestone. He said the faculty is committed to

resuscitating degree programmes in music by 2026 and reintroducing the Department of Music and Media, with support from internal quality assurance structures. Prof Runhare said the AMI will facilitate teaching, research, and community engagement through degree programmes, short courses, and an annual music festival, all contributing to the visibility and impact of the MoU in practical terms.

The delegate from Kabarak university, Professor Mellitus Wanyama also shared key findings on Realising the Vision of the African Musicology Institute (AMI) and outlined the institute's origin through the UNIVEN-KABU MoU, which includes staff/student exchanges and joint academic activities. AMI will be the first African institute solely focused on musicology, with goals centred on research, scholarship, and community engagement. He said between 2025–2030, AMI will plan conferences, joint publications, PhD supervision, and journal outputs. He outlined that in the long-term 2030 to 2040, it aims to expand continent-wide, building infrastructure, and elevate African musicology globally. He concluded by saying the AMI integrates multidisciplinary fields and will operate on a dual-campus model.

The heart of the engagement was a closed roundtable discussion chaired by renowned academic, Prof Geoff Mapaya. While the details of the strategic conversation remain confidential, the discourse explored forward-looking opportunities around African Musicology, institutional collaboration models, sustainability planning, and future programme expansion. Participants included senior executives and academic leaders from both institutions, reflecting a strong commitment to continental collaboration.

The session culminated in the proposed renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reaffirming the institutions' intent to enhance academic mobility, research, and community engagement initiatives. Dr Segun Obadire, Director of International Relations and

Partnerships at UNIVEN, facilitated the review and proposed amendments and reiterated that the current MoU expiring in 2027 does not require immediate review but can be enhanced with newly discussed areas. He supported establishing a joint degree programme featuring both universities' logos on a shared certificate. He suggested using the signed MoU as a foundation for future agreements and expansion documents.

The Chief Operating Officer of UNIVEN, Mr Botwe Kraziya gave a summary of action items and next steps. Mr Kraziya emphasised self-reliance, collaboration, and legacy-building in establishing impactful academic programmes rooted in Africa. He also highlighted the potential of niche offerings like music business and music law to make the university stand out. He urged swift action, cross-faculty collaboration, and strong leadership to drive the project's successful implementation.



In their closing remarks, Prof Henry Kiplangat expressed appreciation for the warm reception and echoed the sentiment that the future of African higher education lies in strategic partnerships and cultural exchange. Prof Nthambeleni, echoing this view, highlighted the value of sustained academic diplomacy in shaping inclusive growth.

The day concluded with a campus tour led by Mr Aluwani Magadani, showcasing UNIVEN's cutting-edge facilities across the Health Sciences Building, Main Administration, Music Department, and others.



Herb garden visit



Music Department



UNIVEN Radio Station visit

Shaping the Future: UNIVEN Inducts 2025 Societal Impact Review Panel

Prof Vhonani Netshandama, Director of Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation, and Commercialisation, expressed her appreciation for the panel

members' dedication in contributing their time and expertise to a collaborative journey of co-learning and co-creation facilitated by the university. She noted that this marks the

second Societal Impact Review Panel cohort, following the inaugural group in 2024. The session began with a reflective exercise, inviting participants to share their understanding of “societal impact.”



Panel members, project leaders and secretariat for the 2025 societal impact project evaluation.



Prof Joseph Francis

In his opening remarks, Prof Joseph Francis, the Acting DVC for Research and Postgraduate Studies, emphasised that the University of Venda is uniquely positioned with pockets of excellence to demonstrate its relevance through projects that positively impact society. He acknowledged the diverse stakeholders present at the workshop, including academics, support staff, traditional leaders, retired professionals, youth, and civil servants. Reflecting on the University's progressive journey, he shared the institution's vision of leading in engaged scholarship while producing graduates who are both locally relevant and globally competitive. Prof Francis also outlined expectations for the future, emphasising that, as we transition toward becoming an engaged and entrepreneurial university, we must treat everyone with dignity, remembering that we are part of the community we often refer to as “the other”.



Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo

Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo, Director of Strategy and Risk, delivered a presentation on bringing science to the people. He emphasised the importance of the science-society interface, highlighting the need to take research directly to the citizens, co-generate, and co-create knowledge with grassroots communities, and spark interest in science and innovation. Dr Ratombo encouraged participants to rethink the narrative surrounding knowledge, advocating for a shift in how we view and characterise it. He stressed the importance of enhancing scientific understanding and connecting it with grassroots efforts. He also called for public education on the value of Indigenous knowledge, fostering greater interest in grassroots innovation, and building a society that supports science communication through engaged scholarship.

Mr Koketjo Lekoane, Manager of Evaluations, presented on assessing societal impact and the UNIVEN strategic plan. He outlined the key criteria for evaluating societal impact: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Mr Lekoane then introduced the three projects that the panel would be reviewing: Waste to Energy (biogas renewable energy)—a bioenergy community pilot project; the Vuwani Science Resource Centre Programmatic Support and Science Awareness initiative; and the Innovation Champions for Local Economic Development (IC4LED) programme.



Ms Mulalo Maumela


Ms Mulalo Maumela, a PhD candidate and Social Impact Researcher serving as a research assistant, shared key lessons drawn from the review of three 2024 projects assessed for their societal impact. Among the insights highlighted were:

- Persistent self-doubt among staff and panel members regarding their competence in decolonial participatory processes;

- A recurring inclination to evaluate the project itself rather than its societal impact;
- A tendency to undervalue the significance of people's lived experiences and stories.



Panel members of the Vuwani Science Resource Centre



UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

2025 May Graduation Ceremonies

The Chancellor of the University of Venda (UNIVEN), Adv Mojanku Gumbi invites you to the 2025 May Graduation Ceremonies that will take place at the University Auditorium from 13 -16 May 2025 and are scheduled to start at 09h00 am (morning sessions) and 13h30 (afternoon sessions).
 Graduands and Guests should arrive **TWO HOURS BEFORE** the commencement of each session.
 NB: For more information, kindly contact the Faculty Administrators as reflected in each session.
 Please visit our website: www.univen.ac.za.

SESSIONS	DATE	TIME
SESSION 1	13 MAY 2025	09H00
Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law Management and Commerce	Julius Netshidzivhe	015 962 8961 julius.netshidzivhe@univen.ac.za
SESSION 2	13 MAY 2025	13H30
Faculty of Health Sciences Health Sciences	Aluwani Bugane	015 962 8942 aluwani.bugane@univen.ac.za
Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law Law	Julius Netshidzivhe	015 962 8961 julius.netshidzivhe@univen.ac.za
SESSION 3	14 MAY 2025	09H00
Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture Environmental Sciences	Prince Khakhu	015 962 8221 prince.khakhu@univen.ac.za
Agricultural Sciences	Maxwell Maboho	015 962 8880 maxwell.maboho@univen.ac.za
SESSION 4	14 MAY 2025	13H30
Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture Maths and Natural Sciences	Mukondeleli Masia	015 962 8086 mukondeleli.masia@univen.ac.za
SESSION 5	15 MAY 2025	09H00
Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Human and Social Sciences	Mashudu Mainganye	015 962 8969 mashudu.mainganye@univen.ac.za
SESSION 6	15 MAY 2025	13H30
Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Education [BEDFE, BEDTEF and PGCE]	Gumani Tshimange	015 962 8888 gumani.tshimange@univen.ac.za
SESSION 7	16 MAY 2025	09H00
Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education All Postgraduate Programmes in the Faculty Honours, Masters and Doctoral	Mashudu Mainganye	015 962 8969 mashudu.mainganye@univen.ac.za
	Gumani Tshimange	015 962 8888 gumani.tshimange@univen.ac.za



REGISTRATION

CLASSES 2025

HUAWEI

The University of Venda invites its unemployed graduates and registered students in Computer Science or BIS or any IT related qualification to register for Huawei certification programmes

The University of Venda, through its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department, has consistently been at the forefront of providing students with valuable industry-recognised certifications. In line with this commitment, the ICT Department is pleased to announce the continuation of its partnership with Huawei in 2025, offering training programmes that will equip students with the knowledge and skills required to excel in the competitive job market. These programmes are offered at no cost to the students.

Registration is now open, and it will close on **Sunday, 27 April 2025**. Classes will commence in **May 2025** and the exact date will be communicated with registered candidates.

Certified students will be afforded an opportunity to attend a job fair at Huawei Office Park in Johannesburg. During this event, Huawei invites its industry partners to interview students for internship opportunities.

Students can register for one or more courses in the following disciplines:



- Datacom • Artificial Intelligence • Big Data

To register your name, follow the link below or scan the QR code today.
<https://forms.office.com/r/4Bwj8M66hm>

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.