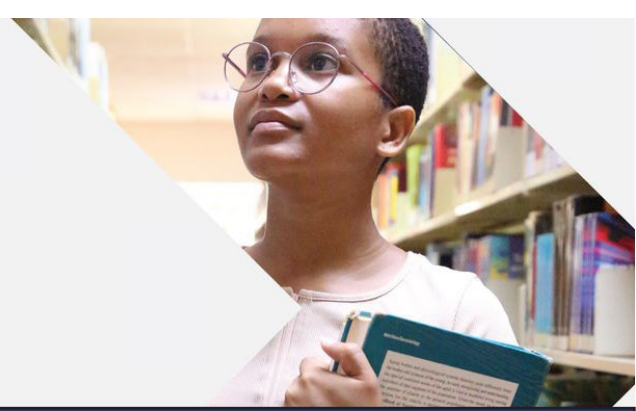




University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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Career Expo at the University of Venda: Empowering Learners with Knowledge and Opportunity



The University of Venda (UNIVEN), in partnership with Mukonazwothe Career Support Group, hosted a transformative week-long career guidance from 21 to 25 April 2025. This dynamic collaboration aimed to ignite ambition, provide guidance, and inspire 5000 Grade 9 learners from Vhembe East District to shape their futures with clarity and purpose. A total of 158 schools participated in this year's career exhibition, reflecting the growing interest and commitment to empowering learners with valuable information and guidance for their future careers.

During the welcome and purpose address, Mr. Justice Lebopa from the University of Venda's Department of Marketing, Branding, and Communication highlighted the theme of the second UNIVEN-Mukona Career Guidance event: "Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders."



He emphasised that the initiative brings together education, industry, and government to empower rural youth with the knowledge they need to make informed career choices. The programme featured motivational talks, skills workshops, and engaging exhibitions. It provided learners with valuable information about various career paths and the importance of selecting the right subjects early—so that by the time they reach Grade 10, they can make well-informed decisions about their future careers.

The recent career exhibition at the University of Venda brought together distinguished speakers from academia, industry, and the public sector, all of whom contributed valuable insights aimed at empowering learners with information and inspiration for their future careers.

Mr. George Mathye from the Department of Agriculture opened the event by discussing career opportunities within the agricultural sector. He highlighted the availability of funding support for learners throughout their academic journey, encouraging students to consider agriculture as a viable and rewarding career path.

Representing the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Ms. Muravha Malima outlined the range of qualifications offered by the faculty, providing detailed information on course durations and admission requirements.

Ms. Carmen Johnson, a career coach from the Mukona Foundation, brought a professional perspective on career readiness. She emphasised the importance of mentorship and soft skills, underscoring how critical thinking, communication, and emotional intelligence workshops can enhance academic and professional success.

Mr. Godfrey Mavhasa, a presenter at Phalaphala FM, shared practical insights into the media industry, providing learners with an understanding of the dynamic nature of careers in broadcasting and journalism.

Ms. Murendeni Mukwevho, a Generic Manager at UNIVEN and a practicing beehive farmer, spoke passionately about entrepreneurship. She encouraged learners to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and to explore opportunities beyond conventional employment.

Ms. Moloko Ramatshila, a successful businesswoman, introduced learners to the wide-ranging opportunities in the tourism and

hospitality sectors, drawing from her personal experiences to illustrate the potential for growth and innovation in these industries.

From the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture at UNIVEN, Ms. Julia Sigama elaborated on the diverse careers and qualifications offered within the faculty. She provided an overview of its three main divisions: Agricultural Sciences, Engineering and Built Environment, and Natural and Mathematical Sciences. In her closing remarks, she urged learners to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, as strong performance in these areas is essential for admission into many programmes.

Adding a school-level perspective, Ms. Maria Makhubele, a teacher at Thambisa Secondary School, stressed the importance of career guidance for Grade 9 learners. She highlighted how early exposure allows students to make informed subject choices before they become limited in later grades. She commended the event for including younger learners and encouraged its continued support.

Grade 9 learner Yinhla Zabel Mutarini from Ngezimani High School shared her experience, stating that the expo helped her make an informed career decision. Initially aspiring to become a businesswoman, she was inspired to pursue a career as a dietitian—combining her interests in health and business—after guidance from mentors at the event. She emphasised the value of early career exploration in shaping one's future.

Over the course of the five-day event, ten interactive breakaway sessions were held—two per day—covering vital topics such as emotional intelligence, career planning, and personal discipline. These sessions, facilitated by Triads Consulting and Ms. Carmen Johnson, offered professional insight and mentorship aimed at equipping learners with essential soft skills for success.

A key highlight of the programme was the career exhibition itself, where learners had the opportunity to explore career paths, engage with professionals, and interact with academic representatives. This hands-on experience gave learners a clearer understanding of their options and the steps required to achieve their goals.

Daily panel discussions themed “What is in this Career?” brought a personal and inspiring element to the event. Professionals from diverse backgrounds shared their career journeys, challenges, and successes, helping to demystify various professions and spark curiosity in learners. These sessions offered a unique opportunity for students to connect with role models and gain real-world perspectives on potential career paths.

The success of the event was made possible through the collaboration of the University of Venda, the Mukonazwothe Career Support Group, and the Limpopo Department of Education. The Department played a pivotal role by mobilising learners from 18 circuits within the Vhembe District, ensuring broad access and participation.

Echoing the vision of the career exhibition, Mr Aubrey Matsila, Director of the Mukona Foundation, praised the event as exceptionally well-organised, highlighting the impressive turnout of learners and the strong support from the Department of Education.



He emphasised the value he places on the Foundation's partnership with the University of Venda in their shared mission to empower and inspire rural youth. Mr Matsila expressed deep gratitude for the enthusiastic response from exhibitors, describing it as both humbling and a powerful affirmation of the event's significance.

The exhibition stood as a clarion call to corporate partners, government agencies, and academic institutions to collaborate in shaping a brighter future for rural learners. With targeted investment in educational outreach, the ripple effects can uplift entire communities and narrow the opportunity gap between urban and rural areas.

As the career exhibition week unfolded, it became clear that a new future was envisioned—one rooted in leadership, ambition, and hope. At the University of Venda, with steadfast guidance, community support, and the passion of motivated young minds, the seeds of transformation are already taking root in the heart of Limpopo's Vhembe district.

Dr Makhado continues to shine as a young junior lecturer at the University of Venda

Please join us in celebrating the phenomenal Dr. Thendo Gertie Makhado, a dazzling force in health Sciences who continues to blaze trails and break barriers at only 29 years old! In a moment that has truly shaken the academic and research world, Dr. Makhado, a Junior lecturer at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Advanced Nursing Sciences, has been

awarded the prestigious NRF Y2 Rating in 2025 – a recognition reserved for emerging researchers with the potential to become international leaders in their fields.

Since she was appointed Junior Lecturer in Advanced Nursing at the University of Venda in 2022, Dr. Makhado has been a blazing beacon

of hope and innovation. With a Ph.D. in Nursing earned in 2023, she has spearheaded groundbreaking research on epilepsy education in rural schools, funded by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC).



Dr. Thendo Gertie Makhado

Her Epilepsy Life Skills Education Guidelines are more than a project — they are a revolution in how we nurture, protect, and empower children with epilepsy.

With 18 peer-reviewed publications (six stemming directly from her Ph.D.), Dr. Makhado is not only academically fierce but also deeply rooted in community impact, addressing maternal mortality, HIV, PTSD in rape survivors, and more. She has secured multiple research grants, which include SAMRC, USDP, and National Health Institute (NHI), in collaboration with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Dr. Makhado continues to shine as a young junior lecturer at the University of Venda.

“Congratulations, Dr. Makhado! You are the embodiment of brilliance, resilience, and radical transformation. South Africa is proud. The world is watching. And your story is only just beginning,” said Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.




Invitation To The 2025 UNIVEN Careers Exhibition Vhembe East District

The University of Venda, in collaboration with CEIA, invites you to the 2025 UNIVEN Careers Exhibition (Vhembe East District) from **5-9 May 2025** at the University Auditorium. The event will host around 17,500 grade 12 learners from 160 schools, featuring exhibitors from higher education institutions, private and public sectors, and funding bodies.

Monday, 05 May 2025	Malamulele Central; Sibasa; Malamulele South	 08:00
Tuesday, 06 May 2025	Malamulele East; Malamulele North East; Luvuvhu; Malamulele West	 08:00
Wednesday, 07 May 2025	Mutshindudi; Tshinane; Vhumbedzi	 08:00
Thursday, 08 May 2025	Dzindi; Mvudi; Vhuronga 1	 08:00
Friday, 09 May 2025	Mudaswali; Niani East; Niani West; Sambandou; Tshilamba	 08:00

For More Information Contact

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UNIVERSITY OF VENDA 2025 May Graduation Ceremonies

The Chancellor of the University of Venda (UNIVEN), Adv Mojanku Gumbe 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 [BEDFET, 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 Gumani Tshimange	015 962 8969 mashudu.mainganye@univen.ac.za 015 962 8888 gumani.tshimange@univen.ac.za