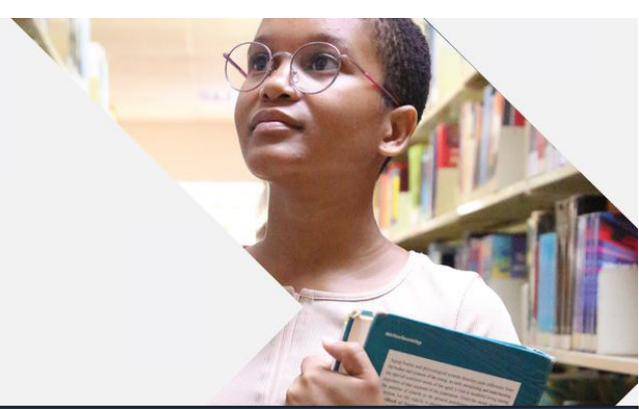




University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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Flying the Flag for South African Higher Education: UNIVEN at ZITF 2025



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) is accelerating its regional engagement efforts, as showcased by its dynamic participation in the 2025 Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF). In alignment with Strategic Objective 15—aimed at enhancing the University's local, regional, and global visibility—UNIVEN dispatched a dedicated delegation to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, from 21 to 26 April 2025.

The delegation, representing the Directorate of International Relations and Partnerships as well as Marketing, Branding, and Communication, included Matome Mokoena, Mirero Makhado, Tsundzuka Hakamela, and Mphinyana Nemasitoni.

This year's ZITF, held under the theme "Industrialisation: Crafting an Integrated Economic Landscape," attracted over 400 exhibitors from across Zimbabwe, the region, and globally. The event gained further prestige with the attendance of regional leaders, including His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe and His Excellency President Daniel Chapo of Mozambique. The Limpopo Premier's office was also present, with UNIVEN standing out as South Africa's sole higher education representative in Hall 3—designated for institutions of higher learning.

The fair presented a unique opportunity for the university to strengthen its regional presence and to actively recruit international students

in line with both its strategic objectives and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Higher Education. The UNIVEN team engaged with a diverse array of stakeholders, including prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students, representatives from the business sector, and other higher education institutions.



Prof Doreen Zandile Moyo, Gwanda State University (GSU) Vice Chancellor, posing for a picture at the UNIVEN Exhibition stand

Throughout the event, the delegation highlighted UNIVEN's academic offerings, admission processes, student support services, and areas for research and collaboration. Information provided included undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across four faculties: Science, Engineering, and Agriculture; Management, Commerce, and Law; Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education as well as Health Sciences.

The team also emphasised the university's commitment to community engagement and rural development, positioning UNIVEN as a hub for both academic and societal transformation.



During engagements, the delegation underlined the university's cutting-edge infrastructure, including modern laboratories, fully equipped libraries, and state-of-the-art ICT facilities—offering students a dynamic and globally competitive learning environment.

UNIVEN's visible presence and proactive engagement at ZITF not only underscored its role in promoting South African higher education across borders but also laid the groundwork for future partnerships. As the university continues to implement forward-thinking internationalisation strategies, it is well-positioned to attract top-tier students and academic collaborators from across the continent.

By expanding its footprint in Southern Africa, the University of Venda is actively contributing to regional integration and socioeconomic development, reinforcing its vision to become a leading institution of higher learning in Africa.

Convocation hosted a Workshop to Strengthen Alumni Engagement and to Advance UNIVEN Vision 2040



On 24 and 25 April 2025, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Convocation hosted its Strategic Planning Workshop to strengthen alumni engagement and to advance UNIVEN's vision 2040. This workshop took place at the Protea Hotel, Fire and Ice in Pretoria.

The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Professor Joseph Francis, officially opened the Convocation Workshop on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal. He described the workshop as a valuable opportunity for Convocation to reflect, re-imagine, and reset its vision.



In his remarks on the theme, "Strengthening Alumni Engagement to Advance UNIVEN Vision 2040," Professor Francis encouraged deep reflection by posing a series of thought-provoking questions: As Convocation and

Alumni, what is your positioning statement in light of the University's strategic direction? How will you embody and uphold that statement? Will you contribute your time, talent, or other resources to support this vision?

In conclusion, he extended his best wishes for a successful and impactful workshop.

The workshop reflected on the 2021-2024 period, reviewing the achievements and challenges of previous Convocation programmes and identifying opportunities for future convocation initiatives. During this workshop, members of Convocation extracted key areas from the previous strategy that are still relevant for developing a foundation for the new Convocation strategy. As the day progressed, members of the Convocation came up with key strategic priorities of new Convocation Strategy while aligning the new strategy with UNIVEN's vision 2040.





On Day two of the workshop, the two groups from the breakaway sessions gave feedback on key focus areas of the 2025 Programme of Action. Then later, they finalised and adopted the Convocation's 2025 Programme of Action for ratification by the Executive Committee of Convocation.



The President of Convocation, Mr Sylvester Motadi, in his concluding remarks, said that the amount of time that was spent trying to achieve the strategic goals of Convocation was not in vain. "We have achieved a lot, and we can only improve from here. It is important to achieve all the activities that we have set for ourselves." He encouraged members of Convocation to work hard and make sure that they achieve all their goals. "We also have a task of not compromising one another in the process," he said.



The Deputy President of Convocation, Mr Rudzani Mushweu, thanked the University Management for rendering the thought-provoking presentation and support.



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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 [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

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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.