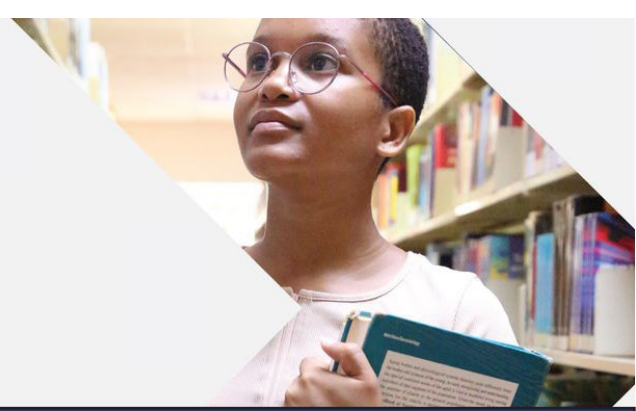




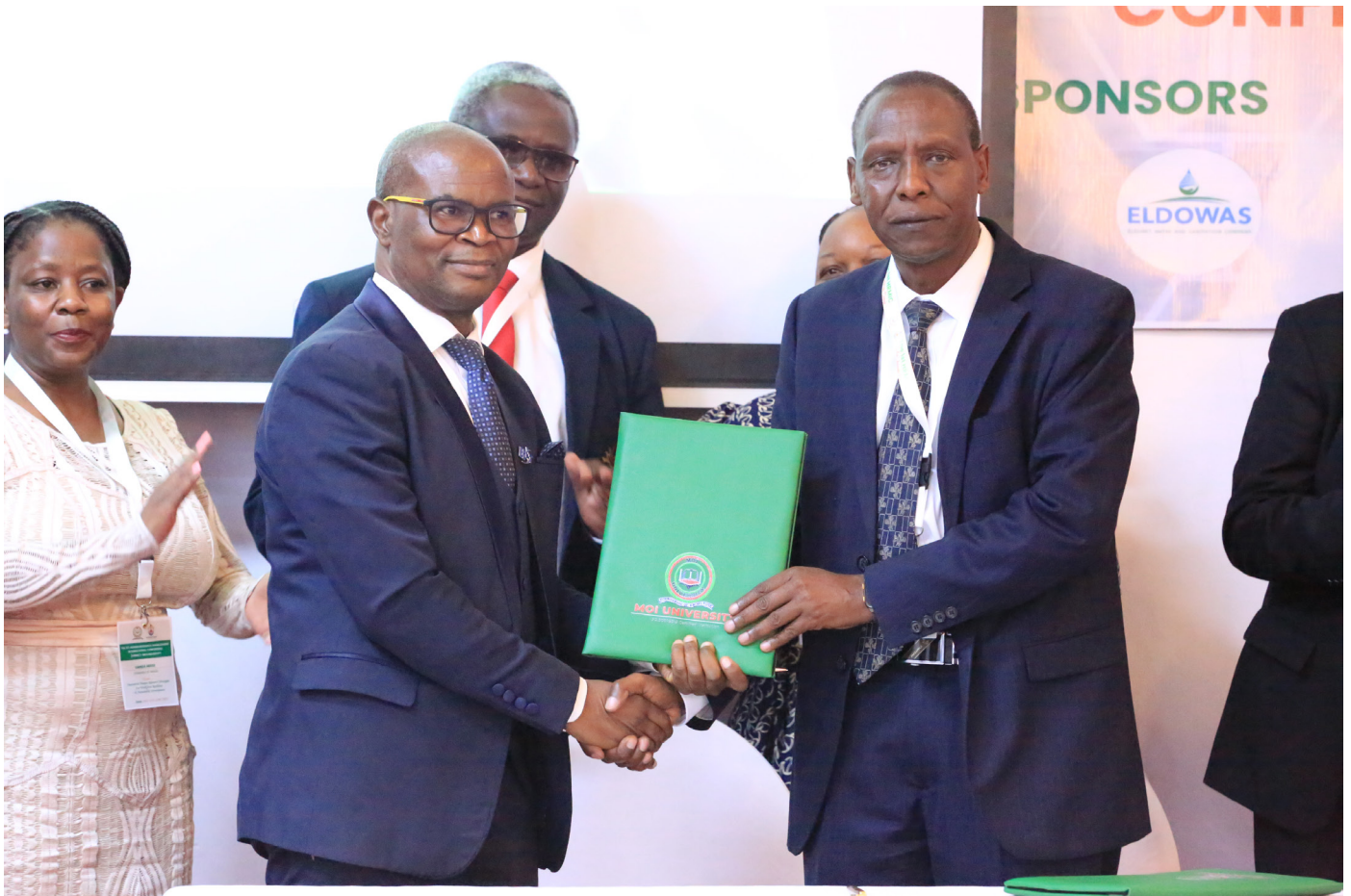
University of Venda  
Creating Future Leaders

# UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



ISSUE 30 | 05 June 2025

## UNIVEN signs an MoU with Moi University



*Prof Barwa Kanyane exchanging the signed MoU with Prof Kiplagat Kotut*

The signing ceremony of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Moi University and UNIVEN took place on 03 June 2025 during the official opening of the 1st Human Resources Management International Conference (HRMIC). This international conference, under the auspices of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law and Moi University School of Business and Management is taking place at Boma Inn Hotel in Eldoret, Kenya, between 2 and 5 June 2025.

After signing this MoU, the Executive Dean of Management, Commerce and Law, Prof Barwa Kanyane, representing the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, expressed with immense pride that the signing of this MoU is going to benefit staff and students, including communities in South Africa and Kenya.

The Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, facilitated by the University of Venda's



Department of Human Resource Management and Labour Relations is co-hosting the 1st Human Resource Management International Conference (HRMIC) with Moi University's School of Business Management.

Participants of this HRMIC Conference hail from universities such as Durban University of Technology, University of Free State, University of South Africa, including international universities from the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Ghana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda and the United States of America.

Moi University's Acting Vice-Chancellor signed the MOU, and University of Venda's Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, Prof Barwa Kanyane, on behalf of Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Bernard Nthambeleni.

The two universities intend to promote direct contact and corporation between their institutions in the following areas: holding jointly organised meetings/workshops, on subjects of mutual interest; to use staff members from the respective partner university as external examiners, specifically at postgraduate levels; to benchmark their teaching and learning methods; to exchange staff and students; to undertake collaborative research, teaching and learning, publications and community engagement activities; to cooperate and as appropriate, with relevant national, regional and international institutions operating within the region in the design, implementation and assessment of capacity development initiatives to achieve maximum impact on matters of mutual interest and to develop joint student mobility initiatives.

Moi University is a public university located in Kesses, Uasin Gishu County, in Rift Valley County, Kenya. It was established in 1984 by the Moi University Act of Parliament of Kenya. This University has a vision to be the university of choice in nurturing innovation and talent in science, technology and development.



*Dr Khathutshelo Khashane during live interview on Kenya's national television after the signing of the MoU*



*Prof Barwa Kanyane (left) and Prof Kiplagat Kotut (right) exchanging the signed MoU with witnesses of the signed MoU from both universities*



*Prof Barwa Kanyane during live interview on Kenya's national television after the signing of the MoU*



## ABASA UNIVEN Students Chapter's Drive to motivate students and uplift local school

The Association of Black Accountants of Southern Africa (ABASA) University of Venda (UNIVEN) Students' Chapter hosted two highly impactful and multifaceted events from 20 to 24 May 2025. These events were part of a virtual exam motivation session for Accountancy students and an outreach programme at Khwevha Commercial School, both designed to inspire academic success and foster community partnerships.

On 20 May 2025, the ABASA UNIVEN Students' Chapter (SC) hosted a virtual webinar on Microsoft Teams to inspire and motivate students in the Department of Accountancy as they prepared for their examinations.

In this virtual event, ABASA UNIVEN SC Academic Officer Mr Koma Tlhogologo warmly welcomed attendees, emphasising the significance of peer and mentor support. ABASA UNIVEN SC Deputy Chairperson, Mr Robinson Lekhuleni set the tone by reinforcing the importance of maintaining focus and emotional resilience during exam preparations. He noted that the session was a platform for students to gain practical examination preparation, writing tools, and renewed determination for success. Programme Director and ABASA UNIVEN SC Transformation Officer, Ms Tshabopja Moshoma highlighted the role of mental health and preparation strategies in academic success.

Mr Aluwani Phineas Mudau shared his inspiring journey from a rural upbringing to becoming the top graduate in his class at UNIVEN. Now serving as a trainee accountant at the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) and an academic trainee at UNIVEN, he emphasised the power of understanding one's "why" as a foundation for navigating the "how." He offered practical advice, including seeking mentorship, regularly reviewing academic principles, and using mind maps as a study tool to enhance retention.



*Ms Moloko Majuta CA(SA), an auditor and academic*

Ms Moloko Majuta, CA(SA), was introduced by ABASA UNIVEN SC Marketing Officer Mr Tumisho Rakgolana. With over 13 years of experience in auditing and academia, she shared an inspiring story of perseverance, highlighting her journey to completing the CTA after six years of dedicated efforts. Now operating at an international level and actively mentoring South African youth, Ms Majuta underscored the value of resilience, self-confidence, and aligning one's goals with long-term career aspirations. She encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones and embrace new study strategies to achieve success.



*Mr Aluwani Phineas Mudau, a trainee accountant at the Auditor General South Africa (AGSA) and an academic trainee at UNIVEN, Department of Accountancy*



Ms Queen Vhulahani Munyai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Consumer Goods Services Ombud (pictured in the previous page), was introduced by Mr Ndivhuwo Sirembe, a University of the Free State lecturer and UNIVEN Master's graduate. Drawing from over two decades of experience in the financial sector, Ms Queen Munyai recounted her academic path, which began with a BA degree before transitioning into accounting. She emphasised the importance of setting clear career goals, maintaining self-discipline, and staying true to oneself. Her message encouraged students to embrace their unique paths, seek guidance from mentors, and approach challenges with resilience and humility.



*Mr Mangena Ludwig, ABASA Limpopo Representative and a Financial Accountant at State Information Technology Agency (SITA)*

Mr Ludwig Mangena, currently awaiting his CA(SA) certification, highlighted the advantages of being part of ABASA. He encouraged students to join and leverage leadership opportunities and support networks within the organisation.

### **Strengthening Ties: Outreach at Khwevha Commercial School**

From May 23 to 24, ABASA UNIVEN SC conducted a two-day outreach at Khwevha Commercial School, laying the foundation for a long-term partnership aimed at academic and professional support for the students and staff members at the school. During the visit, ABASA UNIVEN SC representative which consists of Mr Koma Tlhogelolo, Mr Robinson Lekhuleni, Ms Tshabopja Moshoma, Mr Asanda Morale, Ms Tshedza Neluvhola and Mr Tumisho Rakgolana, introduced learners to ABASA UNIVEN SC's mission and highlighted educational and career opportunities in the field of Accountancy.

Learners actively engaged with the presenters, asking questions and expressing their aspirations.

On the second day of the event, the team's focus shifted to hands-on support, where learners received guidance on completing university applications and understanding admission requirements. To ensure sustained engagement, ABASA UNIVEN SC team members identified coordinators and assigned them a task of providing ongoing mentorship and support for interested students.

The ABASA UNIVEN Students' Chapter (SC) has established a long-term partnership with Khwevha Commercial High School. This initiative aims to provide sustained academic and career support to learners who have expressed interest in furthering their education and professional aspirations. This collaboration reflects ABASA UNIVEN SC's dedication to shaping future leaders and making a lasting impact in the communities that UNIVEN serves.

This event is in line with several FMCL's Strategic Objectives (SO), including the following: (SO1) - To enhance student well-being and success; (SO3) - To strengthen the engagement of students, staff, and community stakeholders; and (SO15) - To strengthen the university's local, regional, and international profile and visibility.





## University of Venda Welcomes New York University Postgraduate Delegation in a Spirit of Transformative Collaboration



*Group photo of participants*

On 29 May 2025, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) proudly hosted postgraduate students and staff from New York University (NYU) at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education – African Languages building. This vibrant gathering, attended by over 40 guests, including UNIVEN's own students and academics, marked a dynamic exchange of ideas, cultures, and academic aspirations.

Mr Thabo Dikgale, Manager for Internationalisation at the University of Venda, opened by encouraging introductions to foster connection and understanding among attendees, valuing the diversity of backgrounds and accents. He highlighted the intentional selection of students from across various academic fields to promote interdisciplinary engagement.

Emphasising the university's strong international ties, especially with U.S institutions, he noted a busy period of global collaboration. Mr Dikgale stressed the importance of transformative education and community engagement, encouraging students to focus their research on real-world challenges. He concluded by warmly welcoming guests, inviting them to explore the campus, and expressing eagerness to learn about their academic contributions.



*Prof Annette Lansink, Research Associate*



*Mr Thabo Dikgale, Manager: Internationalisation*

Prof Annette Lansink, who is a Research Associate at the Ishmael Mohammed Centre for Human and Peoples Rights, gave a historical account of the University of Venda (UNIVEN), noting its origins under apartheid as an institution created to enforce ethnic separation, which left it under-resourced and marginalised. She emphasised that despite this exclusionary foundation, UNIVEN has evolved into a competitive, research-driven university,

making significant contributions to South Africa's knowledge economy. With strong growth in areas like environmental science, agriculture, health sciences, HIV/AIDS research, and Indigenous knowledge, the university now hosts multiple research institutes and NRF-rated scholars. Prof Lansink attributed this transformation not only to national policy but also to the dedication of academic staff, international partnerships, and visionary leadership. She concluded that UNIVEN's progress reflects its resilience and commitment to community engagement, innovation, and social justice, despite the challenges of its past.



*Prof Tebogo Moja of New York University (NYU)*

Prof Tebogo Moja of New York University (NYU) provided an overview of the institution and its longstanding engagement with South Africa. She reflected on her ties with the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and shared that she has brought NYU students to South Africa for over 20 years to foster exposure to global education systems, focusing on education and social reform. While many lasting personal relationships have developed from these exchanges, she emphasised the need to strengthen academic collaborations. NYU is a large, private, non-profit university known for its diverse academic offerings, including a School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, which houses 13 departments. The visiting students are mostly master 's-level candidates in student affairs and higher education, and NYU's programme includes practical internships to bridge theory and practice. She concluded by expressing appreciation for ongoing connections with alumni and the importance of mutual learning in international partnerships.



*Dr Dzivhonele Sinthumule, Lecturer in FHSSE*

Dr Dzivhonele Sinthumule presented a summary of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education at the University of Venda, highlighting its broad academic offerings and commitment to transformative education. Formed from the merger of the Schools of Education and Human and Social Sciences, the faculty now hosts diverse disciplines and over 8,000 undergraduate and 600 postgraduate students. Emphasising student-centred learning, engaged scholarship, and international collaboration, Dr Sinthumule underscored the faculty's dedication to producing graduates who are both locally grounded and globally competitive.



*Mr Rudzani Mamphweli, Community Engagement Officer*

Mr Rudzani Mamphweli, Community Engagement Officer at the University of Venda, outlined the role of the Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation, and Commercialisation Directorate in advancing the university's mission beyond teaching and research. Established in 2009 and recently expanded to include entrepreneurship and innovation, the Directorate promotes collaboration with local communities to ensure academic activities have a tangible societal impact. It supports students and staff



in community engagement and commercial initiatives, highlighting programmes like Skills for the Future, which provides digital and mental health education to high school learners, alongside other projects assessed for their societal contributions under the university's 2021–2025 strategy.



*Professor Ademola Jegede, Director of the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights at the University of Venda*

Professor Ademola Jegede, Director of the Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights at the University of Venda, highlighted the importance of cultural diversity through reflections on his Yoruba heritage. He explained that the Centre, established in 2001 to honour South Africa's first Black Chief Justice, Ismail Mahomed, is committed to advancing social justice and human rights. Now part of the Faculty of Management, Commerce, and Law, the Centre actively engages in regional and international human rights efforts, collaborates with bodies like the African Commission and UN mechanisms, and works closely with communities and traditional leaders. Professor Jegede also shared his personal research focus on the link between climate change and human rights, especially its impact on vulnerable populations, and welcomed collaboration with all who share the Centre's mission.



*Ms Emily Patton, an MPA student at NYU Wagner*

Ms Emily Patton, an MPA student at NYU Wagner, expressed deep appreciation for the warm welcome her group has received during their visit across the country. She reflected on the inspiring student activism they witnessed, particularly the history and ongoing impact of the Fees Must Fall movement, which demonstrated strong unity among students at various universities. Emily also highlighted the meaningful community engagement efforts and the embodiment of the Ubuntu philosophy, noting how this sense of connectedness contrasts with the more individualistic culture she's familiar with in the U.S. Personally, she found the experience enriching, especially as it complemented her studies in public administration and broadened her understanding of higher education.



*Ms Pertunia Rankakane, a University of Venda Postgraduate student*

Ms Pertunia Rankakane, a University of Venda student, stated that she is interested in the exchange programme and wishes to be hosted by Professor Teboho Moja, and emphasised the need for the University of Venda to actively organise opportunities for exchange programmes. She expressed concern that South African students miss firsthand experiences of institutions like New York University, where visitors can engage directly with faculty such as the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education. She highlighted the importance of genuine academic and professional collaborations beyond social ties and concluded with a light-hearted remark about saving personal matters for later in life.



*Mr Carlton Mukwevho, Secretary General of the South African National Commission for UNESCO*

During his closing remarks, Mr Carlton Mukwevho, Secretary General of the South African National Commission for UNESCO, reflected on his educational journey at the University of Venda and praised the collaboration between universities, including NYU. He honoured the late intellectual, Kenyan writer and academic Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong'o and emphasised the shared humanity that transcends politics and borders. He highlighted South Africa's historic role in UNESCO, its exclusion during apartheid, and its re-admission after democracy was restored. Mr Mukwevho stressed the importance of international cooperation, noting the critical financial contributions of both the US and South Africa to UNESCO. He expressed gratitude to Professor Moja for her two decades of dedication in fostering these connections, thanked UNESCO for its partnership, and encouraged ongoing collaboration and mutual learning between students and institutions, affirming the value of these exchanges despite political challenges.



*Dr Keamogetse Morwe, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Gender and Youth Studies at the University of Venda*

As presented by Dr Keamogetse Morwe, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Gender and

Youth Studies at the University of Venda, in her vote of thanks, she expressed gratitude to everyone involved. She noted that the event had allowed them to reconnect after more than ten years. Dr Morwe emphasised the importance of appreciating one another and encouraged everyone to make their contributions count, no matter how small. She concluded by sincerely thanking all present.



*New York Postgraduate students with Mr Matome of the University of International Relations, University of Venda*

Following the engaging sessions, guests participated in a campus tour that showcased UNIVEN's stunning facilities, including the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubation, symbols of the university's forward-thinking vision and commitment to innovation. This visit not only strengthened existing bonds but also ignited fresh opportunities for collaboration, reinforcing UNIVEN's role as a beacon of transformative education and global partnership.







**UNIVEN**  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S**  
**WINTER GOLF**  
**TOURNAMENT**  
**2025**

**KILLARNEY COUNTRY CLUB, JOHANNESBURG**  
**04 JULY 2025**

**Format:** 4 Ball Alliance

**Entry Fee: R8000**  
-Inclusive of Green Fee  
-Golf Cart, Golf Shirt & Cap  
-Halfway Light Meal  
-Prize Giving Dinner

**Payment:** 30 June 2025

**Golf Registration:** 08H00 - 09H30  
**Tee-off:** 10H00

**The funds can be deposited into the University of Venda ABSA Account**  
Acc. Name: University of Venda  
Acc. Number: 1000 000 538  
Branch Name: Thohoyandou  
Branch Code: 33419  
Ref. Number: GOLF DAY 2025

**RSVP:** Mrs TR Muthadzwi  
015 962 8823 | 072 168 7368 | tshililo.muthadzwi@univen.ac.za



**saair** University of Venda  
Creating Future Leaders

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
**Venue: University of Venda**  
**Deadline: 30 June 2025**

**32<sup>nd</sup> SAAIR Annual Conference**  
**27 - 31 October 2025**

*Towards Excellence: Enhancing Funding Pathways and Student Outcomes through Human-Centric AI, Impactful Research, and Operational Intelligence*

**Subthemes**

- Funding the Future
- From Insight to Impact
- Bridging the Skills Gap
- Ensuring Excellence
- Global and Continental Commitments

admin@saair.net

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

QR Code

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](mailto: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.

Chief Operating Officer, Mr Botwe Kraziya extends best wishes, strength, perseverance and success to seven UNIVEN staff members who will be participating in the 2025 Comrades Marathon.

