



Women's Month Special Edition | 29 August 2025

Celebration of Women's Day 2025 as UNIVEN Staff Unite for Inspiration, Wellness and Empowerment



In a moment of celebration, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) came alive on 27 August 2025 as staff gathered at the University's Auditorium for a vibrant and thought-provoking UNIVEN 2025 Staff Women's Day Celebration. From powerful presentations from various speakers, discussions to uplifting performances of music, the celebration showed the University's commitment to staff wellness, empowerment, and inclusivity and the role that women play as a pillar to our institution.

The Women's Day celebration commenced with a warm, inspiring welcome remarks by the of Director Human Resources, Mrs Uanda Ndou, setting a tone for the celebration to the Women's Month closing service, reflecting on the balance between tradition and modernity in women's identities, drawing inspiration from the 1956 women's march, and urging women

to unite rather than pull each other down.



She highlighted ongoing challenges such as gender-based violence and inequality, calling for unapologetic solidarity, support, and purpose-driven living. She emphasised the need for fairness in opportunities like promotions and educational capacitation, encouraging women to build an environment where all can thrive, freely express themselves, and enjoy the present moment together.



One of the highlights of the event was the talk on “Prioritise You: Practise Self Love” by health and wellness expert from UNIVEN Sports and Recreation Unit, Ms Lizeka Miza, who encouraged staff and delivered an empowering talk centred on women’s well-being, highlighting the importance of self-love and self-care beyond the common misconceptions of luxury activities like massages or beauty treatments. She reminded women that, as mothers, daughters, professionals, and friends juggling multiple responsibilities, prioritising their health, both physically and mentally, emotionally, and socially, is essential. Ms Miza emphasised the need to overcome cultural and societal barriers that pressure women into neglecting themselves and encouraged practices such as exercise. She underscored that self-care is not selfish but necessary for sustaining energy, managing stress, maintaining healthy relationships, and achieving balance in life and work.

marathons in 2024, and eventually qualified and completed the Two Oceans and the 90 km Comrades Marathon despite injuries and setbacks. She emphasised lessons of perseverance, mental strength, listening to one’s body, and running one’s own race at one’s own pace, highlighting that victory comes through resilience. She encouraged colleagues to value wellness, exercise, and self-belief, while expressing gratitude for the support she received, especially from women, after representing the university in the Comrades Marathon.



“When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Going” by seasoned academic Dr Israel Mulaudzi, reflected on perseverance, growth, and lifelong learning. She encouraged women to embrace their beauty, uniqueness, and strength, reminding them they are fearfully and wonderfully made. She shared her personal story of being raised by a single mother, facing hardships such as gender-based violence, infertility, loss of a child, raising a child with a disability, and her husband’s imprisonment, yet still rising through education to earn multiple degrees. She showed her resilience with the theme “When the going gets tough, the tough get going,” urging women not to give up on life despite challenges. She stressed the importance of self-belief, prayer, education, and walking tall with confidence. She called on women to support, respect, and celebrate each other’s achievements, noting that when one woman rises, she lifts others up.



Ms Tshimangadzo Ndou shared on the “You Can Do It: My Journey as a Woman Athlete” shared her inspiring running journey, starting with her first 21 km marathon in 2023, where she went on to collect 12 medals, progressed to full



The Keynote speaker, Ms Sesé Patricia Mahlobogoane, Director for Social Inclusion and Equity at the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), talking on “Sexual Harassment in the World of Work” highlighted how harassment and bullying in the workplace often stem from “nuisance power,” where individuals misuse status, wealth, or connections to intimidate others, disregarding hierarchy and respect. She distinguished between sexual attention (welcome) and sexual harassment (unwanted), stressed that bullying, whether verbal, emotional, or physical, is abuse of power, and reminded colleagues that institutions and leaders bear the primary responsibility for prevention. She also emphasised self-protection and urged knowing workplace policies, documenting incidents, and being mindful of rights and responsibilities. As she ended, she encouraged resilience, solidarity, and speaking out against abuse, affirming that harassment or abuse should not define one’s worth.

She expressed deep appreciation for the Department of Higher Education and Training’s presence, acknowledged the organising team’s efforts, and ended with a message of solidarity drawn from the 1956 Women’s March, reminding everyone to be each other’s “rock” of strength and support.

The Women’s Day celebration was an opportunity to all women staff members to relax, reconnect and reflect. The celebration reminded us of the importance of wellness, resilience, and human dignity in the workplace. Through song, stories and shared wisdom, the celebration not only celebrated the university community but also the power of inspiration and collective growth.



Handing over of gifts by Ms Avhatakali Gladys Luvhimbi (left)



Handing over of gifts by Ms Avhatakali Gladys Luvhimbi (left)



Handing over of gifts by Ms Avhatakali Gladys Luvhimbi (right)



Adv Rolien Roos, Director in the Division Teaching and Learning, delivered a heartfelt closing remarks and thanked all speakers, performers, and organisers for their contributions, highlighting lessons of resilience, self-care, inspiration, and leadership.



Performance of music by Dr Meisie Masakona-Madzivhandila



Ms Sesi Patricia Mahlobogoane from DHET (3rd from left) poses for a photo with the UNIVEN Director of Human Resources (3rd from right) and other speakers of the day



'Gusba Banana' entertained the audience

From Village Roots to Academic Heights, UNIVEN Student Shines

Malwandla Khosa's remarkable journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and determination. Born in Olifantshoek Village, outside Elim. Malwandla has emerged as a shining example of what it means to make use of knowledge, challenge societal norms, and make a meaningful impact. With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Youth in

Development and currently pursuing her masters degree, Malwandla is gaining practical experience as an intern at the Department of Youth in Development, University of Venda (UNIVEN).

As we celebrate Women's Month, Malwandla's journey serves as a powerful reminder of the

importance of empowering women and girls in our society. As she pursues her academic and professional goals, Malwandla's story highlights the impact that dedicated women can have in their communities, inspiring others to strive for excellence and challenge the status quo. Her message to young girls and women is one of empowerment: "Dream big, work hard to make your dreams a reality, while trusting in God. Don't let negative thoughts hold you back." This message is particularly relevant in the context of Women's Month, which highlights the progress made towards gender equality while also acknowledging the work that still needs to be done.



Malwandla Khosa, UNIVEN Masters student in Youth in Development

Her research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of internships in developing employability skills for graduates, aiming to guide policymakers and institutions to improve internship programmes. This work is crucial in addressing graduate unemployment in communities.

As a woman in academia, Malwandla acknowledges the challenges women face, including gender-based violence and societal expectations. However, she remains steadfast in her conviction that women are capable, strong, and have the power to lead and make difference. She draws inspiration from Shudufhadzo Musida, Miss South Africa 2020, who advocates for mental health awareness and challenges societal norms.

Through her work and achievements, Malwandla hopes to inspire others, demonstrating that with hard work, education, and perseverance, young people can overcome challenges and make a positive impact. The University of Venda, with its emphasis on student-centeredness and research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, provides a nurturing environment for students like Malwandla to thrive.

Shudufhadzo's Journey to Become an Advocate

Meet Shudufhadzo Nethanani, a determined and ambitious second-level LLB student at the University of Venda (UNIVEN). Born and raised in Gondeni La Mabilu village, Shudufhadzo's journey is a testament to the power of education in transforming lives. Her interest in law was sparked by the lack of access to legal knowledge in her community, and she chose UNIVEN for its strong commitment to developing talent from rural areas and its excellent reputation in the humanities and law.

As UNIVEN celebrates Women's Month, we shine the spotlight on women like Shudufhadzo,

who are breaking barriers and making their mark in male-dominated fields like law.



Shudufhadzo Nethanani, UNIVEN second-level LLB student

With her passion for justice and her determination to succeed, Shudufhadzo embodies the spirit of resilience and empowerment that defines the women we celebrate this month. Despite the challenges that women in law often face, Shudufhadzo's story shows that with hard work, dedication, and the right support, women can thrive in this field and make a meaningful impact.

Shudufhadzo's academic journey has been intensely challenging but incredibly rewarding. She has learned from lecturers who are not only academics but also seasoned legal practitioners, offering invaluable practical insights. Despite the challenges she has faced as a woman student in a male-dominated field, Shudufhadzo has overcome them by being thoroughly prepared and mastering what she does. "Confidence comes from competence," she says. UNIVEN's supportive ecosystem has been fundamental to Shudufhadzo's success.

The approachable nature of lecturers, the law library, and student counselling services have all contributed to her academic success. Through her studies, Shudufhadzo has acquired a robust set of skills, including critical thinking, research, and argumentation. She has also developed resilience and a deep-seated value for ethical integrity and social justice.

Shudufhadzo's message to young girls and women is simple: "Your voice is needed. do not let anyone convince you that any field is beyond your reach. Education is your key to independence, influence, and impact." Upon graduation, Shudufhadzo plans to complete her practical legal training and write the board exams to be admitted as an attorney, with the long-term goal of becoming an advocate.



University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

2025 September Graduation Ceremonies

The Chancellor of the University of Venda, Adv Mojanku Gumbi, invites all successful graduands to the 2025 Spring Graduation Ceremony, comprising ALL Faculties in ONE session, to take place at the University Auditorium on Friday, 05 September 2025 at 09:00 am.

NB: For more information, contact the Faculty Administrators as follows:

NAME OF FACULTY	FACULTY ADMINISTRATORS	
Faculty of Health Sciences	Aluwani Bugane	015 962 8942
Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education	Gumani Tshimange Mashudu Mainganye	015 962 8888 015 962 8969
Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law	Julius Netshidzivhe	015 962 8961
Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture	Maxwell Maboho Mishumo Nengwekhulu Mukondeleli Masia	015 962 8880 015 962 8954 015 962 8086

Graduands and Guests should arrive TWO HOURS BEFORE the start of the ceremony.

Visit the UNIVEN website: www.univen.ac.za



FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT, COMMERCE AND LAW
SCHOOL OF LAW
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

INVITATION TO CRIME CRIME STATISTIC SEMINAR

Theme: Beyond the Numbers: Unveiling the Dark Figures of Crime

The School of Law, Department of Criminal Justice, in collaboration with Department of Law, Safety and Security Management (TUT) and South African Police Service invites you to a seminar on crime statistics

The Details Of The Seminar Are As Follows:

Date:
03 September 2025

Time
09:00-13:00

Venue:
UNIVEN Sports Hall

Online link: (waiting on link)

RSVP FOR PHYSICAL ATTENDANCE

Dr Khethiwe Madima

Head of Department, Criminal Justice
Khethiwe.mawai@univen.ac.za

A Legacy of Grace and Grit: Celebrating 88 remarkable women who are part of staff members who shaped UNIVEN's history

This Women's Month, the University of Venda proudly honours 88 remarkable female staff members whose unwavering commitment has shaped the institution over decades of dedicated service. Spanning between 25 and 40 years, these trailblazers from academics to administrative professionals and service staff have each played a vital role in building the University's legacy of excellence. Their stories are a testament to resilience, loyalty, and the invaluable impact of women at the heart of our university community.

Humbulani violet Nemavhola
Ndishavhelafhi betty Mahada
Talifhani faith Mlaudzi
Tshilidzi Grace Cibi
Azwitamisi Agnes Mathoma
Andrinah matodzi Mudzusi
Thilivhali Constance Ravhutsi
Matamela Irene Gweneth Mashamba
Florah Ramanyimi
Tsedzeni annah Matodzi
Nkhangweleni Tshifaro Khohomela
Livhuwani Peggy Mudau
Avhatakali Gladys Luvhimbi
Mapula Sheila Molefe
Mushoni Tshifhiwa Mulaudzi
Maria Gumani Tshimange
Nditsheni gloria Nemanashi
Tshilidzi Mercy Mulaudzi
Thivhilaeli Angeline Singo
Constance Muananyi Mutsila
Elizabeth Chauke
Mulalo royal Nelwamondo
Mphiriseni irene Netangaheni
Nyawasedza phelley Lavhelani
Muravha Bhetserai Malima
Ndishavhelafhi Alvina Muthevhu
Ndiambani Sellinah Mabidi
Matamela Joyce Mbobvu
Tshilidzi Benedicta Mulaudzi
Ndidzulafhi Mulovhedzi
Pfuluwani Josephina Siphorogo
Gudani Constance Mushiana
Humbulani Mundalamo
Vhonani Olive Netshandama
Matodzi Nancy Lambani
Mercy Rendani Mutenda Mbelengwa

Ntovhedzeni Florence Phaswana
Munyadziwa Nancy Mafudzihule
Tovhowani Grace Marwala
Takalani Lydia Mufamadi
Thinavhuyo Florah Nengwenani
Thihangwi Sarah Mammburu
Tshimangadzo Selinah Mukomafhedzi
Thidziambi Confidence Mudau
Avhaho Precious Maphagela
Tshililo grace Madzivhandila
Nthambeleni Welheminah Mabogo
Shonisani Christinah Murovhi
Balanganani Dongola
Humbulani Constance Nemudzudzanyi
Azwidowi Martha Siotho
Mmbangiseni Eunice Mudau
Ntavhanyeni Eunice Mphaga
Mukateko Joyce Mukhari
Agnes Avhaphani Magwaba
Fhumulani Eveline Kone
Mutshinyani Gladys Mphaphuli
Tshifhiwa Hilda Mahuwa
Vhutshilo Virginia Nevhotalu
Isabel Nnakiseni Nemadodzi
Moyahabo Dolly Makhura
Azwililelwi Joyce Themeli
Pfarelo Eva Matshidze
Sannah Leah Baker
Maphuthego Sarah Mudalahothe
Tshililo Violet Nematili
Nyadzanga Ivy Mukondeleli
Barbara Netshiombo
Weyeni Tshivhenga
Maria Mashudu Dau
Phathutshedzo Dorothea Mapholi
Natasha Potgieter
Matodzi Elelwani Matibe
Mbudzeni Patricia Ramabulana
Matodzi Rebecca Raphalaani
Tshimangadzo Gladys Nengwenani
Thanyani Joyce Mulaudzi
Azwinndini Winnie Tshikombedze
Tshililo Rachel Muthadzi
Mushaisano Doris Mutobvu
Martha Azwihangwisi Lewis
Ntavheleni Virginia Mudau
Mutshutshu Patricia Mapaya
Louisa Munyadziwa Mariba
Muvhulawa Esther Munano
Fulufhelo Valery Nonge
Thifhelimbilu Gloria Kutama
Cebisa Noxolo Nesamvuni