

UNIVEN Students Drive Tourism Innovation at Prestigious G20 Hackathon



G20 Tourism 48 students presenting to the G20 summit attendees

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) proudly celebrates the remarkable achievements of two Tourism and Hospitality students from the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, who showcased their creativity and innovation at the prestigious G20 Tourism Hackathon. Representing UNIVEN at this high-profile national event were Mr Tshepiso Lebyane and Mr Adivhaho Mukhawa, under the leadership of the Minister of Tourism, Honourable Patricia de Lille.

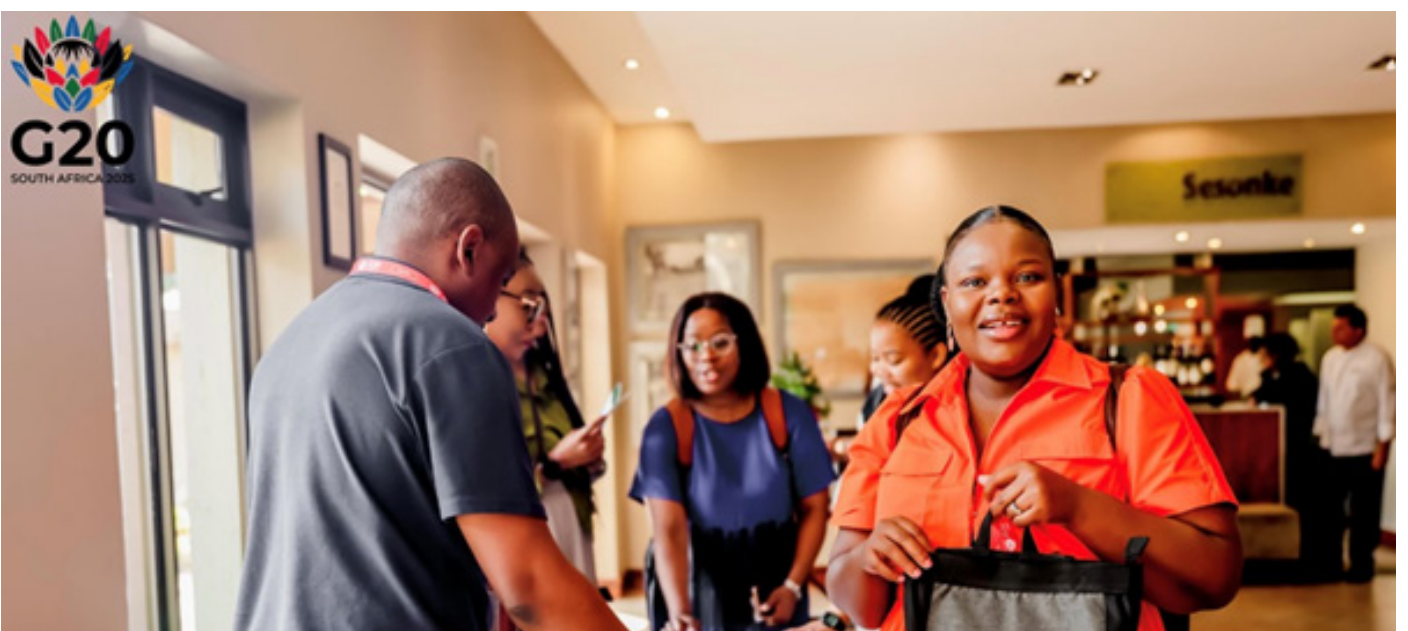
Launched in June 2025 at the University of the Western Cape, the G20 Tourism Hackathon brought together 48 young people from 21 higher education institutions to design Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions that promote job creation, inclusivity, and sustainable growth in the tourism sector. The final stage, held in Mpumalanga from September 9 to 12 2025, provided participants with expert mentorship as they developed prototypes and applications in smart tourism, rural inclusion, and cultural and heritage tourism innovation.



Mr Tshepiso Lebyane (second-prize winner)

Mr Tshepiso Lebyane distinguished himself as part of the second runner-up team, which received a cash prize of R140,000. His team's innovation, Map My Biz, is a learning platform accessible through kiosk machines in township and rural areas. The app equips young entrepreneurs with training modules and certificates endorsed by the Department

of Tourism, while serving as a hub to showcase their businesses and a directory for tourists wishing to support local enterprises. Notably, Mr Lebyane and his team were invited to present their innovation before 28 Ministers of Tourism, alongside senior representatives from G20 member states, invited countries, and international organisations during the G20 Summit.



Far right holding G20 bag, Dr Mukondeleli Manuga-Radzilani (guiding teacher and secretariat to the G20 tourism hackathon judging panel)



Mr Adivhaho Mukhawa (fourth to seventh runner)

Meanwhile, Mr Mukhawa and his team also made their mark, earning a place in the fourth to seventh category with a cash award of R35,000. The students were guided throughout the process by their lecturer, Dr Mukondeleli Manuga-Radzilani, who not only mentored them but also served as secretariat to the Hackathon's judging panel, ensuring fairness, transparency, and integrity in the evaluation process.

The University of Venda proudly recognises this milestone as a powerful testament to its commitment to nurturing innovation, entrepreneurship, and excellence in tourism and hospitality education. UNIVEN continues to prepare its graduates to make meaningful contributions to the advancement of national and global tourism.

Lwendo lwa zwa Ngudo dza Vhufa na Sisiteme ya Ndivho Yapo lwa u ya fhethu ha Vhufa ha Mapungubwe na matshudeni a levele ya vhuraru

Kha nwedzi wonoyu wa vhufa muhasho wa Sisiteme ya Ndivho Yapo na Vhufa wo vhona zwo fanela uri matshudeni dalela vhupo ha vhufa sa Mapungubwe na Dzata Ruins. Kha lwendo ulwo ho tuwa thoho ya muhasho, Dokotela Vho Tshimangadzo Makhanikhe na Dokotela Vho Ndidzulafhi Ramavhunga, Dokotela Vho Livhuwani Tshikukuvhe na matshudeni a nwaha wa

vhuraru. Kha lwendo ulwo matshudeni vho guda zwithi zwinzhi nga ha Mapungubwe. Vho ri vha tshi swika, vhatshimbidzi vha Mapungubwe vha tuwa na matshudeni kha lukwara lwa henefho Mapungubwe, he vhagudiswa vho kona u vhona vhugalaphukha ha Mapungubwe nga vhuphara. Vhatshimbidzi vho talutshedza matshudeni nga divhazwakale ya vhatu vhe vha vha vha tshi dzula haneefho minwahani ya murahu.



Matshudeni vho sumbedza uri vho guda na nga vhutsila ha vhatu vha kale he vha wana uri vho vha vhatu vho no sika malungu, zwidudu, na zwithu zwinzhi zwo yaho nga u fhambana. Mapungubwe ro guda nga ha miri, minwe ya miri ndi Muvhuyu. Muri uyo u na madi manzhi. Ndou dzi toda madi khawo musi wa gomolelo. Miri iyo a i tsha tendelwa u liwa nga ndou nga nthani ha uri miri iyo i nga fhedzisela i si tsha

vha ya u wanalea. Kha thavha iyo thavha vhe vha vha vha tshi dzula khayi vho vha vha tshi tamba mitambo yo fhambanaho sa mufuvha, muravharavha na ndode. Kha thavha iyo vho vha vha tshi dzula nga u fhambanana zwi tshi bva kha vhuimo havho. Matshudeni vho guda nga mavhida ane a kha divha hone kha lukwara lwonolwo.

Vho ya muziamu wa hanefho Mapungubwe he vha vhona zwithu zwa vhathu vha kale zwi no nga golden rhino, zwidudu, golden sceptre na zwinwevho zwinzhi u ya nga u fhambanana hazwo.

Vho dovha vha guda nga Golden rhino. Ine yo sikwa ho shumiswa danda la muri, le la vhadwa la vhumba tshifanyiso

tsha Tshugulu. Ilo danda lo no fhedza u vhadwa lo da he aa shelwa musuku lothe.

Vhoya na fhethu hune ha vhidzwa u pfi Confluence viewing decks, he vha vhona thanganyelano ya mulambo wa Limpopo na Shashe hone he ha ita mukano vhukati ha mashango mararu ane avha Afrika Tshipembe, Botswana na Zimbabwe.



Matshudeni vho ya na Dzata Ruins he vha guda nga divhazwakale ya lushaka lwa Vhavenda. Vho guda nga ha khosi ya u thoma ya Vhavenda ane a pfi Dimbanyika we a vha ene khosi ya Vhavenda. Yo vhakhosi ya u funesa u zwima. Yo do valelwa nga tombo lihulu bakoni la zwifho musu a tshi khou zwima. Khosi iyo yo vha i tshi zwima nga mmbwa dze dza do gidimela hayani musu o valelwa nga iPho tombo. Vhathu vho do ya afho he a vha o valelwa nga tombo, vha lingedza u li phigulisa, zwe vhutoto. Khosi yo mbo di vhudza vhathu uri vha tuwe fhedzi-ha vha sia ngoma lungundu sa vhunga nayo yo valelwa kha ilo

bako la zwifho. Fhethu afho he khosi ya lovhela hone ho fhedzisela hu Tshiendeulu. Ngoma Lungundu yo vha itshi lidzwa musu VhavenDa vha tshi khou lwa na dzinwe tshaka. Yo vha itshi ri u lidziwa maswina a wela fhasi, ya dovha ya nisa mvula musu wa gomolelo. Ngoma iyo yo vha itshi hwaliwa nga vhanna vha rathi, vhane a vha athu didzhenisa kha mafhungo a zwa vhudzekani. Ngoma iyo yo vha i sa tendelwi u vheiwa fhasi. Arali ya vhewa ho vha hu tshi vha na masiandaitwa kha vhathu. Ngoma iyo yo vha i na vhudzimu ha tshifumakadzini na ha tshinnani nga ngomu hayo. Dzata vho dovha vha guda nga khoro ye vhakegulu na vhakalaha vho vha tshi farela

mitangano khayi. Afho ndi he ha vha hu tshi tandululiwa thaidzo dza vhathu nga vhakegulu na vhakalaha vha khoro. Dzinwe dza thaidzo dzo vha dzi dza musu munna kana mufumakadzi vha tshi balelwa u vha na vhana. Thandululo ye ya vha i hone kha vhanna vha si na mbebo, ho vha hu tshi shumisiwa muzwala kana murathu wa munna a si na mbebo uri a eDele tshihulwane na mufumakadzi wa uyo

ane a khou balelwa u vha na nwana uri a kone u bebelwa nwana. Fhedzi-ha zwo vha zwi tshi itwa lwa tshidzumbe uri uyo munna a si na mbebo a si zwi divhe. Fhedzi izwo zwo vha zwi tshi itelwa u hudza lushaka na uri huvhe na mulalo mutani.

Ulu lwo vha lwendo lu takadzaho lwa u guda zwa vhufa.



Advancing Excellence in Social Work: UNIVEN Engages Scholars on Ethics and Practice

On Wednesday, 25 September 2025, the University of Venda's Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Department of Social Work, hosted a well-attended public lecture at the Research Conference Centre. The event featured Professor Engelbrecht

from Stellenbosch University, who spoke under the theme: "Advancing Professional Excellence in Social Work: From Ethical Practice and Field Education to Scholarly Publishing."



Attendees



Reverend Ndidzulafhi Mudau

The lecture began with Reverend Mudau sharing a message from the story of Daniel and his friends, highlighting how their God-given wisdom was used to serve others even in exile. He reminded attendees that academic gifts are divine blessings meant for service, urging social workers to uphold integrity and commitment in their profession.



Professor Tawanda Runhare

Professor Tawanda Runhare welcomed the attendees and emphasised that ethical practice requires careful selection and thoughtful decision-making, especially in social work. Acknowledging the deliberate nature of the attendance, he welcomed a distinguished guest and encouraged open engagement. Professor Runhare also highlighted the need for strong ethical leadership within the profession and expressed gratitude for the presence of the Head of Department and other participants.



Professor Lambert Engelbrecht

Professor Lambert Engelbrecht, former Head of Social Work at Stellenbosch University, delivered a keynote address highlighting the importance of authenticity, attitude, and self-reflection in social work, beyond theoretical knowledge.

He outlined global challenges facing the profession, including bureaucratic constraints and the need to “unboss” hierarchical systems to foster equality in practice. To captivate the audience and reinforce his message, he creatively incorporated original music into his presentation.

He urged social workers to cultivate empathy without internalising others’ problems, adopt a growth mindset through continuous learning and reading, and remain assertive while demonstrating emotional maturity. He further emphasised perseverance, self-care, and optimism in the face of adversity. Reflecting on qualities such as goodwill, integrity, creativity, adaptability, and openness, Professor Engelbrecht reminded practitioners to engage authentically while maintaining clear boundaries. Ultimately, he encouraged ongoing reflection on personal motivations and professional values as the foundation for ethical, effective, and compassionate social work practice.



Ms Tsepiso Mphidi during the Question-and-Answer session

The discussions revealed how neoliberal policies and political agendas constrain so-cial workers, forcing them to balance professional values with managerial demands for targets and accountability. Political interference often erodes professionalism, leading to poor conditions, scarce resources, and low morale effects that also disillu-sion students during fieldwork. Advancing the profession requires strong leadership, critical scholarship, and a united professional association to advocate for social work's integrity. Amid systemic challenges, optimism, creativity, and reflective practice re-main essential for sustaining practitioners and strengthening the field.



Dr Jimmy Budeli from the Department of Social Work, UNIVEN

Dr Budeli opened by expressing sincere gratitude for the opportunity to speak, with special thanks to the guest speaker and Professor Tawanda Runhare for his steadfast support and leadership, particularly for prioritising the event over an international engagement. He emphasised the importance of future collaborations between institu-tions in the Global North and South, highlighting exchange programmes and guest lectures as key opportunities. He also acknowledged the efforts of colleagues who contributed to developing a supervision framework for social workers in Africa, noting the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He extended appreciation to departmental staff, programme coordinators, and part-ners from the Department of Social Development for their role in making the event a success. Dr Budeli recognised distinguished guests who joined online, including lead-ers from academic institutions and professional councils. He encouraged students to engage deeply with foundational literature and scholars in the field and invited post-graduate students to attend the next day's session. The event served as a valuable platform for sharing knowledge, promoting ethical practice, and advancing profes-sional excellence in social work.



Prof Tawanda Runhare handing over a token of appreciation to Professor Lambert Engelbrecht



32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Theme:

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Impactful Research, and Operational Intelligence

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Only attending the conference = **R6,900.00**

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INVITATION

ANNUAL JUSTICE MOSENEKE LECTURE

HOST: DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC LAW, SCHOOL OF LAW



GUEST SPEAKER:
PROF. THULI MADONSELA



TIME: 10:00

VENUE: SENATE CHAMBERS

BIOGRAPHY

Professor Thuli Madonsela is the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice and Director of the Centre for Social Justice at Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Law. A respected legal scholar and advocate of the High Court of South Africa, she teaches Constitutional Law, Social Justice, Administrative Law, and Ethical Leadership. She holds two law degrees, eight honorary doctorates, and a Harvard Advanced Leadership Certificate. Notably, she was one of the 11 experts who helped draft South Africa's Constitution and contributed to several landmark laws, including the Equality Act and the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act.

Her academic work spans decades of research, writing, and teaching on constitutional governance and human rights. She has authored books on gender mainstreaming and co-developed resources for Equality Courts. Professor Madonsela also helped draft international human rights instruments at UN, AU, and SADC levels. In recognition of her legal impact, she has received numerous awards and honorary appointments, cementing her status as a leading figure in social justice and constitutional law.

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