

Newly Crowned Miss Limpopo Province 2025: Tshepiso Mphidi Shines with Purpose



Miss Tshepiso Mphidi

The University of Venda is beaming with pride as one of its own, Miss Tshepiso Mphidi, has been crowned Miss Limpopo Province 2025 on 29 November 2025. Tshepiso is not only a rising star in the pageant world—she is a dedicated Master's student in Social Work and a committed Campus Care Worker within the University's Campus Health and Student Affairs Department. In her role, she provides essential support to

students, championing mental health, well-being, and a safe, nurturing campus environment.

Reflecting on her journey, Tshepiso shared: "My journey has been shaped by resilience, hard work and a deep commitment to community upliftment. From running small businesses to building creative skills and freelancing, I learnt the value of independence and using my own talents

to create opportunities. As Miss Limpopo Province, my mission is to empower young people through mental health awareness, skills development and creating safer spaces for women and children. I want my story to remind others that no dream is too far when you lead with purpose, compassion and determination.”

Her words echo the spirit of a true leader, grounded, visionary, and driven by service. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, on behalf of the University of

Venda, proudly congratulates Miss Tshepiso Mphidi on her remarkable achievement as Miss Limpopo Province 2025. Your dedication to academic excellence, student well-being, and community upliftment exemplifies the values we uphold as an institution. You continue to inspire the University community and the youth of Limpopo through your passion, resilience and leadership. We wish you great success as you carry the crown with purpose and continue to make a meaningful impact in society. Well done, Tshepiso!

Progress Meeting Sets Clear Path for UNIVEN's New Satellite Campus in Makhado

On Tuesday, 2 December 2025, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) met with Makhado Local Municipality at the municipality's Exco Chamber in Louis Trichardt to review progress on the proposed satellite campus project. The session

focused on construction plans, sustainability measures, and collaborative strategies to expand access to higher education while driving socio-economic development in the region.



Makhado Local municipality Mayor, Cllr Dorcus Mboyi, and UNIVEN Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni



Mayor of Makhado Local Municipality, Cllr Dorcus Mboyi

In her opening and welcome remarks, Cllr Dorcus Mboyi, Mayor of Makhado Local Municipality, warmly thanked attendees and highlighted their role in the municipality's development efforts. She noted that Makhado will host the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ) programme, reinforcing the need for collaboration and active engagement in shaping progress. Her address set a tone of unity and shared purpose for the meeting.



Mr Botwe Kraziya, Chief Operating Officer of the University of Venda

The highlight of the session was the presentation by Mr Botwe Kraziya, Chief Operating Officer of

the University of Venda, who described the new satellite campus as “a strategic project in how the university has played a role in the lives of people, ensuring education becomes a pivotal pillar for growth and sustainable development.” He emphasised that the initiative seeks to make higher education more accessible: “We are living in a time where the university must follow the people... become located where people can go to access you easily.” Kraziya confirmed that planning has advanced, with modular construction proposed to allow phased development: “Once a section of it is completed, we can start working on the next.” He also stressed the university's commitment to transparency and collaboration: “For this project to work, we have to work very closely with every team.”

Mr Kraziya outlined the vision for a multi-purpose campus that will include “a business school, research centres, a convention centre and a boutique hotel,” designed to stimulate economic growth and skills development. Sustainability is central to the plan, with Kraziya stating: “We want a net-zero campus that is sustainable in its energy consumption, water management, and through partnership.” The project is expected to create “some 2,000-plus jobs” and position the region as an education and innovation hub. He emphasised its broader impact: “We see real tangible economic integration, new businesses will emerge, and the community will benefit not just in terms of jobs, but also through opportunities for students and families.” The campus will also support tourism and entrepreneurship, offering advanced programmes such as the MBA to empower local professionals.



UNIVEN delegates led by Prof Nthambeleni, Mr Zwannda Kutama (Vhembe District Municipality), 1st from right and Mr Kent Nemaname (Makhado Local municipality), 1st from left, pose for a photo with the Mayor of Makhado Local Municipality, Cllr Mboyi (middle)



Cllr Ndivhaleni Munyai, Portfolio Head for Development Planning

Cllr Ndivhaleni Munyai, Portfolio Head for Development Planning, clarified the purpose of the meeting: "The purpose of today's meeting is that the Industrial Planner is here to present the progress to give you a view of the progress of the project."



Cllr Zwannda Kutama, Municipal Manager at Vhembe District Municipality

Representing Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Zwannda Kutama expressed strong support for the initiative, calling for unified efforts and shared resources: "If we can do that in one basket, we can unlock a lot of challenges and control the socio-economic problems that we are facing." He emphasised the importance of technical collaboration and infrastructure development, particularly in the areas of water and sanitation:

"The development of infrastructure means sharing that feasibility study and the amount of investment in infrastructure with water becomes key." Cllr Kutama also highlighted the benefits for local youth: "Improving skills and access to education for the youth coming from this area is key."



The University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni

After positive feedback from municipalities, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, expressed appreciation for the coordination that has renewed optimism for the project: "I just want to thank the coordination from your office, to ensure that there is some hope, because for us, this is very important." He confirmed that the project has been shared with the Premier and key stakeholders, adding: "We are quite hopeful that 40% of funding for the academic project will be funded by the department, and it's something that will be finalised before we close this year." Prof Nthambeleni assured that the university will contribute financially, "We are ready to put money to show that we support the campus," and called for a joint communication strategy to maintain transparency. Looking ahead, he said, "We expect that by the first quarter of next year, we must get some sense of approval so that we can truly suit

this project.”

As part of the way forward, Mayor Mboyi urged the university to maintain transparency and provide regular progress reports, while announcing the handover of the title deed for ERF 5748 to the University of Venda as a sign of commitment.



Cllr Dorcus Mboyi handing over the title deed to Prof Bernard Nthambeleni



Cllr Takalani Sithi, Portfolio Head for Special Programmes

Closing the meeting, Cllr Takalani Sithi, Portfolio Head for Special Programmes, expressed gratitude to all participants, describing the session as “very, very fruitful” and appreciating the collaborative spirit: “I want to take this opportunity and give thanks to the whole team that is here. We are very proud to have you here.” He encouraged continued commitment and looked forward to future engagements.

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

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.**



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Invitation to UNIVEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OFFICIAL OPENING

The University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, cordially invites you to the Official Opening Ceremony of Four Major Infrastructure Projects, marking a significant milestone in our institution's transformation journey.



TIME: 12:00 PM

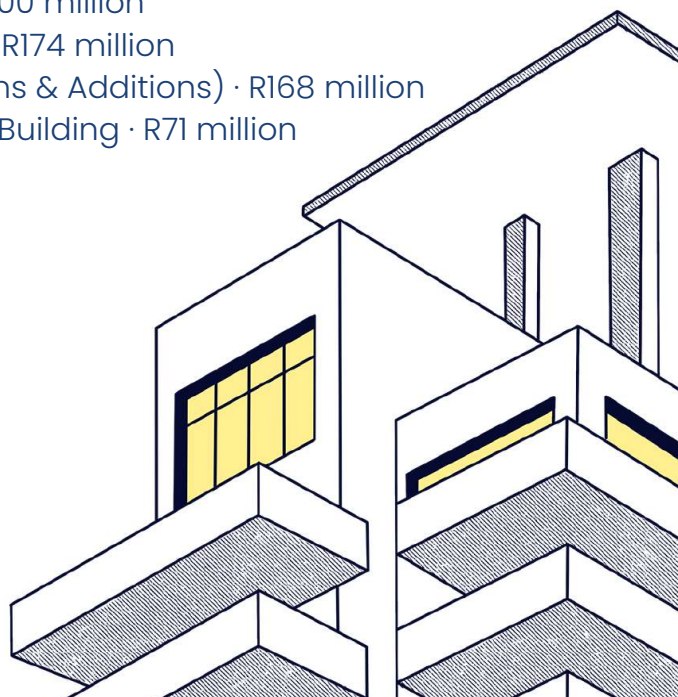
VENUE: UNIVEN AUDITORIUM

Projects to be Officially Opened

- Faculty of Health Sciences Building · R200 million
- Punda Maria Road and Bridge Project · R174 million
- Main Administration Building (Alterations & Additions) · R168 million
- Advanced Nursing Science Simulation Building · R71 million
- Total Investment: Over R600 million

Programme Highlights

- Keynote address by the Honourable Minister of Higher Education & Training
- Campus tour of the newly completed facilities
- Ribbon cutting and Plaque unveiling
- Networking lunch with university leadership and stakeholders
- Media showcase and video presentation



The event will be live streamed on YouTube

<https://youtube.com/live/JTLZT-hDQCE?feature=share>