



Issue 57 | 08 January 2026

## Welcome

Message from the Chief Editor – 2026

To our valued readers,

Welcome to the **University of Venda Weekly Newsletter for 2026!** As we step into a new year filled with opportunities, growth, and innovation, we remain committed to keeping you informed, inspired, and connected to all that is happening within our vibrant university community.

This year, our focus is on **academic excellence, student success, and community engagement.** Through this newsletter, we will bring you updates on campus events, research breakthroughs, student achievements, and initiatives that shape the future of our institution.

Your feedback and contributions are invaluable. We encourage you to share your stories, ideas, and experiences so that together, we can make this platform a true reflection of the spirit of UNIVEN.

Here's to a year of progress, collaboration, and success. Thank you for being part of this journey with us!

Warm regards,  
Dr Takalani Dzaga - APR  
Chief Editor  
University of Venda Weekly e-Newsletter

## A moment of prestige! Prof Bernard Nthambeleni shares the stage with former President Uhuru Kenyatta at Kabarak University Graduation Ceremony

In a celebration of academic excellence and leadership, the University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni joined His Excellency, Hon Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, the fourth President

of the Republic of Kenya, at Kabarak University's graduation ceremony. The event underscored a powerful message of collaboration between education and national leadership, inspiring graduates to embrace innovation and service.



*His Excellency, Hon Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta*



*Prof Bernard Nthambeleni*

The 21<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony took place on Friday, 19 December 2025, at Kabarak University's Nakuru campus in Kenya. The graduation ceremony was more than a celebration of academic triumph; it was a convergence of ideas, cultures, and aspirations. Prof Bernard Nthambeleni's presence at this graduation symbolised a growing bond between South Africa and Kenya in advancing higher education.

When delivering his address, Prof Nthambeleni expressed, "Today, we celebrate not only your achievements but the shared vision of African universities to lead in knowledge creation and cultural preservation."

He spoke passionately about the transformative power of education, urging graduates to see their degrees as tools for societal change rather than mere personal milestones. Drawing from UNIVEN's own journey, he highlighted the importance of research-driven innovation, community engagement, and cultural identity in shaping Africa's future.

Strategy and Risk, Dr Mutshinyalo Ratombo, and Marketing, Branding and Communication Director, Dr Takalani Dzaga was on a mission to operationalise the recently launched African Musicology Institute at Kabarak University in Kenya. This remarkable collaboration aims, among other things, to celebrate African diverse



Prof Nthambeleni concluded his address with a challenge to the Class of 2025: *"Be the generation that bridges divides, champions integrity, and transforms knowledge into action. Africa's renaissance depends on your courage and creativity."*

Before the graduation ceremony, Prof Nthambeleni had a fruitful engagement with the leadership of Kabarak University. The University of Venda (UNIVEN) and Kabarak University took a decisive step to operationalise the recently launched African Musicology Institute (AMI), following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in September 2025.

The University of Venda team, led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, including the Chief Operating Officer, Mr Botwe Kraziya, African Musicology Institute Director, Prof Geoff Mapaya, Director

music heritage, which is also designed to support joint research. The African Musicology Institute is a unique collaboration between the University of Venda and Kabarak University. The UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Nthambeleni emphasised the importance of partnerships, citing the African Musicology Institute, a joint initiative between UNIVEN and Kabarak University as a model of continental collaboration.

Speaking during the mission, at Kabarak University in Kenya on 18 December 2025, UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni emphasised AMI's Afrocentric vision. "AMI places Indigenous Knowledge Systems at the forefront. By centering African voices and traditions, we will deepen scholarship, inspire creative practice, and foster innovation that benefits communities across Africa," concluded Prof Nthambeleni.



*R-L Prof Bernard Nthambeleni and Prof Kiplangat during the engagement*

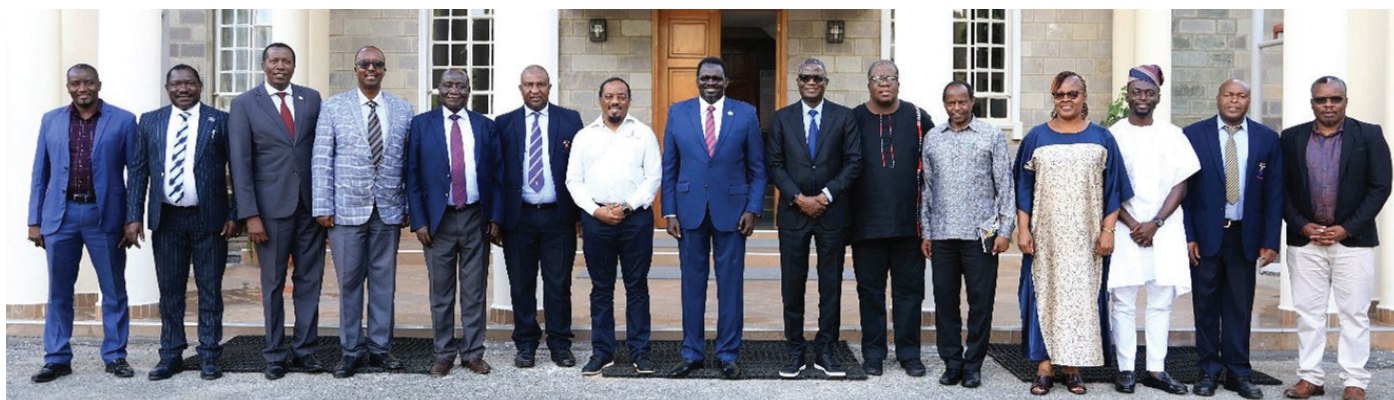
UNIVEN and Kabarak University formalised their partnership with the MoU signed on 4 September 2025 at the UNIVEN campus, marking AMI as a landmark institute dedicated to the study, documentation, and celebration of Africa's musical heritage. The signing was led by UNIVEN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, and Kabarak University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Henry Kiplangat. Since then, AMI's implementation has advanced through UNIVEN's governance structures; including leadership appointments and approval of critical operational positions; ensuring the institute's research, events, and partnership functions are well-resourced from inception.

AMI is designed to celebrate Africa's diverse music heritage through documentation, performance, and community-centered programming; Advance joint research and scholarship that decolonises musicology and

amplifies Indigenous Knowledge Systems; Offer academic pathways from undergraduate to PhD, including short courses and professional training; Build Pan-African networks for conferences, journals, fieldwork, and artistic collaboration; Develop world-class facilities, from studios and labs to performance venues, that serve scholars, artists, and communities.

AMI will champion African musicology from within, producing knowledge, performances, and policy insights that speak to Africa's realities and aspirations.

These initiatives align with UNIVEN's Strategic direction to foster engaged scholarship, strengthen continental partnerships, and deliver globally competitive graduates. The University of Venda is indeed expanding its international footprint through strategic partnerships, reinforcing its commitment to African-led collaboration and sustainable development.



*R-L Prof Bernard Nthambeleni and Prof Kiplangat during the engagement*

# SELECTION, ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS:

## 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR



### SELECTION, ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS: 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

- Application for admission closed on **30th of September 2025**.
- The application process shall not be reopened, and **'walk-ins' shall not be attended to.**
- The University has streamlined and automated the selection and admission processes, and as a result, prospective students are advised not to visit the University for Admission or to bring their statement of results. (i.e., Electronic NSC / matriculation results of all applicants are already obtained from the Department of Basic Education by the University)

## TRACKING OF SELECTION OUTCOMES / RESULTS

- The following web link to check/track your admission status will be activated on the UNIVEN website on **12 January 2026**.

<https://www.univen.ac.za/check-application-status/>

Telephonic enquiries can be directed to **015 962 8943/ 9334/ 9335**

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

You can only register if you have been admitted to our Qualification/Degree study programme.

- Minimum Initial Payment during registration

All students without a loan/bursary will be required to pay an upfront minimum registration deposit of R5,000.00 towards tuition and R4,900.00 towards residence allocation per semester. The amount for residence should be paid by students whose application for residence has been successful. Payments can be made at any ABSA branch

## BANKING DETAILS

### ONLINE REGISTRATION

All prospective students are to register online at the following link: **[https://univenien.univen.ac.za/pls/prodi04/w99pkg.mi\\_login](https://univenien.univen.ac.za/pls/prodi04/w99pkg.mi_login)**

**Name:** University of Venda

**Bank:** ABSA

**Acc. No:** 1000 000 589

**Branch name:** Makhado

**Branch code:** 33 414 940

**Reference no:** Student Number



## SCHEDULE FOR SELECTION, ADMISSION, AND REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS IN THE 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

PERIOD	ACTIVITY
06 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University re-opens.</li> <li>• Academic Programme commences.</li> <li>• Return of students: Faculty of Health Sciences and continuing postgraduate students.</li> </ul>
06 – 09 January 2026	Registration of Faculty of Health Sciences students.
12 January 2026	Residences open for first-time entering and returning students of all faculties.
12 - 30 January 2026	Selection, Admission, and Registration of First-Time Entering and Returning Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students.
20 February 2026	Final date for Registration of Honours and Masters by coursework.
24 March 2026	Final date of Admission of Registration for Master's and Doctoral Degrees by Research.
30 January 2026	Official Opening of First-Time Entering Students Orientation
02 – 13 February 2026	Late Registration for Undergraduate Students.
02 – 06 February 2026	Compulsory Orientation for First-Time Entering Students.
04 February 2026	Official Opening of the Academic Year 09h00.

# NEW VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

## VISION AND MISSION

*"Vision is the art of seeing the invisible"*  
~ Jonathan Swift

Our vision defines what we want to become by 2040. It is an aspirational description of what we would like to achieve in the long term.



### VISION

A University leading in engaged scholarship



### MISSION

The University of Venda produces graduates who are locally relevant and globally competitive

## INSTITUTIONAL VALUES

The University of Venda is guided by a set of core institutional values that shape its culture, inform decision-making, and underpin the university's strategic priorities. These values include:



### EXCELLENCE

Striving for the highest standards in teaching, research, and service



### INTEGRITY

Acting with honesty, ethics, and transparency in all we do



### ACCOUNTABILITY

Taking responsibility for our actions and delivering on our commitments



### DIVERSITY

Embracing and promoting inclusivity, equity, and different perspectives



### RESPECT

Valuing the dignity and contributions of every individual

## POSITIONING STATEMENT

Positioning the University of Venda for Relevance, Excellence and Impact