



University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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UNIVEN and PPS Deliver Hope and Dignity Through Student Welfare Partnership



On 21 April 2026, the University of Venda (UNIVEN), through its Advancement Unit, partnered with the Professionals Provident Society (PPS) to support the Thoho Ya Nzie Student Welfare Programme through a donation of food parcels. The initiative reinforces the University's commitment to student wellness, dignity, and academic success, particularly amid rising living costs that threaten student retention.

Dr Caroline Takalani welcomed guests and expressed appreciation to the PPS Foundation for its continued support, while acknowledging the Advancement Unit's fundraising efforts.

She emphasised that academic success is inseparable from students' physical, emotional, and psychological well-being, and highlighted the importance of holistic, student-centred support systems.

In her keynote address, Ms Tsakani Nkuna described the PPS Foundation's contribution as a strategic investment in student resilience and well-being. She noted that the programme enhances academic focus, emotional stability, and social solidarity, while also stressing that food insecurity is a global challenge. She further highlighted the value of purposeful collaboration in driving meaningful social impact.

Dr Refilwe Pila Nemutandani reaffirmed the Thoho Ya Nzie Programme as a reflection of UNIVEN's commitment to student-centred development and called on industry partners, alumni, and stakeholders to support and expand the initiative.

Providing an overview of PPS, Mr Kapish Singh outlined the organisation's history and its focus on youth development. He commended UNIVEN's proactive efforts in supporting students and highlighted the role of partnerships, including collaboration with Rise Against Hunger Africa, in addressing food insecurity. He reaffirmed the PPS Foundation's commitment to strengthening its partnership with the University.

In his appreciation remarks, Dr Takalani Dzaga, Director Marketing, Branding and

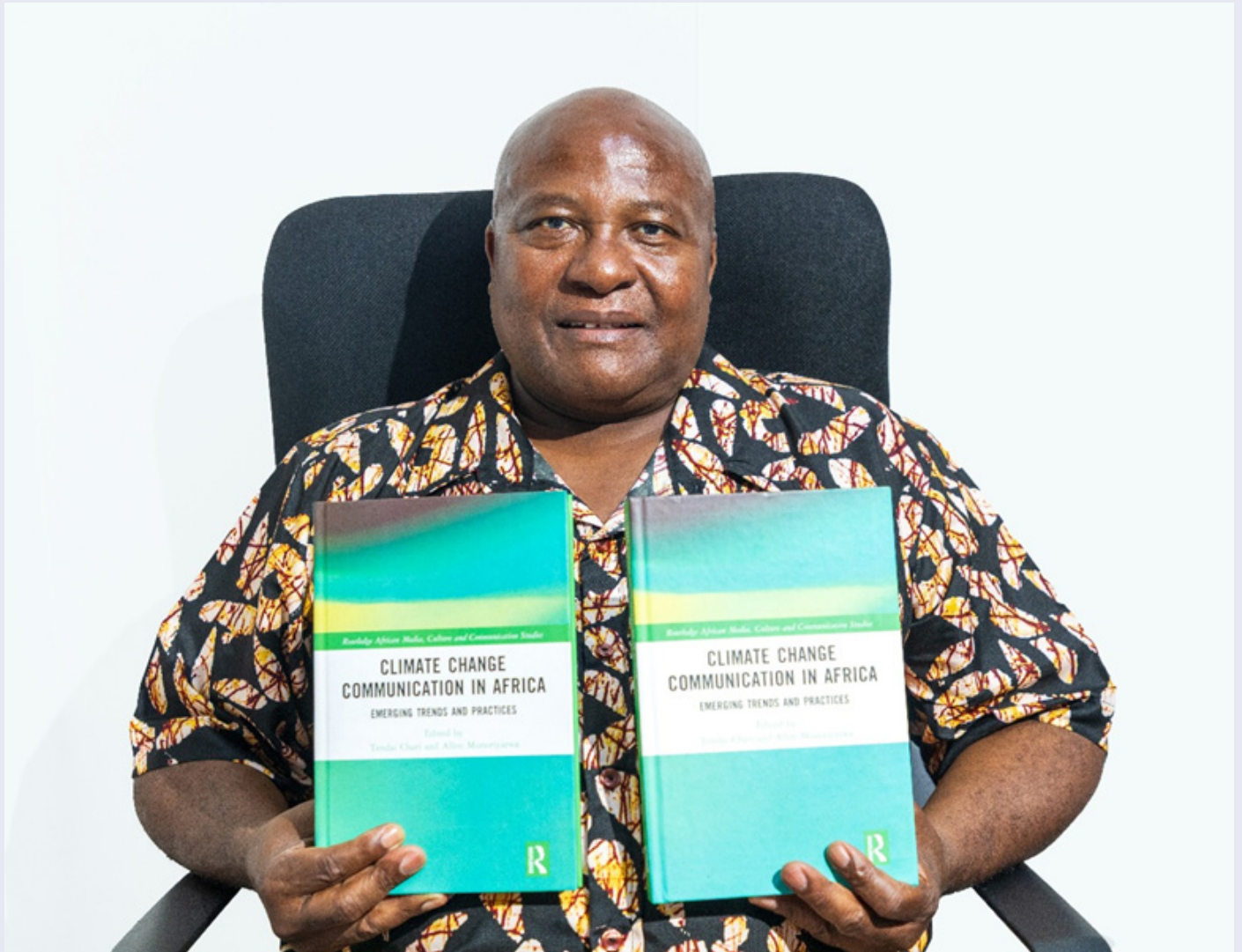
Communication, thanked all stakeholders for their contributions and underscored the importance of sustainable partnerships. He highlighted the significance of PPS Foundation's renewed support in advancing UNIVEN's flagship student welfare initiatives and strengthening its developmental mandate as a rural-based institution.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Mr Andisani Mathelemusa expressed gratitude to the PPS Foundation and all stakeholders, noting the importance of collective support in addressing students' socio-economic challenges. He emphasised that such interventions restore dignity and called for continued partnerships to enhance student welfare and institutional development.



Above are the speakers during the Thoho Ya Nzie Student Welfare Programme

FHSSE Academic Publishes Seminal Book on Climate Change Communication



Professor Tendai Chari, an Associate Professor in the Department of English, Media Studies and Linguistics in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (FHSSE) has co-edited a landmark volume titled *Climate Change Communication in Africa: Emerging Trends and Practices*.

Published by Routledge (an imprint of Taylor and Francis) in the Routledge African Media, Culture, and Communication Studies series, this 18-Chapter anthology illuminates how climate change is mediated across diverse channels – from stakeholder communication and journalism to social media platforms like Tik-Tok – and harness African perspectives to amplify voices from the continent.

Co-edited with Professor Allen Munoriyarwa

of Walter Sisulu University, the book draws on contributions from multi-disciplinary scholars across South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Professor Chari, a C1-rated National Research Foundation (NRF) researcher, also co-authored the chapter “Social Media and Climate Change Activism: When Champions Meet Sceptics” with his Masters student, Mmakgotso, who research focuses on climate change activism in South Africa.

“I am thrilled that this pioneering book which we have been working on for over three years has finally seen the light of day”, said Professor Chari. Coordinating it was a complex exercise, not least because of the large number of contributors and reviewers involved. I would like to thank my co-

editor, Prof Munoriyarwa and all the contributors who shared their knowledge, experiences, voices, and perspectives from across Africa. The book is richer because of their participation”.

The volume has garnered enthusiastic endorsements from leading scholars. Mike Schäfer of the University of Zurich praised the book noting that “Its broad vista – from stakeholder communication over climate journalism to social media such as TikTok, will help the gap of scholarship on countries of the Global South”. Professor Ingrid Volkmer of the University of Melbourne, Australia, hailed the book as a “much-needed publication providing insight into a great variety of fascinating studies, ranging from climate communication in local community radio, to national legacy media to social media and the role of influencers across the continent”

Targeted at researchers, academics, practitioners in media studies, journalism, environmental communication, and climate change fields – as well as policymakers and general readers,

the book fosters continental collaboration and promotes inclusive, context – relevant approaches to climate change discourse.

The Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Prof Tawanda Runhare congratulated Prof Chari and his team for raising the UNIVEN flag high.

“Prof Chari’s contribution to co-editing the landmark volume *Climate Change Communication in Africa: Emerging Trends and Practices* is both timely and impactful, particularly as the continent continues to confront the realities of climate change. This achievement not only showcases the depth of scholarship within our Faculty, but also underscores the critical role of African voices in shaping global climate discourse. We commend Prof Chari and his team for advancing knowledge that speaks directly to the lived experiences and communication challenges within African contexts,” said Prof Runhare.





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INVITATION TO THE 2026 UNIVEN CAREERS EXHIBITION (Vhembe East District)

The **University of Venda**, in partnership with the Careers Exhibition and Information Association (CEIA), cordially invites grade 12 learners from the Vhembe East District to attend the 2026 UNIVEN Careers Exhibition. The event will take place from 4 to 8 May 2026 at the University of Venda Auditorium.

The schedule is as follows:

Date	Circuits	Time
Monday, 04 May 2026	Malamulele East, Central and North-East.	8:00
Tuesday, 05 May 2026	Dzindi, Luvuvhu, Mvudi and Vhuronga 1.	8:00
Wednesday, 06 May 2026	Sibasa, Tshinane and Mutshundudi.	8:00
Thursday, 07 May 2026	Mudaswali, Sambandou, Tshilamba, Malamulele South, Niani East and West.	8:00
Friday, 08 May 2026	Vhumbedzi and Malamulele West	8:00

Further information can be obtained from the following officials:

Mr Mphinyana Nemasitoni: 082 715 4966 or email mphinyana.nemasitoni@univen.ac.za

Mr Justice Lebopa: 082 868 1915 or email: justice.lebopa@univen.ac.za.

156450 ayanda.mbanga.co.za

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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UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

2026 Autumn Graduation Ceremonies

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Venda (UNIVEN), Prof Bernard Nthambeleni, invites you to the 2026 Autumn Graduation Ceremony that will take place at the University Auditorium from 19 -22 May 2026 and is scheduled to start at **09h00 am (First Sessions) and 13h00 pm (Second Sessions)**.

NB: Graduands and Guests should arrive **TWO HOURS BEFORE** the commencement of each ceremony.

For more information, kindly contact the Faculty Administrators as reflected in each session OR Visit our website: www.univen.ac.za. The graduation will be live streamed.

SESSIONS	DATE	TIME	CONTACT
SESSION 1: Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law Management and Commerce	19 May 2026 Morning Session:	09h00	Caroline Rampheri 015 962 8827 Caroline.Rampheri@univen.ac.za
SESSION 2: Faculty of Health Sciences, and Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law Health Sciences + Law	19 May 2026 Afternoon Session:	13h00	Aluwani Bugane (Health Sciences) 015 962 8942 Aluwani.Bugane@univen.ac.za Julius Netshidzivhe (Law) 015 962 8961 Julius.Netshidzivhe@univen.ac.za
SESSION 3: Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture Environmental Sciences + Agricultural Sciences	20 May 2026 Morning Session:	09h00	Mishumo Nengwekhulu (Environmental Sciences) 015 962 8954 Mishumo.Nengwekhulu@univen.ac.za Maxwell Maboho (Agric Sciences) 015 962 8880 Maxwell.Maboho@univen.ac.za
SESSION 4: Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture Maths and Natural Sciences	20 May 2026 Afternoon Session:	13h00	Mukondeleli Masia 015 962 8086 Mukondeleli.Masia@univen.ac.za
SESSION 5: Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Human and Social Sciences	21 May 2026 Morning Session:	09h00	Mashudu Mainganye 015 962 8969 Mashudu.Mainganye@univen.ac.za
SESSION 6: Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Honours for the Faculty Education, Foundation Phase Teaching and Senior Phase Teaching	21 May 2026 Afternoon Session:	13h00	Gumani Tshimange 015 962 8888 Gumani.Tshimange@univen.ac.za Mashudu Mainganye 015 962 8969 Mashudu.Mainganye@univen.ac.za
SESSION 7: Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education [SEPGCE] + Masters and Doctoral	22 May 2026 Morning Session:	09h00	Gumani Tshimange 015 962 8888 Gumani.Tshimange@univen.ac.za Mashudu Mainganye 015 962 8969 Mashudu.Mainganye@univen.ac.za