



University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



Issue 79 | 9 July 2026

Bridging Digital Divide: UNIVEN Donates Computers and Printers to 18 Schools to Advance Digital Learning

For many schools in Limpopo, limited access to reliable digital resources remains one of the greatest barriers to quality education. Recognising this challenge, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) has taken another meaningful step towards transforming lives by donating 246 desktop computers and 22 printers to 18 schools across the Vhembe East, Vhembe

West and Mopani East education districts. The initiative also benefited one crèche and one community organisation, extending the University's impact beyond the classroom and into the broader community. This intervention followed a request submitted to the University by the beneficiary institutions.



In the picture: Symbolic handover of computers to the beneficiaries

The beneficiary institutions comprised 15 schools from the Vhembe East District, two schools from the Vhembe West District and one school from the Mopani East District. Each institution received up to 14 desktop computers and one printer. Priority was given to registered schools and organisations serving disadvantaged communities, those with established partnerships with the University, demonstrated need and potential impact, as well as the capacity and accountability to manage and safeguard the donated assets responsibly.

The initiative saw significant benefits from the donation programme, which aims to strengthen digital learning, improve access to technology, and empower educators and learners with the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly digital world. The community organisation supports orphaned children and serves as a workplace-integrated learning site for University of Venda Youth-in-Development students.



In the picture: Ms Nakisani Nemadodzi, Manager: Directorate of Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation

Welcoming guests to the ceremony, Ms Nakisani Nemadodzi, said the donation reflects the University of Venda's enduring commitment to strengthening partnerships with schools and community organisations. She explained that the initiative is aligned with the University's Strategic Plan 2026-2030, particularly its pillars of student-centredness and community engagement, noting that supporting learners should begin at grassroots level. Ms Nemadodzi added that, since 2015, the University has worked closely with schools through various outreach initiatives, including digital literacy, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, school improvement projects and work-integrated learning programmes, demonstrating UNIVEN's commitment to improving educational outcomes and empowering surrounding communities through sustainable partnerships.



In the picture: Dr Livhuwani Ramabulana, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Professional and Curriculum Studies

Delivering remarks on behalf of Professor Thizwilondi Mudau, Dr Livhuwani Ramabulana,

emphasised the importance of partnerships in driving educational transformation. He encouraged schools and the University to continue working collaboratively, noting that the success of such partnerships should be measured by the positive outcomes they produce for learners and communities.

"In the Fifth Industrial Revolution, computers are no longer a luxury but a necessity," he said, urging recipients to use the technology to produce meaningful educational outcomes and prepare learners for a technology-driven future. He further encouraged learners to aspire to higher education by applying to the University of Venda.

He concluded by encouraging learners to pursue higher education at the University of Venda, reminding them that applications are open, online and free of charge.



In the picture: Mr Naphtal Ramawa, Circuit Manager for the Dzindi Circuit

Representing the three beneficiary education districts on behalf of the District Director, Mr Naphtal Ramawa, expressed appreciation to the University of Venda for its generous donation, describing it as an investment in the future of learners rather than merely a donation of equipment. He said the computers and printers would strengthen curriculum delivery, enhance digital literacy and better prepare learners for success in the digital age. Mr Ramawa commended the University's longstanding commitment to community engagement and educational development, adding that the enduring partnership between UNIVEN and the Department of Basic Education continues to create meaningful and lasting impact in schools across the region.



In the picture: Dr Nkhumbuleni Ratshitanga, Head of ICT Support Services (UNIVEN)

Officially handing over the computers and printers, Dr Nkhumbuleni Ratshitanga said the donation is an investment in learners' future and urged schools to use and safeguard the equipment effectively. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to providing ongoing technical support and training to help schools maximise the benefits of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in education.

expressed heartfelt gratitude to the University of Venda for its investment in rural education. She committed to ensuring that the computers and printers would be fully utilised to enhance digital teaching and learning, while welcoming the University's continued support through training and capacity-building initiatives.



In the picture: Mrs Beauty Mutheiwana, Director of Supply Chain Management



In the picture: Mrs Mukhethwa Pandelani, Principal of Tsilawa Primary School

Accepting the donation on behalf of the beneficiary schools, Mrs Mukhethwa Pandelani

Delivering the vote of thanks, Mrs Beauty Mutheiwana, expressed appreciation to all stakeholders whose contributions made the initiative possible. She encouraged beneficiary schools to embrace digital technologies to transform teaching and learning, reaffirming the University's commitment to community development and ensuring that no learner is left behind in the digital age.

Quoting the late President of the Republic of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, she reminded attendees that, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," highlighting that the donation represents more than equipment, it is an investment in the future of communities across Limpopo.



Group photo of University of Venda officials, Department of Basic Education representatives and recipient schools during the official computer handover ceremony

Through initiatives such as this, the University of Venda continues to transform lives beyond its campus and around our communities, extending access to digital resources, strengthening partnerships with schools and contributing to the development of future-ready learners.

The computer donation programme stands as a testament to the University's unwavering commitment to creating lasting educational impact and building digitally empowered communities.

Pictures below: Random symbolic handover of computers to the beneficiary schools



Building Capacity for Social Impact: UNIVEN Co-Designs Engaged Learning and Research Courses

The University of Venda (UNIVEN), through its Centre for Entrepreneurship, Rapid Incubator and Innovation (CEEIIC), has joined forces with Rhodes University, EDUVOS and Mangosuthu University of Technology to co-design innovative short courses in Engaged Learning and Teaching (ET&L) and Engaged Research (ER). The collaborative

initiative recently brought representatives of the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) together at Rhodes University in Makhanda to strengthen institutional capacity in community engagement, engaged research and socially responsive teaching and learning.



In the picture: Representatives from the University of Venda's Directorate of Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation (CEEIIC), Ms Tshinakaho Tshilamulele (second from left) and Mr Rendani Nematswerani (front, far right), pose for a photo with colleagues from Rhodes University, EDUVOS and Mangosuthu University of Technology during a collaborative co-design workshop to develop Engaged Learning and Teaching (EL&T) and Engaged Research (ER) short courses under the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP).

The curriculum development workshop adopted a practical, collaborative approach, with participants jointly designing course content, developing learning materials and refining teaching methodologies. Through open dialogue, knowledge sharing and active participation in an interactive environment, the workshop fostered innovation, strengthened inter-institutional collaboration and ensured the co-creation of contextually relevant and responsive short courses.

A major milestone was the development of the EL&T short course, comprising eight modules designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively integrate community engagement into teaching and learning. The curriculum covers service-learning, knowledge and identity, ethics, partnership development, student preparation, reflective

practice, curriculum design, and the evaluation and sustainability of engaged teaching. Three foundational modules—Knowledge, Positionality and Identity; Partnership as Pedagogy; and Reflection, Meaning-Making and Critical Consciousness—were identified as shared core modules across both short courses. The ER short course also comprises eight modules, focusing on Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and collaborative approaches to knowledge production. Its curriculum explores the foundations of engaged research, knowledge and identity, CBPR principles, partnership development, participatory methodologies, ethical engagement, reflective practice, and the evaluation and sustainability of engaged scholarship. The shared core modules provide participants in both programmes with a strong foundation in critical engagement, partnership

building, reflexivity and transformative practice. The development of these short courses reflects the UCDP project's commitment to advancing interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and community-based participatory approaches that address societal challenges while enhancing the relevance and impact of higher education. The initiative also strengthens partnerships within the Knowledge for Change (K4C) network, enabling participating institutions to exchange best practices and collaboratively develop resources that advance engaged research, social innovation and socially responsive teaching and learning.

Knowledge for Change (K4C) is a global consortium that promotes training in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR). The network seeks to strengthen the capacity of universities, civil society organisations, communities and researchers

to co-create knowledge that drives social transformation and sustainable development. It is founded on the principles of knowledge democracy, participatory research and social responsibility in higher education.

By actively contributing to this collaborative initiative, UNIVEN continues to reinforce its commitment to building institutional capacity, strengthening strategic partnerships and advancing engaged scholarship that is relevant, responsive, sustainable and impactful. The next phase of the project will see UNIVEN representatives participate in an orientation and pilot contact week at the Mangosuthu University of Technology's Community Engagement and Development Directorate (CEAD) from 27 to 31 July 2026, where the newly developed short courses will be tested and refined before implementation.

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.



University of Venda

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SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (SLAA)

Tel: 073 478 0154 (Chairman) Secretariaat Tel: 072 288 8105 Email: Advbossmike@gmail.com

Our Ref: VACATIONAL WORK PLACEMENTS

Your Ref: N/A

Date: Wednesday, 17 June 2026

RE: 2026 SUMMER (NOV/DEC) VACATIONAL WORK PROGRAMME AND 2027 PRACTICAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING (PVT)- ARTICLES PLACEMENT

1. The above matter refers;
2. The University of Venda School of Law Alumni Association (SLAA), hereby call on all interested parties, Law Firms, etc, to avail themselves to take in Final Year LLB Univen students for 2026 Summer (November / December) Vocational Work Programme. During this period, students are afforded an opportunity to observe what you do in your respective offices, this opportunity to observe shall add value to what they learn at the University curriculum and further be a motivation them. It closes the gap between substantive law and practical training. Students are expected to comply with all working conditions in your practice at **NO** remuneration as this is a training opportunity.
3. Furthermore, a plea is extended to all Legal Practices having capacity and willing to offer qualifying students with Law Degree, Practical Vocational Training (Articles) with effect from 2027 placement to also specify their availability and willingness to assist.
4. Interested parties in respect of the above can contact **Mr Harman Nethononda on 078 7510 772** (Call / WhatsApp) OR on info@hnattorneysinc.co.za for further information.
5. We hope that the above is in order and we thank you in anticipation for your willingness to assist.

Adv Rudzani Michael Netshiavha

Chairperson - UNIVEN SLAA- CELL: 073 478 0154

Issued electronically and thus not Signed

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Executive Committee: Adv Rudzani Michael Netshiavha (Chairperson), Adv Oscar Mudimeli (Deputy Chairperson), Adv N Ralikhuvhana (Deputy Secretary), Mr Harman Nethononda (Treasurer), Adv Tshembeka Constance Mukhari (Additional Member), Mr Samna Williams Kovani (Additional Member), Adv Ndwamato Eric Nwedo (Additional Member)



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HI STUDENTS!

CHETL would like to warmly welcome you back for the second semester.

To help you prepare for your academic journey, please scan the QR code and complete the **Student Preparedness assessment**. Your responses will assist us in identifying areas where additional support may be required to ensure your academic success.

SCAN HERE



#IAmReady#SecondSemester2Ready#StudentSuccess



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UNIVEN
VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
WINTER GOLF
TOURNAMENT
2026



DATE: 24 JULY 2026
VENUE: POLOKWANE GOLF CLUB

Format: 4 Ball Alliance

Entry Fee: R6 500

- Inclusive of Green Fee
- Golf Cart, Golf Shirt & Cap
- Halfway Light Meal
- Prize Giving Dinner

Payment Due Date: 30 June 2026

Golf Registration: 08H00 - 09H30

Tee-off: 10H00

The funds can be deposited into the University of Venda ABSA Account

Acc. Name: University of Venda

Acc. Number: 1000 000 538

Branch Name: Thohoyandou

Branch Code: 33419

Ref. Number: GOLF DAY 2026

Contact

Mrs TR Muthadzwi: 015 962 8823 | 072 168 7368 | tshililo.muthadzwi@univen.ac.za

