

Office of the Vice Chancellor & Principal

TO : THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

FROM: PROF. N.B. NTHAMBELENI
VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL

DATE : 23 FEBRUARY 2024

SUBJECT: RECONFIGURATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORATE



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) is in the fourth year of the implementation of the strategic plan 2021-2025, it has been considered necessary to reconfigure the **Directorate of Community Engagement to Directorate of Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation**. The reconfiguration and rebranding of the Directorate came at the right time, and it is intended to strengthen the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 with the goal of positioning the University of Venda for impact and relevance.

The University of Venda's Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation under the Directorship of Prof Vhonani Netshandama was established to create an inspiring and supportive environment where entrepreneurial values and innovation culture thrive. Our intention is to integrate entrepreneurship into the fabric of the University, creating a vibrant and inclusive entrepreneurial culture. UNIVEN is committed to becoming an entrepreneurial University.”

This Directorate will ensure that various functions do not operate in silos and that the University's strategic intent to establish an Entrepreneurial University culture is appropriately focused and transversely coordinated to build a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.

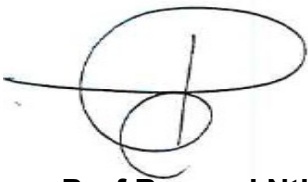
We are committed to fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, innovation, and commercialisation that empowers our students, staff, and the broader community to thrive in a rapidly evolving global landscape. Our purpose is to cultivate an environment where creativity flourishes, ideas transform into viable solutions, and knowledge is translated into tangible societal and economic impact. Through this, we seek to position UNIVEN as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialisation, contributing significantly to regional development and global knowledge advancement.”

Our Strategic Plan 2021-2025 creates an enabling environment for positioning UNIVEN to make an impact and to be relevant both locally and globally, and to strengthen it to become an efficient and effective institution of higher learning.

The Directorate will play an enabling role in the Strategic Plan and UNIVEN Integrated Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Biodiversity Plan (UIEIPB) which is a visionary roadmap that propels UNIVEN as it redefines its role in the higher education landscape.

I implore the entire University Community to give Prof Netshandama and her team the necessary support they would need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' with a vertical line through it, and a smaller loop below it.

Prof Bernard Nthambeleni
Vice-Chancellor and Principal