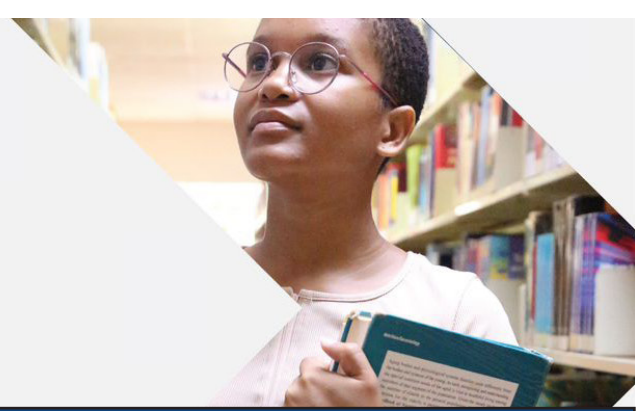




University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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National School of Government Training Sessions Empower Univen Facilitators to Deliver Effective Programmes

The University of Venda's Department of Public and Development Administration, part of the Faculty of Management, Commerce, and Law, recently hosted the National School of Government (NSG) Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions at the 2Ten Hotel in Sibasa on 29-30 October 2024. This event marks the beginning of a three-year training contract awarded to the department by the NSG, aimed at training public servants in Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces through the Advanced Management Development Programme (AMDP) and Emerging Management Development Programme (EMDP).



On photo: NSG delegates led by Mr Albert Koloko and Deon Bloemstein with University of Venda facilitators led by Prof Harry Munzhedzi

Over 30 participants, including approved and potential facilitators, attended the sessions, which focused on equipping them to execute the training effectively.



In his opening remarks, Prof Harry Munzhedzi, Head of the Department of Public and Development Administration at the University of Venda, expressed his gratitude to the NSG for this valuable training opportunity. He acknowledged that for many participants, this was their first experience with such a programme and highlighted the importance of the collaboration between UNIVEN and NSG. Prof. Munzhedzi also praised the involvement of departmental colleagues and external experts, expressing excitement about their readiness to implement the programme. "The team is prepared for implementation," he affirmed.



On photo: Director of Client Relations and Learner Records at the National School of Government, Mr Albert Koloko

Mr. Albert Koloko, Director of Client Relations and Learner Records at the NSG, provided an overview of his directorate's role in managing registration and enrolment for training programmes. He emphasised the importance of collaboration between UNIVEN and the NSG for the success of these initiatives. Koloko outlined the structure of training programmes based on government service levels and discussed logistical responsibilities, including venue management and the need for pre-approved trainers. He stressed the necessity of accurate attendance records and the timely submission of course reports within ten days of training sessions, underscoring the importance of clear communication between the project office and facilitators.



On photo: Assistant Director at the National School of Government, Ms Charlotte Choshi

Ms Charlotte Choshi elaborated on the processes for issuing certificates, conducting assessments, and moderating the AMDP and EMDP programmes. She highlighted her directorate's role in managing post-training activities, such as maintaining attendance records and processing payments to service providers. Choshi stressed the importance of Portfolios of Evidence (POE) that students must submit upon completing the programme. "Qualified assessors and moderators will be deployed to ensure effective evaluation of learners' competencies, focusing on their understanding and application of knowledge rather than merely correct answers," she explained. She concluded by emphasising the need for thorough documentation throughout the assessment process.



On photo: Ms Tshetsana Ratlou, Director of Professionalisation National School of Government

Ms Tshetsana Ratlou addressed the professionalisation of Education, Training, and Development (ETD) practitioners within the NSG, emphasising the importance of recognising their qualifications collectively. She introduced a new unit dedicated to their development, structured around three key pillars: recruitment and selection (already completed), professional development, and performance management.

The second session featured a Q&A segment, followed by facility inspections where participants visited the University's printing section, which will be responsible for printing learning materials and certificates. In the final session, facilitators were screened and allocated specific module themes to present, demonstrating their engagement strategies with students in 15 to 20-minute time slots.

This collaborative effort aims not only to enhance the skills of public service managers but also to strengthen the ties between the University of Venda and the National School of Government, ultimately benefiting the communities they serve.



Empowering Small Enterprises: Highlights from the 2024 Supplier Connect Day at the University of Venda

On October 24, 2024, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) hosted its annual Supplier Connect Day, empowering 50 Exempted Micro Enterprises (EMEs) and Qualifying Small Enterprises (QSEs) as part of its Supplier Enterprise Development Programme. The event took place at the Life Sciences and Auditorium Parking, followed by training sessions at the Research Conference Centre on October 25.

During the Supplier Connect Day, various speakers provided valuable insights to the attendees, focusing on the ethical conduct expected when engaging in business with UNIVEN and other government entities. Compliance emerged as a key theme, underscoring the importance of adhering to established standards.



In his opening remarks, UNIVEN Chief Financial Officer Mr. Botwe Kraziya emphasised the significance of connecting with business partners. "This event is crucial for educating our suppliers about our expectations and how to conduct business with UNIVEN," he stated. He further highlighted the university's commitment to supporting small businesses, noting that their growth leads to increased employment opportunities. "When these businesses succeed, the university thrives as well," he added. Mr. Kraziya encouraged fair pricing practices among service providers, emphasising the university's dedication to fostering the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



Prof. Vhonani Netshandama, Director of the Directorate of Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation, and Commercialisation, acknowledged the essential role suppliers play in UNIVEN's mission as an Entrepreneurial University. She remarked that the event was organised in the spirit of inclusivity, fairness, and transparency, which are foundational to the university's values.

Other notable speakers included Tshepo Mampuru from PURCO SA, Mushe Nzero discussing green technology, Ms. Kabelo Sibanyoni from SARS, Ms. Hellen Mabidi from ABSA, Mrs. Tendani Maideledzha from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), representatives from the Limpopo Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Rabelani Mulaudzi from the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, and Mr. Fhatuwani Ndou from UNIVEN.



Cllr Sarah Rambuda, Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality, expressed gratitude to UNIVEN for organising the event, which aims to support local small businesses. She emphasised the need for collaboration to unlock opportunities for small enterprises and cooperatives.



On the second day of the workshop, facilitator Mr. Rodney Moolman guided small business owners through supplier development training, focusing on how to register with various government databases. He covered essential topics including public procurement principles, financial management, key considerations for bid documents, and the relevant legislation such as the Public Procurement Act of 2024 and the Public Finance Management Act.



This year's Supplier Connect Day not only equipped local businesses with essential knowledge and skills but also reinforced UNIVEN's commitment to fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem within the community.



Unleashing Student Talent: UNIVEN's Creative Painted Artwork Skills Development Workshop

The University of Venda (UNIVEN), in partnership with its International Relations and Partnerships Directorate, the UNIVEN Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubation (UCEfRI), the Technology Transfer Office, the ICT Department, the Thohoyandou Arts Centre, the Small Enterprises Development Agency (SEDA), the Department of Sport, Arts and

Culture (DSAC), and the Department of Basic Education (DBE), hosted the inaugural UNIVEN Painted Artworks Skills Development Workshop Competition on 24-25 October 2024. Held at the UNIVEN Maths Building and Freedom Square, this year's theme was "Science Communication."



On Photo: Director International Relations and Partnerships

Dr Segun Obadire, the Director of International Relations and Partnerships, opened the event, encouraging participants to engage actively, learn new skills, and build valuable networks throughout the workshop.



On Photo: Mr Matome Mokoena, International Relations Officer

In his talk, Mr Matome Mokoena highlighted the critical role of social media in helping visual artists expand their clientele. He emphasised that by leveraging social media's global reach and implementing effective marketing strategies, artists can enhance their visibility and forge meaningful connections that drive sales. He expressed that this inaugural workshop not only provided participants with essential skills and networking opportunities but also laid the groundwork for future annual events aimed at enriching the local arts community with enticing prizes.



On Photo: Mr Hamza Patel, Visual Artist and Educator

Mr Hamza Patel, a visual artist and educator, stressed that art can be created using simple materials found in nature. He inspired participants to express themselves through their artwork, using it as a powerful medium to address personal and social issues.

Mr Ndwamato Tshivhandekano from Ndima Art Centre shared his insights on using art as a tool for communication and problem-solving. He highlighted the healing power of colour in art and its ability to influence emotions. Mr Netshivhodza from the Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture expressed enthusiasm for UNIVEN's initiative to nurture creativity in the region.

The workshop engaged UNIVEN students, local high school learners from Thohoyandou Secondary School, Marude Secondary School, and Fulufhelo Special School. Participants enjoyed various activities, including painting lessons, discussions on protecting intellectual property, and guidance on starting creative artwork businesses. They competed for top prizes while learning essential painting techniques.

Local artists facilitated the workshop, demonstrating fundamental painting techniques and inspiring the participants. Exhibitors also showcased their painted artworks during the event. The Technology Transfer Office underscored the importance of intellectual property protection for visual artists, explaining how securing rights can enhance financial opportunities and maintain artistic integrity.

The workshop's success illustrated the potential for future events to enrich the local arts community further and attract more participants and sponsors. DSAC representative Mr Thingahangwi Netshivhodza encouraged UNIVEN to pursue funding for future annual events.



On Photo: Ndou Andani, a Grade 9 learner from Marude Secondary School

Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in a painting competition that culminated in a showcase of their talents. The event concluded with a standout moment: Grade 9 learner Andani Ndou from Marude Secondary School won first place for the best-painted artwork of the competition.

This workshop marked a significant step forward in nurturing artistic talent and fostering creativity within the local community, promising exciting prospects for future collaborations and initiatives.



Announcement: UNIVEN to Host the Unemployed Graduate Reskilling and Career Empowerment Summit

Exciting news for our readers! The University of Venda is hosting the Unemployed Graduate Reskilling and Career Empowerment Summit for unemployed graduates in the Vhembe District Municipality. This event focuses on high-demand industries like agriculture, mining, technology, and financial services, offering participants practical skills and insights for today's job market. Attendees will also receive guidance on personal branding and entrepreneurship, helping them take charge of their careers. The summit includes hands-on workshops and expert-led sessions, making it a great opportunity to transform your future!

The Summit will take place as follows:

Date : Saturday, 16 November 2024

Venue : University of Venda Auditorium

Time: 08:00

Grab this rare opportunity to connect with senior industry leaders, primarily CEOs. Act fast—only 300 seats are available!

For more information, please contact Ms Shumani Nembudani at 077 607 5500 or email shumani.nembudani@univen.ac.za