

# This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

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# SAQA APPROVES NEW UFH QUALIFICATION:

## *Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery*

It's Official!! The Nursing Science Department under Faculty of Health Sciences has an exciting new qualification to offer: a Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery.

News of the approval of the NQF Level 08 qualification was received by the Vice-Chancellor earlier this week. The timing could not have been more perfect as the university prepares to start the 2021 academic year in March.

The approval follows a stringent application process that included fielding questions from the Department of Higher Education Training (DHET) and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The bid commenced a few years ago and was driven by a dedicated team from the Faculty of Health Sciences. The SAQA endorsement letter marks a huge milestone for the faculty and university at large.

The Faculty is ready to accept its first intake when the 2021 Academic Year commences on 15 March.

Prof Leon van Niekerk, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences said the programme was developed to prepare students to become independent registered professional nurses and midwives.



>> Prof Leon van Niekerk

***“The students will be skilled to render comprehensive care across all health spheres.”***

“The students will be skilled to render comprehensive care across all health spheres. Comprehensive interventions allow them to integrate and apply the scientific process of the full range of nursing services to promote and maintain the health status of users in all contexts of health care delivery,” he explained.

According to him, reports on the status of nursing in the country indicate a growing gap between the demand and supply of professional nurses and midwives, a decline in learners entering the nursing profession and the aging population of professional nurses.

“The decline of learners has been a matter of great concern to the South African Nursing Council and the Ministry of Health. The problem was discussed in the Human Resources Plan for Health, launched by the then Minister of Health in April 2006. Emphasis was on recruitment of more learners into professional nursing. The registration of a professional degree in nursing was seen as imperative to promoting the uptake of graduate and postgraduate qualifications.”

“The development of this programme started only a few years ago. It was a team effort from the nursing department,” he said proudly.

### **The bid Team**

**Dr Nonyaniso Nkutu** was appointed as the curriculum developer and the bidding process was set in motion. The programme had to adhere to the minimum standards set by both the South African Nursing Council (SANC) and the Council on Higher Education (CHE). The application was sent to DHET for accreditation and then to SAQA for registration in their qualifications registry.

During the pandemic the team had to reply to some questions, first from DHET and then SAQA. “The department addressed these appropriately and I must commend the role of **Prof Daniel Ter Goon** (former Acting Dean and the leadership of the Nursing Department, **Mrs Ntombana Rala** and **Ms Tobeka Mtise**, in getting it done under challenging circumstances”, said Prof Van Niekerk.

### **About the programme**

This is a four-year programme which also includes clinical training and practical hours done in hospitals over the course of the four years. Prof Van Niekerk said of importance in this programme is the scope of the curriculum. “It aims to expose students to be more comprehensively qualified than before, with a scope that includes obstetric skills, mental health and primary health care skills. The skills are valuable for first level

contact and provision of health services, with a referral system in operation when cases are beyond their scope.”

The qualification prepares nurses and midwives to work with all patients, stabilised or not, and to take responsibility for health care in any context. In addition, they will take responsibility for managing nursing care in a health care facility. The degree will provide students with a comprehensive view of the field and the necessary skills to screen patients and refer as required.

### **Significance**

Asked why it was important for UFH and the province to have this programme, Prof Van Niekerk said: “UFH is one of the key resources in the province for the development and training of nurses and midwives. It is thus important for the university to take its place on the frontline of training of professional nurses and midwives who could play a leadership role in the provision of health services in the Eastern Cape”.

### **Opportunities of Specialisation and Research**

Prof Van Niekerk believes there is a strong need for nurses and midwives to be equipped to promote quality health care in South Africa. “They are expected to initiate quality measures and take full responsibility for all nursing and midwifery practices. The qualification also intends to provide them access to further academic routes and provides for high quality learning opportunities with a focus on specialisation and research.”

### **Way forward**

The next step is to finalize preparations in the department and for staff members to be ready to present the programme. According to Prof Van Niekerk, the department has largely concluded all the preparations in anticipation for the accreditation of the programme. Curriculum development, study guides and learning materials are in place.

“The last few outstanding tasks include amending the prospectus of the faculty to include the programme. Preparation of the Programme and Qualification Mix and the Integrated Tertiary Software (ITS) to register students is being completed,” he said.

This is indeed a remarkable achievement for the faculty and university at large.

// by Aretha Linden



# Getting To Know Prof Simon Kang'ethe

## Acting HoD: Social Work and Social Development

Prof Simon Kang'ethe is an accomplished Researcher and a widely-published author. Due to his multi-disciplinary nature, his research interest and publications cut across several areas of study. From 2015 he was recognised as a C-Rated Researcher by the National Research Foundation until his rating expired in 2020.

His commitment and dedication to community engagement, particularly with the older persons in and around the Alice region, earned him the Faculty of Science and Humanities Community Engagement Award (2019).

He holds a PhD from North-west University, Master of Social Work (University of Botswana), Bachelor of Social Work (University of Fort Hare,) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Nairobi (Kenya), and a Post-graduate Diploma in Higher Education and Training (PGDHET) from the University of Fort Hare.

He shared some of his outstanding research work with [ThisWeek@FortHare](mailto:ThisWeek@FortHare).



>> Prof Simon Kang'ethe

### Who is Prof Kang'ethe?

I am currently the Acting Head of the Social Work and Social Development Department under the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

I joined the university 11 years ago as a Lecturer and by 2016, I had managed to become a Full Professor. I currently lead the Faculty of Social Science Ethics Screening Committee and represent the Faculty in the Inter-Faculty Research Ethics Committee of the University. I also serve as a member of Senate and Senex structures.

### Please tell us about your research interests. Also, share with us your past and current work/projects?

I am a multi-disciplinarian. My research domain is quite diverse: from HIV/AIDS, culture, children, aging, substance abuse, gender and most recently health issues such as COVID-19. My multi-disciplinary nature is reflected by a range of students I supervise.

The main objective of my research is to mentor as many mentees as possible in various domains of research that I am engaged in.

For **HIV/AIDS** I would like to research fully the dynamics of the socio-cultural drivers influencing HIV/AIDS.

For **Aging**, I am interested in ensuring that adequate knowledge on the dynamics of aging is communicated to those going through the process of aging.

The goal of my **Substance Abuse** research is to uncover how prevention interventions are meted.

With regards to **COVID-19**, my research is to ensure societies are equipped with knowledge and the aetiology and epidemiology of the disease.

### RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

#### HIV/AIDS project and culture

Around 2015 I conducted a research project on socio-cultural drivers of HIV/AIDS, which led to the production of the following article:

- Kang'ethe S.M. 2020. Disclosure deficit experienced by people living with HIV/AIDS in Alice and its environs in Eastern Cape, South Africa. **Indian Journal of Palliative Care (IJPC)** 2020: 26: 28-33.
- Aphiwe Mpateni & Kang'ethe Simon Murote. 2020. An autopsy of palliative health hazards associated with the contemporary traditional male circumcision rite. The case of 2016 Alice study. **Indian Journal of Palliative Care (IJPC)** 2020: 26:80-5.

#### Aging project

Through my community engagement project, I have been able to study most aspects surrounding aging in one of the old age centres in Alice. This has seen me author the following articles pertaining to aging:

- Kang'ethe S.M (2018). Violation of Human Rights of Older Persons in South Africa. The case of Lavela Old Age Centre, Ntselamanzi, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. **The Professional Journal/Maatskaplike Werk**. Vol 54. Issue 2. No 3. P 282-295.
- Kang'ethe, S.M. 2021. The perfidy of secondary parenting faced by the elderly. Evidence from an elderly centre in Alice town, Eastern Cape, South Africa. **In the press of South African Journal of Social Work & Social Development**.
- Shingirai Paul Mbulayi & S.M Kang'ethe. 2019. Social constructions of successful ageing: The case of Ruware Park in Marondera, Zimbabwe. **The Professional Journal/ Maatskaplike**. Vol 55 No 3; issue7. P328-340.

#### Children's work

I have done a lot of work on children and that has resulted in the publications below:

- S.P Mbulayi, A Makuyana & S.M Kang'ethe. 2020. Street vending motherhood. Implications on childcare in Harare, Zimbabwe. **Children & Youth Care Services Review**. 119. Page 1-6.
- Makuyana A, Mbulayi, SP & S.M Kang'ethe. 2020. Psychosocial deficits associated with Child Headed Households (CHH) in Zimbabwe. **Children & Youth Services Review**. 115 2020. P 1-6.
- Mbulayi, S.P & Simon M Kang'ethe. 2020. Psychosocial deficits associated with teenagers born and raised in a "small-house" family setting in Cherutombo in Marondera, Zimbabwe. **Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk**. Vol 56 No1 Issue 8. P96-108.
- Magedya, S, S.M Kang'ethe, Thanduxolo Nomngcoyiya 2020. The Coping Mechanisms Employed by Grandparent-Headed Families in Addressing Juvenile Delinquency in Hill Crest, Alice Township, Eastern Cape Province. **Perspectives on Global Development and Technology** 19 (2020). Page 525-540

#### Substance abuse

- Bala, S & S.M Kang'ethe. 2020. Interplay between substance use and Health. **Behavioural Dynamics among female adolescents in Butterworth, S. Africa**. **Maatskaplike** Vol 56. No 4 (1): P447-459

#### COVID-19

- Kajiita, R; Nomngcoyiya, Thanduxolo and Simon Murote Kang'ethe (2020). The 'revolution' on teaching and learning: Implications of COVID-19 on social work education in institutions of Higher Learning in Africa. Vol 10 (3). P 25-33.
- Muhuro, P and Simon Murote Kang'ethe (2021). Prospects and Pitfalls Associated with Implementing Blended Learning in Rural-based HEI in Southern Africa". In the press of *Perspectives in Education*.

#### Gender

- Agboola, C, Simon Kang'ethe & Boitumelo Joyce Mohapi (2020). Unpacking women-to-women rape within correctional centres in South Africa: Empirical lenses. **Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology**. Vol 33 (2), 2020. P92-109
- Mafa, I, Kang'ethe, S.M & Victor Chikadzi (2020). Revenge Porn and Women Empowerment Issues. Implications for Human Rights and Social Work Practice in Zimbabwe. **Journal of Human Rights and Social Work**
- Mafa Itai & Simon Murote Kang'ethe. 2019. Women-NGOs and financial viability: Implications for women empowerment processes from a social work perspective. **African Journal of Social Work (AJSW)**. Vol 9 number 2. 2019. P 43-51

### What do you think are your most significant research accomplishments?

My most significant accomplishment is the number of people I mentor and equip to carry out research and produce publications. I mentor and co-author with close to twenty mentees.

Being able to traverse through different research domains is also an important milestone. My ability to supervise students from different academic domains and ability to publish in these different domains remains my strength.

### How do you ensure your research is well communicated, digested and acted on?

I ensure that any published article is shared with all my mentees. My work is also in Research Gate and many other research engines. Also, I present papers at conferences.

### What has been the greatest impact of your work?

My work is quoted by many scholars and is reflected daily on Research Gate. This is also evidenced by the rate that at which Google scholar statistics pertaining to my work continues to increase.

### What advice would you give to Young Researchers out there?

- Work hard
- Be committed, and
- Seek mentorship from well-grounded and established researchers.

# University of Fort Hare Merchandise Catalogue

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# Start of the UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

## 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

### Registration dates:

01 March – 15 March 2021

### Opening : 1st Semester

15 March 2021

### Multimodal Orientation dates for 2021

East London: 8-9<sup>th</sup> of March 2021

Alice: 10-12<sup>th</sup> of March 2021



## NURSING SCIENCE STAFF PARTICIPATE IN COVID-19 VACCINATION TRAINING



>> Mrs Viola Van Vuuren

The University of Fort Hare has commenced its readiness journey in preparation for the implementation of Government's vaccination programme.

Six qualified professional nurses from the Nursing Science Department in the Faculty of Health Sciences participated in a short course to help prepare for the Covid-19 vaccination roll-out plan. The course took place between 18 to 29 January and covered seven modules.

Launched last month (January 2021), the online course is offered by the National Department of Health (DoH) in partnership with the South African Vaccination and Immunization Center, Department of Virology at Sefako Makgatho Health Science University and other support partners.

According to the DoH online knowledge hub, the programme seeks to equip participants with knowledge and skills to prepare vaccinators to implement the Covid-19 vaccination plan effectively.

The UFH was represented by the following Nursing Science staff:

- Mrs Viola Van Vuuren – Student Administration and Records Manager
- Ms Nomntu Melitafa – Clinical Facilitator and Simulation Lab Manager
- Mrs Nonthuzelo Bungane – Preceptor
- Mrs Patela Giyose – Clinical Facilitator
- Mrs Shirley Jaftha – Clinical Facilitator
- Mrs T. Khumalo – Lecturer

Speaking to *ThisWeek@FortHare*, Mrs Van Vuuren, a veteran Professional Nurse with 50 years of experience, said she was more than ready to impart the knowledge gained from the course.

"The course was very necessary to reinforce and fine-tune the knowledge we already possess. Injecting a vaccine is not a complex exercise for a trained health professional. However, for it to be effective, there needs to be proper management including storage, delivery and disposal. These are some of the modules the course focused on"

According to her, about 3000 people participated in the online sessions which consisted of video presentations, live webinars and live tests.

Once completed, trainees will be able to execute the following:

- Explain cold-chain requirements, storage and handling principles for various delivery contexts as well as describe options and procedures for waste disposal;
- Describe the process of Covid-19 vaccine administration and identifying infection prevention and control measures that should be used during vaccination sessions;
- Identify an adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) and explain how to report an AEFI following vaccination.

*ThisWeek@FortHare* will stay close to this group to learn more about the vaccination programme. Please be on the lookout for related articles in future editions of the newsletter.

// by Aretha Linden



# Remember our social contract: It's (y)our job to have the job

By Christine Hobden, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Fort Hare and an Iso Lomso Fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study and Dr Heidi Matisonn, a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Source: Daily Maverick - 28 January 2021 [Click here to view original article](#)



>> Dr Christine Hobden



>> Dr Heidi Matisonn

Societal collaboration is essential to our well-being. The pandemic reveals to us on a new scale just how serious this is: it is literally a matter of life and death.

“Solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” A description of life during the Covid-19 pandemic? Actually, this phrase is 370 years old, coined by English political philosopher Thomas Hobbes to depict what he believed life would be like were we not to have laws or political authority – that is, were we to exist in a state of nature.

Political philosophers imagine a time when all of us lived like this – before or without political association – as a tool to understand how we can justify the political systems and authorities we have now. Hobbes is the first in a long line of “social contract” theorists: those who subscribe to the idea that political authority is justified because we would, in a hypothetical state of nature, agree to it to avoid the uncertainty and insecurity we face without it. The terms of each social contract differ from theorist to theorist, but the popularity of the concept has remained constant. But do we have a good grasp of what it means? And what it means for us as citizens?

Simply put, the idea is that even though we never had a chance to do so, if we had such a chance we would “contract” into “society” – we would agree to give up some of our unlimited freedom in exchange for the state’s protection of our other freedoms. We do this because it is the most rational way to protect ourselves and to achieve some of the goods central to a good life.

One of the central features of the social contract that is often overlooked is that it is *between citizens* rather than between citizens and the state. That is, on the social contract view, the state and its political structures and authority are morally justified not because we have signed a hypothetical contract with the state to obey its laws, but because we have signed a hypothetical

contract *with each other* as citizens. It is our job as citizens to respect the terms of the contract. The job of the state or political authority is to do something about it if we don’t.

That said, the legitimacy of the contract is not dependent on whether the state does its job or not, our obligations to each other exist irrespective of the government’s enforcement of them. Democratic states are, after all, rooted in a commitment to a form of political equality *between citizens* – or, to borrow from Bernard Matolino’s thoughts on consensus democracy, rooted in our ability to respect the seriousness of each other’s interests.

Underpinning the concept of the social contract is the recognition that, for better or worse, those who live closest to us are both our greatest source of danger and our greatest opportunity for a better life. Collaboration is therefore essential to our well-being. The pandemic reveals to us on a new scale just how serious this societal collaboration is: it is literally a matter of life and death.

**“We would do well, at this current political moment, to remember the insight above: that as members of a civil society, we have duties to one another that are not contingent on whether the state enforces those duties or not.”**

Dr Christine Hobden is a senior lecturer in philosophy at the University of Fort Hare and an Iso Lomso Fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study. She is a political theorist whose research focuses on citizenship, international justice and collective responsibility. Her forthcoming book, [Citizenship in a Globalised World](#), will be available from May 2021. Dr Heidi Matisonn is a senior lecturer in philosophy at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Her focus is on applied philosophy with a specific interest in health and research ethics.

In a pandemic (as in all other times) we have a duty not to cause death (or harm) to others just as they have a duty not to cause death (or harm) to us. In typical times, the state enforces this duty with a variety of relatively uncontroversial criminal laws. In these atypical times, not harming each other is both similarly simple and more complex. It is simple because we know which social actions can make a big difference to our collective survival: masks, washing hands, physical distancing, ventilation and a national vaccine strategy. It remains complex because these strategies rely on collective participation and coordination: they will only work if the vast majority of us commit to following a shared strategy.

We would do well, at this current political moment, to remember the insight above: that as members of a civil society, we have duties to one another that are not contingent on whether the state enforces those duties or not.

Doing so will remind us that the first question we should ask ourselves about the vaccine is not whether the government has the right to mandate it, but rather what do we owe to each other? It is only once we are clear about what our obligations as citizens are that we can begin to think through whether and how political authority can help us to fulfil them.

To fulfil our duties and protect ourselves we need the coordination of a shared political authority. Further,

we need the expertise and resources available in a shared political project. But we should not lose sight of the fact that the reason for following the guidance and legislation of our government is most foundationally rooted in our duties to each other, not our duties to the state.

Does this make a difference? We think it does: in a country where trust in our political authority is fragile, debates around new strategies, such as vaccination programmes, are clouded by views on the government itself, because they are framed as debates around what power the government should have over us. Of course, it matters whether the state can be trusted to discern and implement. But it is not the only or the main thing that matters.

Returning to the foundations of our state project focuses our attention on what is at stake – our ability to keep one another alive, the best we can, with the resources and information we have available. With this perspective in mind, we suggest that the real issue is not about whether vaccines should be mandated by the state. Rather, we need to recognise that while it is the state’s job to coordinate and fund a vaccine programme, it’s (y)our job as a citizen to have the job.

DM/MC

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Agricultural Economics Benathi Makiyela Transforms Used Tyres into Beautiful Furniture and Décor

**“When I looked at the high number of unemployed graduates I realised that I needed a Plan B in case I struggle to secure employment after graduating.”**

This is only our second edition this year and we have already unearthed two entrepreneurs in our midst. These smart fellows are UFH undergraduate students who are not prepared to wait until they receive their degree certificate before reaping the benefits of tertiary education. They are innovators of note.

## ONE MAN’S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN’S TREASURE

Our studentpreneur this week is **Mr Benathi Makiyela**, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Agricultural Economics student on the Alice Campus. Benathi has found a new purpose for discarded tyres - making furniture and home décor.

The 24-year-old from Mount Frere (Kwa-Bhaca), Eastern Cape said his inspiration for eco-entrepreneurship stems from two things, a passion for recycling and a determination to create a second income stream after graduating.

“When I looked at the high number of unemployed graduates I realised that I needed a Plan B in case I struggle to secure employment after graduating. Even if I do find a job, I have learnt from my role models. These are Vusi Thembekwayo (motivational speaker) and Sbusiso ‘DJ Sbu’ Leope (serial-entrepreneur). They have taught me that having a side hustle as an alternative income stream is financial prudence.”

The name of his company is **Tyre Recycling and Cleaning Services (Pty) Ltd.** It operates on a piece of land on the side of the N2 in Mount Frere. The company manufactures chairs, tables, flowerpots, feeding troughs, pet beds and playground swings from old tyres. He established the company in 2018 and officially registered it in June 2020.

## A FORT HARE AFFAIR

After registering his business, Makiyela partnered with two fellow Fort Harians who form part of the management team:

**Mr Mthandazo Dyantyi, Chief Financial Officer** (UFH Accounting Honours student), and **Mr Silindukuza Ngqasa, Chief Legal Officer** (admitted attorney and UFH Alumnus)

The company has two employees, **Ms Khonzeka Jakalase, Chief Design Officer** (2<sup>nd</sup> year UFH Bachelor of Arts student) and Makiyela’s younger brother, **Mphumezi** who is a gifted seamster/ sewer.

Since inception, the company has sold several pieces of furniture and flowerpots to customers around the province.

“Our objective is to expand our product supply to cover the whole of South Africa even some countries on the African continent. We also want to create more employment opportunities and provide training to arts students at universities and colleges,” said Makiyela.

May their business continue to prosper.

// by Aretha Linden



>> Mr Benathi Makiyela



# STUDENT COUNSELLING UNIT LAUNCHES FOOD AND CLOTHING DONATION PROGRAMME

The UFH Student Counselling Unit (SCU) has once again proven to be much more than a place where students receive professional assistance and guidance in resolving personal and psychological problems. The unit's latest community project aims to feed and clothe UFH students that are less fortunate.

The food and clothing donation drive was launched late last year when the SCU made a call to the university community to donate non-perishable food items and clothing. This is in addition to the SCU's existing food parcels initiative for unfunded students.

Mr Lulama Nombola, a Social Worker within Student Affairs, said the project was instigated by a noticeable increase in the number of students who approached the unit - seeking much more than counselling.

"Several students approach us for any other available support in addition to psychosocial support. This includes requests for food and clothes. Research studies reveal that food insecurity and hunger have a negative impact on the health, mental status and academic performance of university students (Weaver et al 2018; Raskind et al 2019)."

"The SCU therefore believed that such a project would lessen the burden of these students and allow them space to focus on their core business - studying. Through this project, we also intend to provide a holistic therapeutic model for all psychosocial challenges which prevail among students," he explained.

Similar to the food parcel initiative, the beneficiaries of the community project are mainly unfunded students.

According to Nombola, so far the response to the project has been very encouraging. "Both staff and students have contacted the unit showing interest in making a donation while others have already donated items. The beneficiaries have expressed sincere gratitude for support."

On behalf of the SCU, Nombola thanked the donors for opening their hearts to the initiative.

Donations are not only limited to the UFH community, outsiders are also encouraged to participate in the campaign by using the following drop-off points:

- Alice SCU at the Student Affairs building (next to the main gate)
- East London SCU at no.4 Oxford Street opposite the Faculty of Health Science.

For more information, donors can contact:

Mr Lulama Nombola @ [lnombola@ufh.ac.za](mailto:lnombola@ufh.ac.za) OR  
Ms Thobeka Msengana @ [TMsengana@ufh.ac.za](mailto:TMsengana@ufh.ac.za) (Acting HoD)

Alternatively, please call the SCU offices:  
040 602 2681 (Alice) / 043 704 7017 (EL)

// by Aretha Linden



>> Mr Lulama Nombola

**"Both staff and students have contacted the unit showing interest in making a donation while others have already donated items. The beneficiaries have expressed sincere gratitude for support."**



# UNESCO STUDENT SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES:

## *A Call to Improve the State of Human Rights in Africa*



>> Mr Anathi Phela



>> Prof Nomthandazo Ntlama



>> Mr Siyabulela Fobosi



>> Dr Bellita Banda

On 19 January 2021, the UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo' Chair of Human Rights (OTCHR) on the Alice campus held its first ever-virtual student seminar on Contemporary Human Rights Issues. The seminar was initiated in 2018 for the development of a new generation of Researchers. Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the programme was halted in 2020 and to adhere to the current lockdown level 3 restriction, it was moved online.

During the session, students who are registered for the Diploma and the MPhil programmes offered by the OTCHR were given the opportunity to present different topics such as:

***Human Rights, Access to Health Care, HIV/AIDS & Discrimination, Globalization, Sexuality, Sexual Orientation and Human Rights in Africa, Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants; Constitutional bodies and human rights advocacy groups in Africa.***

The presenters were expected to give balanced views on their topics of interest that centred around real life issues, while making concrete arguments that clearly illuminate on the centrality of the indivisibility, interrelationship and interdependence of human rights. In ensuring the integrity and quality of the presentations made and the seminar itself, Mr Anathi Phela who is a Lecturer at the UFH Nelson R Mandela School of Law was invited to serve as an External and Independent Assessor in the facilitation of the proceedings of the day. Other facilitators included Prof Nomthandazo Ntlama (UNESCO OTCHR Acting Head), Mr Siyabulela Fobosi (OTCHR Senior Researcher) and Dr Bellita Banda Chitsamatanga who is Postdoctoral Fellow at the OCTHR.

### **During seminar presentations, students were expected to:**

- place their topics within the legal framework of international covenants and conventions;
- state how democracy in the national Constitutions in Africa has provided a framework of values and institutions for the protection and advancement of human rights and development as evidenced by the progress that has since taken place in post-apartheid South Africa; and
- indicate how the respective African Constitutions with lessons to be drawn from each other endorse a holistic vision of human rights, which includes civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

According to Mr Fobosi, the presentations made on the day highlighted that: "Globally the international community must handle human rights in a fair and equitable way. This should be carried out on the same basis and with the same emphasis that National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the countries where they have been developed are gradually becoming central players in the defence and promotion of human rights."

Meanwhile, on home soil, Mr Fobosi said a number of presentations revealed that South Africa is still characterized by unequal access to socio-economic rights such as healthcare. "Thus, while everyone has the right to access health care, this appears to be on paper particularly in rural areas where people have to walk long distances to access quality healthcare."

***"In addition, while everyone has a right to access to basic education as enshrined in the Constitution, many schools (especially those in rural areas) have limited access in the enjoyment of this right."***

"In addition, while everyone has a right to access to basic education as enshrined in the Constitution, many schools (especially those in rural areas) have limited access in the enjoyment of this right. Many schools continue being subject to the lack of proper infrastructure and learning facilities, a situation that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which also showed the deep existing institutional and structural inequalities."

### **Other critical issues that emerged during the session are as follows:**

- People living with albinism remain part of the most vulnerable groups in the world and their rights tend to be violated either directly or indirectly.
- People living with disabilities remain the most disadvantaged and impoverished groups that face wide-ranging violations of human rights, such as institutionalization, alienation, stigma and prejudice, and lack of access to resources for health, education and employment opportunities.
- The significance of environmental protection was also a heated debate wherein it was emphasised that it is an essential measure in the effort to secure the effective universal enjoyment of human rights.

"At the end of the seminar what emerged was that there is an urgent need to improve the state of access to human rights in South Africa and beyond, particularly in relation to accessing quality education, access to health, healthy environment. Most importantly to ensure the promotion of the rights for most vulnerable groups in our society through the adoption of the human rights language," said Mr Fobosi.

Source: UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo' Chair of Human Rights



## SA COVID-19 VACCINE STRATEGY & ROLLOUT

### Access to COVID-19 vaccines is Governments highest priority.

- South Africa will receive 1 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in January and 500 000 doses in February of the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine from the Serum Institute of India (SII).
- Government will begin by vaccinating our country's estimated 1.25 million healthcare workers.
- Government is working closely with South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) to ensure there is no delay approving the vaccine for use.
- The Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine has already been approved by various regulators around the world and is being rolled out in other countries.
- Government has also reached an agreement with the COVAX Facility to secure vaccines to immunise 10 per cent of the population.
- These doses are expected at the beginning of second quarter of the year.
- Government continues to work with various pharmaceuticals companies ensure it immunise 67 per cent of the population by the end 2021.

### There will be a phased rollout of the vaccine.

- There has been no deliberate delay to access the COVID-19 vaccine, as the situation remains fluid; all factors have to be taken into account.
- Government is selecting vaccines on their safety and efficacy, ease of use, storage, distribution, supply sustainability and cost.
- The rollout of the vaccine will take a three-phase approach that begins with the most vulnerable in our population.
- The target is to vaccinate 67 per cent of the population by the end of 2021, which will allow us to achieve herd immunity.
- Phase 1 will focus on frontline healthcare workers.
- Phase 2 will see us vaccinate essential workers, persons in congregate settings, persons over 60 years and persons over 18 years with co-morbidities.
- Phase 3 will focus on persons older than 18 years, targeting 22 500 000 of the population.

### Government will source, distribute and oversee the rollout of the vaccine.

- Government as the sole purchaser of vaccines will distribute it to provincial governments and the private sector.
- Government will procure available stocks from different manufacturers.
- There will therefore be multiple vaccines in our programme, but you cannot be vaccinated with two different vaccines.
- The vaccination system will be based on a pre-vaccination registration and appointment system.
- All those vaccinated will be placed on a national register and provided with a vaccination card.
- A national rollout committee will oversee the vaccine implementation in both the public and private sectors.

### Vaccines save lives!

- There is overwhelming scientific evidence that vaccination is the best defence against serious infections.
- Vaccines do not give you the virus, rather it teaches your immune system to recognise and fight the infection.
- The COVID-19 vaccine presents the body with instructions to build immunity and does not alter human cells.
- Vaccine have reduced the morbidity and mortality of infectious diseases such as smallpox, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, measles, tetanus, whooping cough and pneumococcal conjugate across the world.
- Vaccinating enough people would help create herd immunity and stamp out the disease.

### Vaccines undergo rigorous trials to ensure they are safe and effective.

- All vaccines go through a comprehensive approval process by medical regulators to ensure that they are safe.
- Pharmaceutical companies hand over all laboratory studies and safety trials to validate that the vaccine does work.
- Any safety concerns are picked up by regulators when reviewing the data.
- Vaccines are made to save lives not to oppress, bewitch, possess or indoctrinate people.

### The COVID-19 vaccine is a public good.

- The National Treasury is committed to ensure that funding is not a constraint to accessing vaccines.
- Detailed budgetary allocations to procure COVID-19 vaccines will be announced in the 2021 National Budget. This is over and above funding arrangements that are being made in the current financial year for the purchase of the first order of vaccines, aimed initially at frontline workers.
- Overall, funding will come from additional budgets, reprioritisation, revenue increases and potentially from partnerships with the private sector.
- Government has signed a binding financial commitment for the future payments of 85 per cent of the total cost, approximately R2.2 billion, to the COVAX Facility. Other arrangements are being discussed bilaterally with different vaccine manufacturers.
- The Solidarity Fund has generously made a donation to cover the upfront payment of approximately 15 per cent of the total cost.

### We are working in partnership to secure the COVID-19 vaccine.

- The government will be able to procure the vaccine from the fiscus.
- Business and medical aid schemes have come forward to support government's efforts and this is welcomed. This collaboration will be guided by the tenets of social solidarity and zero tolerance for corruption
- The Department of Health has signed amendments of regulations to allow for vaccines and other therapeutics to be part of the medical schemes' prescribed minimum benefit.

Source:



Further information can be found on <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/category/mac-advisories/>



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## UFH COVID-19 TASK TEAM

Visit <https://www.ufh.ac.za/covid19/> for more Covid-19 news and information

## IN MEMORIAM

*In the month of January 2021 the university has suffered the loss of three students in quick succession.*

*May their souls rest in peace.*



**Mr S Majakajaka**

2<sup>nd</sup> Year student in the Department of Public Administration Bhisho Campus



**Ms Wabokazi Thembani**

Honours degree student in the Department of Public Administration Bhisho Campus



**Ms Sinovuyo Makinana**

Final year PhD student in Chemistry Department



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