

This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

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WELCOME ON BOARD:

*Our new
CFO and CIA*

In December 2020, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu, UFH Vice-Chancellor announced the appointment of two highly experienced and qualified individuals who would fill the positions of Chief Financial Officer and Chief Internal Auditor, from 1st January 2021. **Mr Charles Matumba** was announced as the new Chief Finance Officer and **Mr Hangalakani Harris Nkanyane** as the new Chief Internal Auditor.

The VC thanked Mr Simbongile Geqeza, Finance Director (Former Acting CFO) and Mr Oyama Siwundla (Former Acting CIA) for lending a steady hand to these portfolios over the period that they were appointed in acting capacities. "Their respective contributions have been much appreciated and are highly valued," said the VC.

In this issue of *ThisWeek@FortHare*, the gentlemen - who between them share close to forty years of experience in their respective careers - speak about plans and aspirations for their respective roles and the University of Fort Hare broadly.



>> Prof Sakhela Buhlungu

Introducing Mr Charles Matumba - Chief Financial Officer



The University of Fort Hare started this year in good standing, with the appointment of a highly qualified and experienced Chief Financial Officer, Mr Charles Matumba. He joined UFH from Wits University where he held the role of Senior Group Finance Manager/Finance Executive. He assumed duties 1 January 2021, filling the CFO position which became vacant on 30 March 2020.

The CFO has big plans for the Finance Department and the UFH at large. He took a few minutes out of his busy schedule to share some of his thoughts with *ThisWeek@FortHare*.

"I am excited to be joining UFH at this historic moment when it is commencing its transformative journey."

>> Mr Charles Matumba

Please share a bit about your professional background including hobbies and interests

I began my career as a trainee accountant with KPMG in 2001 and qualified as a Chartered Accountant (CA) in 2004 and later as a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) in 2016. I rose through the ranks and have worked in different sectors. Some of the positions I have held include: Audit Manager, Senior Audit Manager, Tax Manager, Financial Controller, Group Financial Manager/Executive and now a UFH Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Outside work, I enjoy nature visits and engaging in small-scale farming/agricultural activities.

What motivated you to come to the University of Fort Hare?

I am excited to be joining UFH at this historic moment when it is commencing its transformative journey. The idea of being part of a team which can steer the University in the right direction motivates me. I hope to contribute to this noble cause and add value to the University while enhancing my career aspirations.

What are the key focus areas of your portfolio?

I am in charge of the full finance function. This incorporates financial accounting (reporting, cash/treasury management, taxes, external funds, assets management, and payroll), student finances (financial aid, fees and bursaries), financial planning and analysis/budgeting as well as supply chain management.

In your view, which areas have you identified as pockets of excellence and which ones require strengthening?

I view some of the units/people in UFH as pockets of excellence in terms of delivering their mandate and serving both internal and external stakeholders. However, I have identified some units even in the CFO portfolio as not operating optimally. These units do not follow the set governance processes and have even cost the university, financially and reputationally.

What is your strategy to handle the question above?

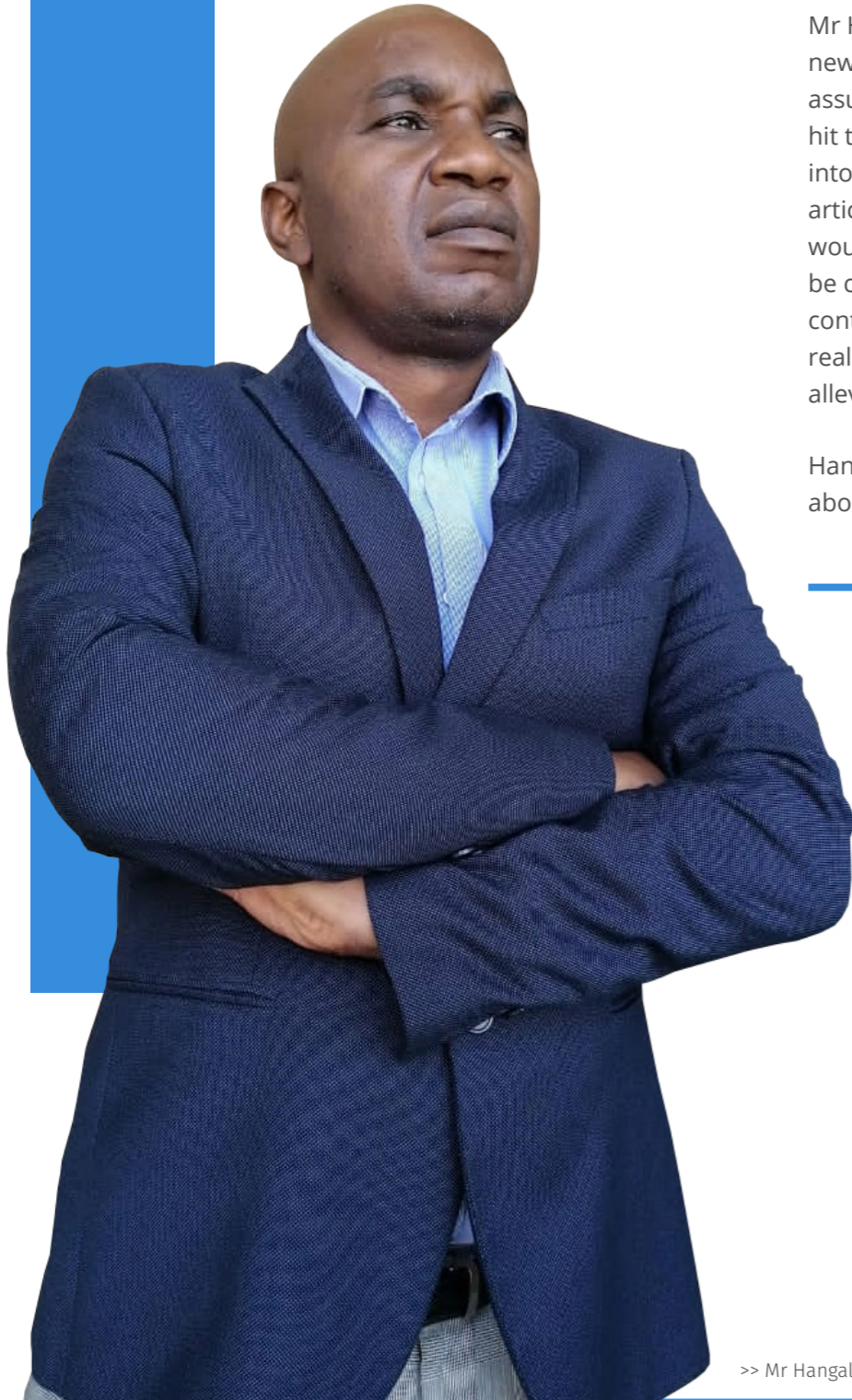
My strategy is embedding a culture of awareness of financial principles and their impact on the ability of the university to deliver on its mandate to serve our students, staff and community at large. I hope to instill a culture of honesty, diligence, sense of belonging, so that the Finance Department can fulfil its promises and be trusted as a true partner and enabler.

Lastly, what are your broad aspirations for the University of Fort Hare?

Broadly, I aspire to be an exemplary financial leader who will make UFH better financially governed to achieve its strategic goal of financial sustainability. I aspire to influence my colleagues and my team so that the good changes I will implement have a long-lasting impact on the University of Fort Hare.

Introducing Mr Hangalakani Nkanyane

- Chief Internal Auditor



Mr Hangalakani Harris Nkanyane is the newly appointed Chief Internal Auditor. He assumed duties on 1 January 2021 and has hit the ground running. Barely a month into his new position, the CIA has a clearly articulated vision for the institution. He would like the University of Fort Hare to be counted among the best on the African continent. He believes this vision can be realised through quality education, poverty alleviation and disbanding of inequality.

Hangalani spoke to *ThisWeek@FortHare* about his plans for the CIA role.

“Fort Hare must be to the Africans what Stellenbosch [University] is to the Afrikaners. It must be the barometer of an African thought”.

- Robert Sobukwe

>> Mr Hangalakani Nkanyane

Please share a bit about your professional background including hobbies and interests

I am a seasoned professional with over 19 years' experience in Enterprise Risk Management, Internal Audit, Compliance Management and Business Continuity, more than 10 years of which has been at a Senior Management level across four organisations.

My academic qualifications are as follows:

- MPhil: Internal Audit - University of Pretoria
- MBL (Master of Business Leadership) - UNISA
- BTech in Cost and Management Accounting - UNISA
- Postgraduate Diploma in Compliance Management - University of Johannesburg

I also hold two professional qualifications:

- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) from the Institute of Internal Auditors and
- Certified Information System Auditor (CISA) from the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA).

Prior to joining the UFH I was a Senior Manager: Internal Audit at the Road Accident Fund (RAF) and before then, a Chief Director: Internal Audit and Risk Management at the National Department of Health. I started my career as a Trainee Accountant at the Office of the Auditor - General South Africa. Currently, I serve as a Director at the Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa.

My hobbies include reading my favourite book, *The Leader who had no title*- by Robin Sharma, watching soccer, travelling around the country experiencing different cultures and exploring its natural beauty.

What motivated you to come to the University of Fort Hare?

Former UFH SRC President, Mr Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe said, “Fort Hare must be to the Africans what Stellenbosch [University] is to the Afrikaners. It must be the barometer of an African thought”. Therefore, I joined the UFH in order to assist its Management and all stakeholders to achieve this dream by providing quality education which will result in alleviating poverty and disbanding inequality.

What are the key focus areas of your portfolio?

Internal Audit provides an independent assurance that the University's risk management, governance and internal control processes are operating effectively. Furthermore, Internal Audit will assist the University's Council and Management to continually improve its organisational operations through identification of emerging risks. More specifically, Internal Audit will provide assurance and advisory services in the following key areas:

- Implementation of large capital projects;
- ICT (Security/ Data Privacy; Cloud Computing and Online Learning);
- Organisational culture and financial management.

In your view, which areas have you identified as pockets of excellence and which ones require strengthening?

As I am fairly new at the University, I am currently familiarizing myself with the environment by reviewing strategic documents. Thus, I am unable to give an appropriate response for the time being.

What is your strategy to handle the question above?

This will be dependent on the key areas that I would have identified subsequent to reviewing the above reports.

Lastly, what are your broad aspirations for the University of Fort Hare?

Those would include the following:

- That UFH should assist in addressing the socio-economic challenges facing South Africa, particularly black communities
- To make UFH the University of Choice by enriching our students for employment through creation of a bridge between corporate expectations and on-the-ground reality. It is thus imperative that we produce high quality research outcomes on African Knowledge and Practices which are currently not documented.

Nkosinathi Makamela beats the odds to become a Successful Small-Scale Farmer



When the country was placed under lockdown in March last year, 3rd-year Animal Production student, Nkosinathi Makamela was mourning the death of his mother and faced the harsh reality of losing the family's only source of income - a small-scale farm.

The 20-year-old from Dutywa enrolled at UFH in 2019. His field of study was inspired by his late mother, who was a small-scale farmer.

"Both my parents were small-scale farmers. My mother farmed with poultry and pigs while my father farmed with goats, sheep and cattle. That is how they managed to provide for the family. My father could not cope with the loss of my mother. As a result, he struggled to run the farm on his own and we started losing livestock."

Witnessing how his father was struggling, Makamela refused to let the family's livelihood die. He decided to do something to help revive the family farm. During lockdown, he decided to use his NSFAS allowance to save the farm.

"I used my NSFAS non-residence allowance for the month of April to buy vegetable seedlings. I started by planting green peppers, carrots, spinach and beetroot - which I sold to the community and in town."

While his vegetable garden was thriving, Makamela moved on to pig farming. "I made my own bricks and together with my father we built a small piggery." In July, he used his profit from the vegetable sales to buy eight pigs.

Asked how he balances his studies and farming, Makamela said: "When I am home I ensure I do as much as I can to work the land and care for the livestock, enough to make up for the time when I am on campus."

The vegetable garden has since grown to producing potatoes and mielies/corn. "We will not sell the mielies, instead it will be used for feeding the pigs," he explained.

The passionate farmer said his dream is to become a successful large-scale commercial farmer. "My passion for farming was ignited by my parents. Seeing how they were able to put food on the table and provide for us by working the land inspired me greatly. I know no other life but farming."

For now, he is using whatever means at his disposal to achieve that dream and run the family farm called, *Lolo Mixed Farming*. Makamela says he is currently engaging the local Chief to acquire more land to further expand his crop.

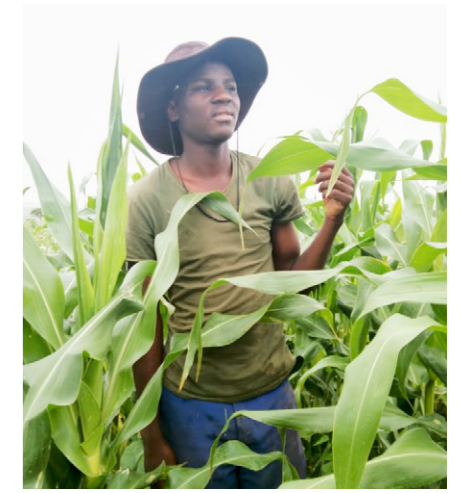
For now, the young farmer has his eyes set on starting a poultry farm this year. "The plan was always to start small. It does not matter how long it will take me, but the aim is to never stop."

May his dreams come true.

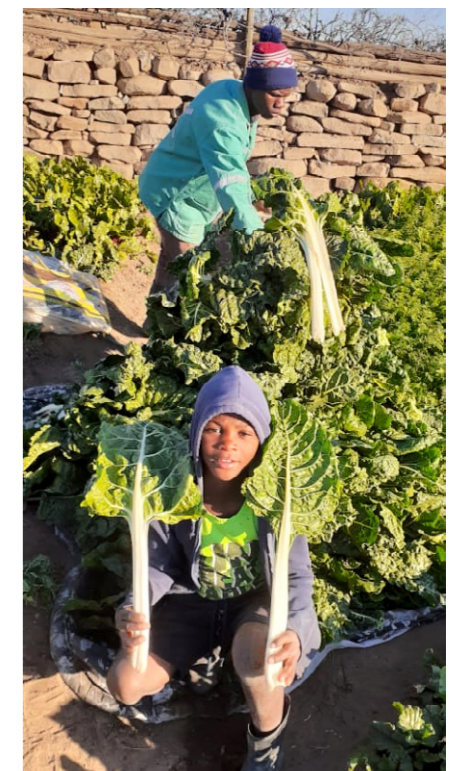
// by Aretha Linden



>> Nkosinathi Makamela



"My passion for farming was ignited by my parents. Seeing how they were able to put food on the table and provide for us by working the land inspired me greatly."



22-YEAR OLD SAZI GCABA WINS INTERNATIONAL OPERA COMPETITION

“I owe this victory to my voice Lecturer Mr Tamsanqa Ncokwana and Mr Madlala for making this possible for me and others. This competition has opened a lot of doors for many singers to flourish, even during the pandemic”

Mr Sazi Gcaba, a UFH third-year student, is the winner of the Voices of South Africa International Opera (VOSA) 2020 online competition - under 22 category.

After several rounds of meticulous judging by acclaimed opera maestros such as Sibongile Khumalo, Andrew Staples, Marsha Thompson and others, the 22-year-old who hails from Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape was announced the overall winner of this prestigious competition in the above mentioned category.

He was among five students from the UFH Music Department who auditioned and made it to the advanced stages of the competition. At the end, Gcaba made it to the grand finale held on 21 December.

Established in 2015 by London based South African Baritone Opera singer Njabulo Madlala, the competition creates a platform for young and upcoming opera singers to take part in the international opera stage as professional soloists.

Owing to Covid-19 pandemic regulations, Madlala came up with the idea of hosting the competition online.

From the beginning of July last year, singers were required to submit a one-minute video clip for auditions. The clips were divided into different voice categories such as: Tenors, Sopranos, Altos and Baritones. From the clips, 15 finalists were selected weekly in each category. The finalists then proceeded to battle it out live on Facebook every Sunday for a spot in the grand finale.

In an interview with *ThisWeek@FortHare*, Gcaba whose excitement over winning the competition is yet to wear off, said being part of the competition has taught him to stop underestimating himself.



>> Mr Sazi Gcaba

“Honestly, I did not think I was going to win. The singers I was competing against were amazing and they terrified me at first. For a while I forgot about winning and just focused on showcasing my talent. But by God’s Grace I won.”

“I owe this victory to my voice Lecturer Mr Tamsanqa Ncokwana and Mr Madlala for making this possible for me and others. This competition has opened a lot of doors for many singers to flourish, even during the pandemic”, said our young maestro.

Mr Ncokwana, Deputy Head of the Music Department and Opera Specialist, said Gcaba is one of the most dedicated students in the department. “I started working with him while he was still in high school. I then recruited him to study under my supervision after I joined UFH.”

According to Ncokwana, Gcaba’s victory is a victory for the entire UFH Opera singing division. “We are now internationally recognised as our flag has been raised to greater heights. As a result, I have received an invitation from the organisers of VOSA for my students to participate in the online concert.”

// by Aretha Linden

Ms Nokwezi “Tuza” Kopo takes a bow after three decades at UFH

Ms Nokwezi “Tuza” Kopo has taken her well- deserved retirement, folding a service of 28 years at the UFH Finance Department. She retired in December 2020.

Ms Kopo joined the institution on 01 August 1992 as the Student Fees Accountant. Over the years, she held different positions within the Finance Department. Ultimately, she was appointed to the position of Financial Accountant, which she held until her retirement.

Mr Simbongile Geqeza, Finance Director said Ms Kopo’s hard work and dedication will not go unnoticed.

“One of her best traits was compliance with rules and regulations. She would not take a short cut in order to get results. Rules had to be complied with before actioning on anything submitted to her. The team she leaves behind will take over all her teachings.”

The university would like to wish Ms Kopo all the best in her future endeavours and wish her a happy retirement.

All the best Maleta!



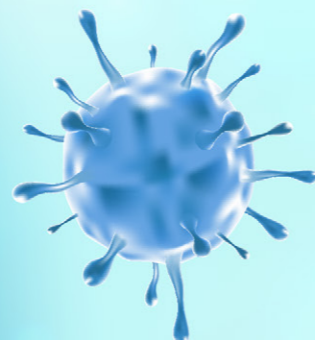
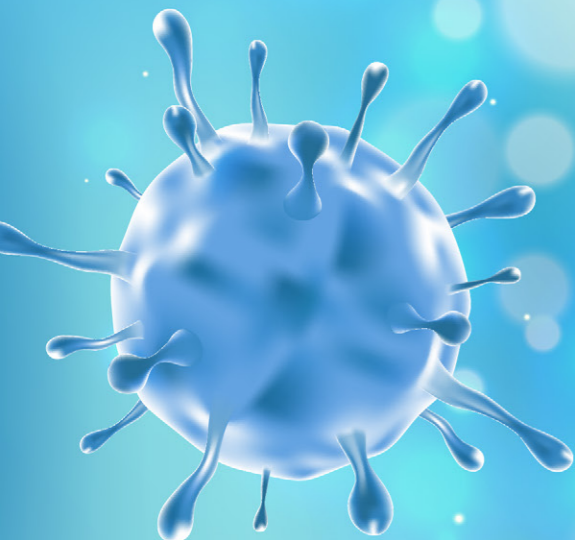
>> Ms Nokweni Kopo



SURVIVING THE WRATH OF THE CORONA VIRUS



// by *Tandi Mapukata*



When one considers the impact of the corona virus on the Higher Education sector, thus far, the University of Fort Hare has been relatively fortunate. Our numbers on new infections and fatalities have been consistently low even during the 2nd wave which has touched almost every adult person in our country, either through the loss of a loved one, a friend, colleague or an acquaintance.

The emotional scars are deep and will take a while to heal. Our diaries are filled with memorial and funeral service appointments. However cold, distant or abstract, we have come to rely on Zoom, Facebook and YouTube platforms for that last opportunity to bid farewell to a loved one and find some measure of closure. As I write this piece, the shocking news of the death of Minister Jackson Mthembu has just gone viral. Very sad indeed. Covid-19 is real.

Remembering our fallen brethren

Between July 2020 and 15 January 2021 the corona virus robbed our university of five employees namely:

- **V. Pule** (July)
- **Mrs K. Mkiva** (August)
- **Dr Namhla Sotuku** (December)
- **Mr Chumani Sityebi** (December)
- **Mr Sthembele Nduluka** (January 2021)

We also lost three students whom I will not mention at this stage. May their souls continue to rest in eternal peace. We will always treasure their individual contributions to our beloved institution.

Survivor Testimonies

Despite the grim picture painted above, at an institutional level we are grateful that to date, we have not suffered what everyone feared (and still fears) – a massive cluster outbreak. In fact, as at today, 162 people (staff and students) have survived this virus, out of a total of 177 cases since March 2020. That's a whopping 91% recovery rate! Congratulations to each and every one of the 162 Fort Harians who have beaten Covid-19. We are inspired to fight when our turn comes. I am also aware that some colleagues did not inform the university of their status. They opted to tackle the corona journey in their private spaces and have since recovered fully. We celebrate life with them and their families.

Because of my job, I've had the opportunity to engage with some colleagues while they were still battling the disease. Some experienced mild symptoms while others became seriously ill. As an asthma sufferer since birth, I have an idea of what it feels like to experience breathing difficulties and I empathise fully with anyone who finds themselves in this life-threatening situation. But I have also learnt that everybody experiences Covid-19 differently and that one should never ever drop their guard nor seek to equate their case with someone else's. The corona virus is personal. It creeps up on people when they least expect to be infected. Most are never sure how they contracted the virus considering their level of vigilance. Some recover fully within 14-21 days of testing positive, while others go through what Dr Zweli Mkhize refers to as Long Covid (months and months of feeling unwell and experiencing Covid-19 related symptoms but testing negative for the virus).

Two colleagues who have agreed to share personal accounts of their corona virus recovery journeys are Dr Ntombovuyo Wayi (Dean – Faculty of Management and Commerce) and Mr Philisa Mvulana (Director – Properties and Services).

>> Continued on next page...

Dr Ntombovuyo Wayi

I became extremely concerned when a fellow asthma sufferer, Dr Ntombovuyo Wayi tested positive for Covid-19. To my surprise, Ntosh (as she is fondly known) told me she did not experience severe symptoms and was back on her feet within a reasonably short time. On New Year's Eve however, I came across a passionate post on her Facebook wall - indicating fears that Covid-19 symptoms might still be lurking within her body and waiting to strike again. I was touched and scared for her all over again. But she was determined to fight and regain her full health. By way of support, I requested her permission to share her journey on this platform.



>> Dr Ntombovuyo Wayi

Posted on 31 December 2020 - Ntombovuyo Wayi's Facebook wall

Today it's been exactly a month since I tested positive for COVID-19. It has been a journey as I discovered many things about me, people, and also about COVID-19. As the bible says "What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me." Job 3:25- I was really scared of Corona kuba ndine history of asthma but God said nothing we know matters but His will.

I truly thank God that I had mild symptoms. However, mild doesn't mean easy as I had most of the symptoms- what a scary space to be at. During my isolation there are two nights where I refused to sleep as I didn't want "Gabriel to catch me off guard"- one night it was breathing difficulties (it was hard and scary) and the other night it was cold -, it took me more than 5 hours to get rid of the cold.

It all started with what seemed like normal flu on the evening of the 24th November. The following morning my throat felt dry, as if komele inqatha or amafutha emqaleni. My body was super heavy as a result I slept most of the first three days. Initially I thought that it was fatigue from the strenuous 2020 year, but got concerned on the 3rd day when I had a headache and a terrible cold.

I've never felt the kind of cold that COVID-19 made me experience. It felt like ice piercing through bones and that my heart was covered with ice (the frozen kind). Then I had persistent high fever. The pulse oximeter gave me great assurance as my readings were top class throughout, and still are.

I am happy that I played safe from the first day by keeping away from my family and emphasizing that they must not

touch anything I had touched. I suppose it also helped that I was in bed for most of the first three days due to fatigue. My kids were the most understanding. School fees are not complete waste, I tell you. One of the concerns from my son Ildi, was that he won't even hug me (they still got a hug) and Siba (my daughter) knew not to knock at my door even when she was crying and telling on her brother 🙄. Luckily none of them tested positive.

A week earlier I had travelled for a weekend out with my 3 sisters, so the other two were also sick. I must say we tried our best to be cautious, ensuring that we sanitise now and then, but masks were off 🙄 (so watch out for those casual family meetings). Fortunately for us Mercy sad NOoooo, not this time- it would have been disastrous. It can only be through His GRACE that we all came through.

On day 15 we bought the Woolies chicken and their carrot cake to celebrate being out of danger. I kept asking my husband if it was really a carrot cake as it tasted like I was eating mud - tastebuds dololo.

What I didn't know was that more than a month later I would still be experiencing symptoms. The cold and fatigue haven't completely disappeared. I do pray that soon I will be back on the road - jogging.

As we close off the year, let us remember that when we face the reality of death, all these nuisances that give us sleepless nights do not matter, but your life and the love for your family. I am alive y'all..

Happy New Year

#GodsGrace
COVID-19Survivor

Mr Philisa Mvulana

From the beginning, Philisa's symptoms were dramatic. I spoke to him every day of the first two weeks of his illness. He trusted me completely and allowed himself to be vulnerable in my virtual presence. I won't lie, I was very scared for him, his family and the university. Below is his personal account.



>> Mr Philisa Mvulana

I tested SARS Cov2 positive on 8 November 2020 after I suspected that I might be infected. On 6 November I started with a mild cough and body pains. I thought it was normal flu. The following day I began to experience mild shortness of breath. This quickly escalated to severe shortness of breath and coughing in the evening.

In the following days I had a very bad cough, especially in the mornings and evenings. After Day 10 I started to feel better, however I was coughing up blood. I went back to the doctor on Day 13 and he sent me for X-rays which revealed that my left lung was damaged – as if I had contracted tuberculosis (TB). The top half of my right lung had collapsed. I was prescribed antibiotics and supplements but the cough continued, especially in the early hours of the morning. I continued to experience a wet bloody cough and had to be changed to a stronger antibiotic.

Six weeks later my breathing began to improve, but I was still unable to take deep breaths or walk a distance of 50m without needing to take a break. Laughing was out of the question as it would cause extreme pain in my chest.

Only in January (3rd month) that I began to walk normally and breathe easier. Up until today, I can still feel pain on the right side of my lung area when taking a deep breath or jogging for a short distance. Fortunately, none of my family members were infected because we adhered to strict social distancing.

It was physically and emotionally draining as one continuously worried about what could happen tomorrow as one stared death in the face. But I survived, and I am grateful for the gift of life.

Way Forward

I have thought hard about what I want to achieve through this piece. The simple answer is – "I don't know". Perhaps this could be the beginning of a UFH Covid-19 Support Group. Whether you are/were infected or affected, my sense is that there's a take-out for everybody. It could be more empathy and patience with those who test positive, a better understanding of the symptoms, or even appreciation of how each person responds differently to the virus.

Dr Wayi and Mr Mvulana are willing to have private conversations with those who are still recovering from the disease – to inspire them to fight on.

#WeSaveLives

INTRODUCING THE UFHGP ALUMNI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



CHAIRPERSON
Adv. Mzukisi Mgxashe



DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
Ms. Lungiswa Sibukwana



SECRETARY
Ms. Phumza Dlomo



DEPUTY SECRETARY
Ms. Pinky Bala



TREASURER
Pst. Mamsi Ndlalani



DEPUTY TREASURER
Ms. Thembi Tabata



MARKETING & FUNDRAISING
Mr. Mhleli Sibanyoni



PROJECTS & STAKEHOLDERS
Mr. Mziyanda Zita



IN MEMORIAM *Mr Singata Tshezi Mafanya*

The University of Fort Hare mourns the passing of its alumnus and former staff member, Mr Singata 'Tshezi' Mafanya on Friday morning (15th January 2021) after a short illness.

He studied at the University of Fort Hare, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Social Work in 1968. He continued with his tertiary studies and obtained a Master's Degree from Northwestern University, Chicago.

He re-joined the University of Fort Hare as a Research Assistant in the Department of Sociology. He progressed to become a Junior Lecturer of Sociology in 1974 and was promoted to Lecturer from 1982 to 1993. In 1986 he was appointed Acting Head of the Sociology Department and in 1992, became Acting Head of the Criminology Department.

From 1993 - 1996 the University of Fort Hare appointed him to the position of Dean of Students.

In 1986, Tshezi, as he was fondly known to all, also served as a Treasurer of the Alice Rugby Union.

After his illustrious service at Fort Hare, Mr Mafanya proceeded to public service where he served in a number of high profile positions, including a 10-year term as Public Service Commissioner between 2009 - 2019.

Mr Mafanya, a soft-spoken, humble gentleman served Nokholeji without blemish. He was an exceptional leader who selflessly imparted knowledge and skills to younger generations over many years. He was part of the UFH Class

of 1968 Reunion event which was hosted by the University of Fort Hare in 2019. Recently, he showed a keen interest in matters related to the UFH Convocation and would often email the Alumni Office seeking clarity here and there and offering guidance where necessary.

We extend sincere condolences to the Mafanya family, relatives and friends.

Rest in Peace Bhut'Tshezi. Olwakho ugqatso ulufezile.



>> 1968 UFH Reunion



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

ThisWeek@FortHare

your weekly newsletter

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