

# This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

Vol 3, issue 9 • 25 June 2021



## *In this issue:*

- >> UFH Awards Over 3000 Qualifications and Three Honorary Doctoral Degrees
- >> 2021 Winter Graduation Highlights
- >> A Great Friend of the University: UFH pays tribute to President Kenneth KK Kaunda
- >> UFH Lecturer Chuma Mjali Appointed as Member of Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA)
- >> Opera Is Fun Concert: Presented by the UFH Music Department
- >> Konica Minolta Facilitates Establishment of a UFH Research Orchard
- >> SA's jobless youth caught between a rock and a hard place
- >> Burden faced by youth made even worse by Covid-19
- >> UFH Rugby Teams Win Big at Ntlaza Lions Tournament

# UFH Awards Over 3000 Qualifications and Three Honorary Doctoral Degrees

**“This graduation signifies us succeeding against all odds to complete the 2020 Academic Year.”**

The University of Fort Hare awarded more than 3000 qualifications and three honorary doctorates during its two-part hybrid (Live + Virtual) Winter Graduation ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2021.

The 98<sup>th</sup> graduation celebrated the class of 2020 who, during their final year of study, faced unprecedented challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As per norm, the ceremony was officiated by the Chancellor, Advocate Dumisa Ntsebeza SC and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu.

## PART ONE

With strict Covid-19 regulations in place, the first segment comprised a live (face-to-face) ceremony attended by no more than 50 people. At this session, only 24 doctoral students and three honorary degrees were conferred. The event was streamed via UFH YouTube and other university social media platforms from 9am until 11:30 am.

The following individuals were awarded honorary doctorates:

**Justice Mandisa Muriel Lindelwa Maya**, President of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa (SCA).

**Justice Dikgang Moseneke**, retired Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa and a Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

**Ms Sindiwe Magona**, multi-award winning author, storyteller, motivational speaker, poet, playwright, and actor.

## PART TWO

The second segment of the ceremony kicked-off after conclusion of the live event. As in 2020, the remainder of the qualifications were awarded virtually. Six faculty-dedicated ceremonies were transmitted simultaneously on the UFH YouTube and other social media channels.

In an interview with *ThisWeek@FortHare* prior to the graduation, Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu said the ceremony was a moment of pride for the university.

“This graduation signifies us succeeding against all odds to complete the 2020 Academic Year. Some will recall a time when the Minister of Higher Education (Dr Blade Nzimande) named UFH as one the five universities who were at risk of losing the 2020 academic year. There were doubts, but we did it!”

The VC thanked all staff: support services, academics and administrators for their efforts towards making 2020 a success.

“Most importantly, thank you to our students. I know it was frustrating at times, particularly the wait they had to endure during the distribution of the more than 6000 laptops for online learning. I am very proud to say we managed to pull through and now here we are. This is our moment of celebration. This is success in the face of serious adversity.”

He said the highlights of the event was the ability to cap some of the PhD graduates on site and also the three honorary doctorates that were awarded.

“It was a moment of great joy for us to be able to physically cap these students and also to honour these three great individuals.”

The Vice-Chancellor applauded the class of 2020 for being patient and showing resilience in the face of all obstacles imposed by the pandemic. “It showed that you were here because you wanted to be here and obtain your qualification. I wish you all the best in all your future endeavours,” concluded Prof Buhlungu.

*By Aretha Linden*



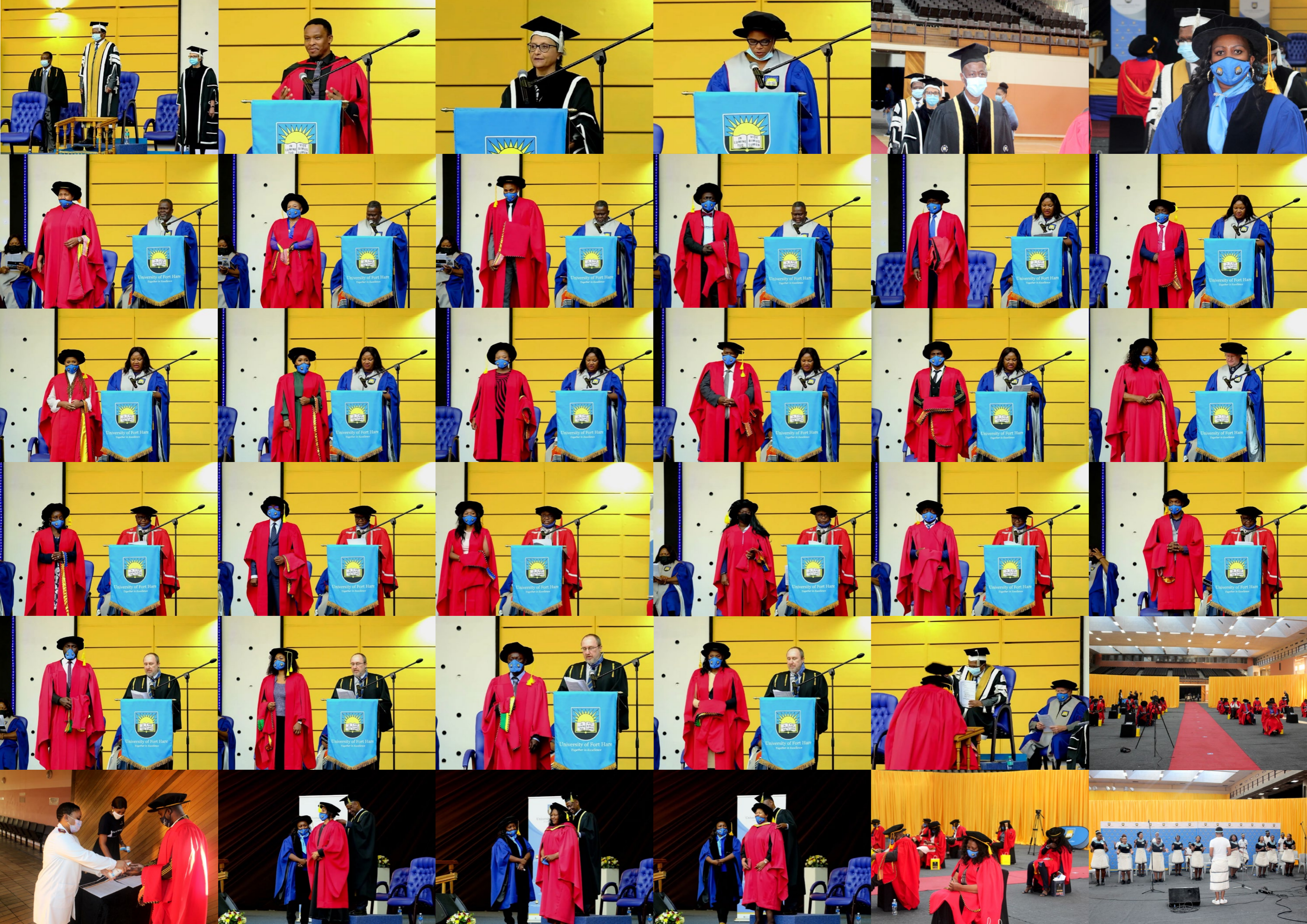
>> Prof Sakhela Buhlungu

***Click here to watch the Recorded Live Stream of the UFH 2021 Winter Graduation***



>> Management, Deans and PhD Graduates

Visit [www.ufh.ac.za/virtual](http://www.ufh.ac.za/virtual) for all Faculty videos and programmes



# 2021 Winter Graduation Highlights

## UFH Confers Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree on SCA President - Justice Mandisa Maya

During its Winter Graduation held on 21 June 2021, the University of Fort Hare conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Justice Mandisa Muriel Lindelwa Maya – South Africa’s first woman President of the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA).

Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu said the honorary doctorate on Justice Maya is in recognition and celebration of her exceptional contribution to the country’s justice system.

“Justice Maya is an epitome of excellence. She is right at the apex of the justice system as a well-respected jurist who has achieved ultimate success. She is a champion in her own right and will bring greater credit to the university,” said the VC.

Born in Tsolo in the Eastern Cape, Justice Maya holds a B.Proc from the University of Transkei (now Walter Sisulu University), an LLB from the University of Natal (now University of KwaZulu Natal) and an LLM Degree from Duke University in the USA. She was also awarded two LL.D honorary degrees by Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu universities in recognition of her contribution to the development of jurisprudence in South Africa as well as the empowerment of women in the legal profession and the judiciary.

She is a Fulbright; Georgetown University Law & Gender Program; and Commonwealth Foundation Fellow and is the recipient of the 2020 Duke University Law International Law Alumnus Award.

After teaching law at the former University of Transkei while also practising at the Transkei Society of Advocates, she became a judge and sat in various divisions of the High Court and the Labour Courts before her elevation to the SCA.

She became the first woman Deputy President of the SCA in 2015 and its first woman President in 2017. She has acted as a judge in the Constitutional Court of South Africa, the Supreme Court of Namibia and the Appeal Court of Lesotho.

Justice Maya promoted law reform as the Chairperson of the South African Law Reform Commission. She serves as a member of the following judicial structures:

- South African Judicial Service Commission
- South African Judicial Education Institute
- Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies
- National Bar Examination Board and;
- The Duke University Bolch Judicial Institute Leadership Council.

She is the President of the South African Chapter of the Women Judges Association and the Africa Region Director of the International Association of Women Judges. She also sits in a number of other quasi-judicial and academic organisations.

**“Justice Maya is an epitome of excellence. She is right at the apex of the justice system as a well-respected jurist who has achieved ultimate success. She is a champion in her own right and will bring greater credit to the university”**



>> Justice Mandisa Maya

[Click here to view Justice Maya’s acceptance speech](#)

# Former DCJ DIKGANG MOSENEKE receives an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree

**“He is Justice personified. This doctorate is in honour of an individual who served the SA justice system with just and dignity. We are proud to honour him”**

Among the highlights of the Winter Graduation held on 21 June 2021, is the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree to SA’s legal maestro, former Deputy Chief Justice (DCJ) Dikgang Moseneke.

Retired five years ago as a DCJ and a Justice of the Constitutional Court of SA, Moseneke’s legal career spans over 40 years. His contribution to the development of jurisprudence in South Africa is immeasurable. Before his appointment to the Constitutional Court, he was a judge of the High Court in Pretoria.

“He is Justice personified. This doctorate is in honour of an individual who served the SA justice system with just and dignity. We are proud to honour him,” said Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu.

Justice Moseneke was born in 1947 in Pretoria where he completed primary and secondary schooling. In March 1963, at age of 15 years and whilst in Standard 8 (now Grade 10) he was arrested, detained and convicted for participating in political activity opposed to the apartheid regime. He was sentenced in the Supreme Court of Pretoria to 10 years imprisonment, all of which he served on Robben Island.

Whilst on Robben Island, he studied privately and matriculated with a university entrance pass. He enrolled with the University of South Africa (Unisa) where he obtained a BA degree majoring in English and Political Science. Subsequently to that, he obtained a B. Juris Degree and thereafter completed his LLB Degree. All three degrees were obtained from Unisa.

Shortly after leaving Robben Island he began his legal career in 1976 as an attorney’s clerk. Two years later, he was admitted as an attorney and thereafter practised in partnership at the Maluleke, Seriti and Moseneke Law firm.

In 1983, after practising for five years as an attorney, Justice Moseneke was called to the Bar where he practised

as an advocate at the Johannesburg and Pretoria Bars. During his practice at the Pretoria Bar he was elected to serve on the Bar Council. Ten years later, in 1993 he was elevated to the status of Senior Counsel (SC).

With the advent of constitutional negotiations, in 1993 he was appointed to serve on the technical committee that drafted the 1994 Interim Constitution for a democratic South Africa.

In the same year, 1994, he was appointed deputy chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission which conducted the first democratic elections in South Africa. In September 1994, he was appointed to the High Court, (Transvaal Provincial 2 Division, as it was known then) as an Acting Judge after which he returned to his practice as a Silk at the Bar.

Between the year 1995 and 2001 he left the Bar to pursue a full-time corporate career where he took up several leadership positions at various companies.

He was elevated to the bench of the High Court Pretoria in 2001 and subsequently appointed to the Constitutional Court in 2002 and as the Deputy Chief Justice in 2005.

Justice Moseneke is a founder member of the Black Lawyers Association (BLA) and its first national secretary. He is a founding member of the editorial board of the African Law Review published by the BLA to give a voice to disenfranchised legal practitioners.

Together with other progressive legal practitioners, he established the National Association of Democratic Lawyers of South Africa (NADEL) and become the association’s first national treasurer.

He has served in several community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations whose activities were directed at ameliorating the harsh impact of apartheid inequality. This service included his role as chairman of Project Literacy for over 10 years and as



>> Justice Dikgang Moseneke

[\*Click here to view Justice Moseneke’s acceptance speech\*](#)

trustee of the Sowetan Nation Building and as Chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund for 15 years.

He has been keenly associated with tertiary education. In 1986 he was appointed visiting Law Professor at Columbia Law School at the University of Columbia in New York. He served a term of five years as the first Chancellor of Pretoria Technikon which is now known as the Tshwane University of Technology. He served as the Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg for 12 years. During the autumn of 2011, he was a Distinguished Scholar and Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland School of Law, USA.

In 2012, Justice Moseneke was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Georgetown School of Law, Washington and in 2013 he was invited as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Zurich School of Law, Switzerland. After retirement, he lectured at Oxford University and at New York University Law School and during 2020 at the school of law at Duke University, USA.

On the home front, Justice Moseneke has been appointed Extraordinary Law Professor at the Universities of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape and honorary professor of Bioethics at the School of Health Sciences and honorary professor at the School of Law of the University of the Witwatersrand.

He holds several honorary doctorates and is a recipient of numerous awards of honour, performance and excellence at home, and abroad.

In the past 40 years, Justice Moseneke has read numerous papers at law conferences, both at home and abroad and is widely published in academic law journals.

On 28 October 2020, the UFH Nelson R Mandela School of Law together with Pan Macmillan publishers had the honour of hosting a virtual book launch for his memoir: *All Rise - A Judicial Memoir*.

Justice Moseneke is married to Kabonina and they have a daughter, two sons and six grandchildren.

# UFH Awards Honorary Doctorate in Language and Literature to Dr Sindiwe Magona

**“Dr Magona is a treasure to the university, the province, the country and to the world. This honorary doctorate is a celebration of her work.”**

During its 98<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony held on 21 June 2021, the University of Fort Hare conferred an honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Language and Literature on Dr Sindiwe Magona, a South African master story-teller.

Born in Tsolo in the Eastern Cape, Dr Magona has authored over 120 children’s books, four stage plays, two short story books, works of autobiography and biography, novels, radio plays, and a screenplay. She writes in isiXhosa and English.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu said: “Dr Magona is a treasure to the university, the province, the country and to the world. This honorary doctorate is a celebration of her work.”

This will be Dr Magona’s fourth honorary doctorate, a graduate of Columbia University. The other three are:

- 1993 – Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York
- 2018 – Honorary Doctorate from Rhodes University
- 2020 – Honorary Doctorate from Nelson Mandela University

Before relocating back to Cape Town, she spent 25 years living in New York, working for the United Nations on Anti-Apartheid Radio Programmes until June 1994, and in the UN Film Archives until her retirement from the organisation at the end of 2003.

Her published works for adults include two autobiographical books, *To My Children’s Children* and *Forced to Grow*; two collections of short stories, *Living, Loving, and Lying Awake at Night* and *Push-Push and Other Stories*; three novels, *Mother to Mother*, *Beauty’s Gift* and, in 2015, *Chasing the Tails of My Father’s Cattle!*

In 2020 Dr Magona released *Theatre Road: The Biography of Thembi Mtshali-Jones*, co-authored with Mtshali-Jones.

Several of her short stories, essays, and poems have been anthologised.

Her latest release was published earlier this year. When the *Village Sleeps* is a visionary novel about what loss of identity and dignity do to a people afflicted by decades of brokenness. Told through the lives and spirits of four generations of amaTolo women, it moves between the bustling township setting of Kwanele and the different rhythms of rural village life.

She is the founder of the Gugulethu Writers’ Group which she runs on a voluntary basis to encourage women who might not otherwise write their stories.

Dr Magona is currently the writer-in-residence at the University of the Western Cape and has recently completed her PhD.

Over the years she has received several awards in recognition of her work, including the Order of iKhamanga awarded by the President of South Africa in 2011.

**Below is a list the awards bestowed unto her:**

- 1993 – Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York
- 1997 – New York Foundation for the Arts – Fellowship – non-fiction category
- 1997 – Xhosa Heroes Award from the Xhosa Forum in the Western Cape
- 1997 – UNdimande – Grand Prize Winner – Bhalala Writers Short Story Contest and Xa ndisiy’ emsebenzini, ndihamba naye – First Prize in the same contest
- 2000 – Bronx Recognizes its Own (BRIO) Award – Fiction
- 2003 – Proclamation (NY State Senate Democratic Leader, David A. Patterson – on World Aids Day 2003) in recognition of artistic work on the issue of HIV/AIDS
- 2005 – Green Accord Award for literary work that addresses issues of the environment



>> Dr Sindiwe Magona

- 2006 – Award in acknowledgement of contribution to South African literature from the Department of Education
- 2007 – The Grinzane Award for writing that addresses social concerns
- 2007 – The Molteno Gold Medal for promoting isiXhosa culture and language
- 2007 – A Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution to South African literature
- 2008 – White Ribbon Award for *Beauty’s Gift* from Women Demand Dignity
- 2011 – Awarded the Order of iKhamanga by the President of the Republic of South Africa
- 2012 – Imbokodo Award
- 2014 – Flora Nwapa Literary Award
- 2016 – The English Academy Gold Medal for distinguished service to English over a lifetime
- 2018 – Honorary Doctorate from Rhodes University
- 2020 – Ellen Kuzwayo Award from the University of Johannesburg
- 2020 – Honorary Doctorate from Nelson Mandela University
- 2021 – Honorary Doctorate from Fort Hare University (June 2021)

## FROM DOMESTIC WORKER AND CASHIER TO SCHOOL TEACHER – NANDIPHA MILISI GRADUATES WITH A BEd DEGREE:

### *A story of Chance, Faith and Perseverance*

**“I was in awe, this woman did not know me but she was willing to give me a lifetime opportunity.”**

From domestic worker to cashier, Nandipha Milisi has done it all. Now, a graduate and practicing teacher, she is living proof that anything is attainable.

The 35-year-old from Peeltion outside Qonce graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Foundation Phase) Degree during the university's recent Winter Graduation on 21 June.

Milisi passed matric in 2007. Although her desire was to study further and become a teacher, the financial situation at home stalled her dream and she had to find employment.

“I first worked as a domestic worker before pursuing a career as a cashier at popular fast food outlets (Spur, Scooters Pizza and KFC).

Chance, faith and perseverance had to do with the progressive shift in her life.

#### **Chance**

Her journey to becoming a graduate was set in motion by a conversation between herself and a woman who had offered her a lift to work one morning.

“The year was 2015, I was hitchhiking to work when this woman stopped to give me a ride. During our conversation she asked me why I was not at school studying further. I explained to her that my salary and my sister's disability grant was our family's only income.”

The response from the lady, Dr Pumla Gqakamba-Mjikeliso who is the

mother of well-known SA Author and Journalist, Sibusiso Mjikeliso, left her in awe.

“She told me to apply to university and she will take care of my financial needs. I was in awe, this woman did not know me but she was willing to give me a lifetime opportunity.”

#### **Faith**

Although she never had the means to study further, Milisi always carried her matric certificate with her, with the hope that one day it might come in handy. That faithful day arrived when she was delivering a take-away order to the UFH Bhisho campus for Mrs Belinda Harris, UFH Education Faculty Assistant Manager.

“When I arrived on campus that day the staff were having a faculty board meeting. I showed Belinda my matric certificate and asked her whether I qualified to study for a Bachelor of Education degree. She told me I qualified and encouraged me to apply.”

She was accepted and started her first year in 2016 on the East London Campus.

“Mrs Mjikeliso had offered to pay for my registration, tuition and all other needs such as accommodation, clothes and food. Even though I was fortunate to secure funding from NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme), she still took care of my financial needs.”



>> Nandipha Milisi

#### **Perseverance**

Although the degree takes four years to complete, it took Ms Milisi five years. “It was not easy, there were lots of challenges, one of them being the fact I hadn't been in school for almost ten years. Secondly, in my first year I tried to juggle work and studying but it did not work out as my studies demanded all my time and dedication.”

“With the support from Mrs Mjikeliso who always ensured that I had food in my belly and clothes on my back, I persevered. To this day, she still takes care of me.”

Milisi is a teacher at a Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) school.

*By Aretha Linden*

## Vuyisa Cuku: UFH Maths Honours Graduate and Masters Student Ranked Among Top Performing Mathematics Teachers in BCM Education District

**“Maths is the answer to the high unemployment rate in this country. I believe if you can solve a maths problem you can solve any problem presented to you in life.”**

Mr Vuyisa Cuku, a UFH 2021 Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mathematics graduate and current Masters of Science in Pure Mathematics student has been recognized as one of the top performing Mathematics Teachers in the Buffalo City Metro (BCM) Education District.

The 32-year-old from Centane teaches maths to Grade 10-12 learners at Ulwazi Secondary School in Mdantsane – one of the best performing schools in the district.



>> Mr Vuyisa Cuku

Last month (May), he was awarded a certificate of recognition by the Eastern Cape Department of Education, after his learners attained a 100% maths pass rate in the 2020 *National Senior Certificate* examinations.

Cuku - the first person in his family to obtain a university qualification - is passionate about mathematics. He has two qualifications from the UFH. He obtained a Bachelor of Education (Mathematics and Physical Science) in 2018 and in 2020, the BSc (Hons) in mathematics which was awarded during the 2021 hybrid Winter Graduation ceremony on 21 June.

Contrary to a popular belief that maths is difficult, Cuku says it is one of the easiest subjects. “Once you understand the basics of maths and develop a passion for numbers, the problem solves itself. It is the easiest subject. In maths you do not write something that does not prove, and in a problem statement you have so many options of answers to the same questions.”

He encourages learners to take up maths in school. “Maths is the answer to the high unemployment rate in this country. I believe if you can solve a maths problem you can solve any problem presented to you in life.”

Cuku is currently pursuing his third qualification at UFH, a Master of Science in Pure Maths. His research topic is titled: *Fuzzy multi-order relative to Fuzzy sub multi group*. His supervisor is Professor Babington Bonginkosi Makamba, a C-rated Researcher and Mathematics Professor in the UFH Mathematics Department.

“My goal is to complete my Masters in one year and proceed to PhD level. I am grateful to the University of Fort Hare for giving me a chance to build my mathematics career and my mother for always supporting me.”

*By Aretha Linden*



>> Mr Vuyisa Cuku with his class

## Ex-SOLDIER OBTAINS BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BSc) DEGREE

After 10 years of service in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), Mr Luyanda Magcida surrendered his military uniform and enrolled to study for a Bachelor of Science Degree (BSc) at the University of Fort Hare.

On 21 June 2021, during the university's June Winter Graduation, the 33-year-old from Mdantsane in the Eastern Cape graduated with a BSc within record time and became the first graduate in his family. He passed six of his modules with distinction.

He was among the 3000 plus graduates whose academic achievements were celebrated during the hybrid graduation ceremony.

Magcida joined the SANDF when he was 19-years-old. He worked as a military practitioner deployed at the 6 Sai Bn Military Base in Makhanda (Grahamstown). While serving in the military he developed an interest into the science behind the ammunition that was being used at base.

"Growing up in a hopeless society full of crime and drugs, I always wanted to be something in life that would enable me to help my family so that they can be proud of me. While working in the military I was able to help my family financially. However, my dream was to get a university qualification and become the first graduate in the family."

In 2018 he was accepted at UFH. "When it came down to choosing between being a soldier or a student, I chose to be a student." The modules of his degree focused on thermodynamics and explosives.

"During my studies, there were times where I felt like I made the wrong decision because I could not support my family financially. However, I was motivated by the fact that I would become the first graduate in my family and the belief that education is the key to success."

"After facing hardships and sleepless nights during my undergraduate studies, I am proud to say I am a Bachelor of Science graduate."

Currently, Magcida is pursuing a BSc honours degree and his goal is to reach PhD level.

"I am grateful to the University of Fort Hare for granting me this opportunity and to God Almighty for the strength,"

By *Aretha Linden*



>> Mr Luyanda Magcida

**"After facing hardships and sleepless nights during my undergraduate studies, I am proud to say I am a Bachelor of Science graduate."**



>> Mr Luyanda Magcida

## GIVING UP IS NOT AN OPTION: BCom Law Graduate Siphamandla Boyce Overcomes Severe Health Challenges

**"This is my story and I hope it inspires others that no matter how many setbacks you experience, giving up is not an option!"**

Not even multiple seizures, three strokes and countless hospital stays could prevent Siphamandla Boyce from obtaining his Bachelor of Commerce in Law (BCom Law) degree.

The 23-year-old from Libode in the Eastern Cape suffers from a rare neuro autoimmune disease called Behçet's disease. He graduated during the university's 2021 Hybrid Winter Graduation ceremony held on 21 June.

### A series of health challenges

The cause of the disease is unknown, although most experts believe it's an autoinflammatory condition. An autoinflammatory condition is where the immune system – the body's natural defence against infection and illness – mistakenly attacks healthy tissue. Currently, there is no cure for the disease.

Mr Boyce enrolled at UFH in 2016 for a BCom Law degree at the UFH Nelson R. Mandela School of Law.

"My goal was to do my BCom Law over three years and thereafter enrol for a Bachelor of Laws (LLB)."

However, this goal was derailed when, during his second-year of study in 2017, Boyce experienced a severe headache. "I was rushed to hospital where I ended up having seizures. Brain scans were conducted and that is when the swelling in my brain was discovered"

"The doctors did not know the cause of my illness and I was given heavy medication for three possible causes."

After he was discharged from St Mary's hospital in Mthatha his condition

worsened, forcing him to drop out of university.

"I spent the entire year of 2017 in and out of hospitals, having multiple seizures, headaches and having back meningitis. I also suffered two strokes in that year."

He was admitted to several hospitals as Doctors tried to find a diagnosis for his condition.

In 2018, with assistance from Ms Zukiswa Mkiva, Law Faculty Manager, he was able to complete a late registration application to catch-up with his studies. However, when mid-year examination approached, he relapsed.

"I was rushed to St Dominic's hospital. The headache was back, I was attacked by another seizure followed by a stroke. I was transferred to a specialist in Durban where multiple tests were conducted. One test came back positive for meningitis. Doctors suggested a brain biopsy and finally, there was a diagnosis for my condition. I was relieved because, for the first time, I knew what was wrong with me."

"After I was discharged from hospital I went back to class to finish my 2nd semester. In 2019, without any funding, I completed the outstanding modules from the second-year. My results were so good that I was awarded a certificate for academic excellence during the Faculty's Awarding Ceremony."

### Triumph over adversity

Despite the obstacles mentioned above, including losing his mother to colon cancer in 2020, Boyce's perseverance and positive outlook on life carried him through his final year.



>> Siphamandla Boyce

"I lost my mother and I had no funding. However, through the UFH Disability Unit and the assistance of the then East London SRC Premier Mihla Hanise, I was able to find a sponsor to pay for my studies."

Boyce is currently doing his 1st year LLB degree and moving closer to achieving his goal.

"This is my story and I hope it inspires others that no matter how many setbacks you experience, giving up is not an option!"

By *Aretha Linden*

# Congratulations

## 2021 LAW GRADUATES

By Mr Actor Katurura, Senior Lecturer: Private Law  
Coordinator: Faculty of Law Extended Curriculum Programme



>> Mr Actor Katurura

In congratulating the UFH law graduates of 2020 I finished off my message as follows: *"If ever there was an 'Against all odds group', you are it! You are conquerors...."*

Little did I, or anyone else at the time, know that the group behind them would have to go beyond the "against all odds threshold"! We were even speculating about the possibility of an in-person Spring Graduation in 2020, but it was not to be. Instead, you, the class of 2020, experienced all the 2019 challenges and more! You are the class that had to finish a task which began in the midst of a high stakes war and the miasma of a global pandemic!

My mantra this past year was, "we must have the maturity and discipline to recognise, accept and do that which is necessary to achieve that which is desirable".

You have proved that you epitomise this by reaching this milestone in the midst of sickness, depression, lack, uncertainty and even death. The one ingredient I forgot to include in there is courage - and this too, you brought forth by the bucket load.

You had to keep hope alive when the academic year seemed all but lost. You had to suddenly and radically adapt in your final and most cognitively challenging year, to new ways of learning and new ways of assessment. In many instances you were led by leaders, teachers and a system that was itself battling to adapt and keep the ship of the academic enterprise afloat and on course.

I also repeatedly spoke of the importance of "grit" and quoted former President Thabo Mbeki who, back in 2008 declared: "those who complete the course will do so only because they do not, as fatigue sets in, convince themselves that the road ahead is still too

long, the incline too steep, the loneliness impossible to bear and the prize itself of doubtful value". In line with this timeless counsel in contending with adversity, you kept your focus on the prize and hunkered down to the task at hand in spite of everything. Some of you have been or are battling depression and an existential crisis, grief, and all that Covid-19 has thrown at you.

Your final year was without precedent and extraordinarily difficult yet here you are! Kudos to you all graduates of 2021! Every war has its heroes and the coronavirus pandemic is a war. You are some of the heroes of this war, for you stayed at your stations while the world went mad around you and you have triumphed. Amazingly, more of you managed to complete the LLB this past year than before!

I still see in my mind's eye the ones who had to climb a hill behind their homesteads to get a better signal as classes went virtual. I see the ones who, again and again had to contend with technology having a bad hair day. I see also the ones who, in order to continue learning, had to borrow devices and squat with friends when the country went into lockdown and the university shut its doors. I see and remember also the ones that wrote to the university whilst in quarantine and isolation away from home family; their bodies ailing but their spirits still resolute, imploring the university not to leave them behind.

I could go on. You more than deserve the recognition. Kudos to you all...onwards and upwards graduates of 2021! You, class of 2020 are MORE THAN CONQUERORS.

Ndinothulela umnqwazi!!

**Actor Katurura**  
**TAU Fellow**

# A GREAT FRIEND OF THE UNIVERSITY: UFH pays tribute to President Kenneth KK Kaunda

The University of Fort joins the continent and the international community in the mourning the passing of Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's first independent president from 1964 to 1991.

Affectionately known as KK, he died peacefully at the Maini Soko Medical Centre in Lusaka. He was 97 years old.

In 1996, he was among the African leaders who descended on the UFH Alice campus to celebrate the university's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Until his demise, he was regarded as the only remaining pioneer of African independence. Some of the late great African leaders and UFH Alumni that he was associated with, are Robert Sobukwe, Julius Nyerere (Honorary Alumnus), Robert Mugabe, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela. He was also a great friend to the late Samora Machel, who was a Mozambican military commander and political leader.

He played a pivotal role in Zambia's fight for liberation through his Zambian African National Congress (ZANC) and United National Independence Party (UNIP). He also instrumental in assisting the liberation of South Africa by allowing African National Congress (ANC) members and leaders to seek refuge in Lusaka during the height of apartheid.

KK was a staunch advocate for "Zambian Humanism" - a concept based on a combination of ideas of state control and basic African values of mutual aid, trust and loyalty to the community.

Until the end, the university community and its family of stakeholders regarded President Kaunda as a **Friend of the University of Fort Hare**.

*May his soul rest in peace.*



>> Kenneth Kaunda

# UFH LECTURER CHUMA MJALI APPOINTED AS MEMBER OF INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BOARD FOR AUDITORS (IRBA)



>> Ms Chuma Mjali

*ThisWeek@FortHare* is pleased to share the news of Ms Chuma Mjali's recent appointment as a member of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA).

Her appointment was announced by Finance Minister Tito Mboweni, on 14 June. Mjali is the youngest of the 10-member board.

### About Chuma Mjali

- She is a Lecturer and Deputy Head of Department in the UFH Nkuhlu Department of Accounting,
- A Chartered Accountant CA(SA) and a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) with local and international experience.
- She is also the national Head of Education for the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants of SA (ABASA), and
- A member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants' (SAICA's) Initial Professional Development Committee (IPD).

According to her, the function of the IRBA is to help create an ethical, value-driven financial sector that encourages investment, creates confidence in the financial markets and promotes sound practices.

"This is an important function taking into account the malfunctions within the profession over recent years, for example the Steinhoff and African Bank matters," she said.

UFH believes Chuma is equal to the task.



## OPERA IS FUN CONCERT: Presented by the UFH Music Department

Earlier this month (June 2021) UFH opera/classical music students presented an *Opera is Fun* Concert with stage excerpts in commemoration of the 230<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a prolific and influential composer of the Classical Period. He died in 1791.

The concert was held at the Miriam Makeba Centre for Performing Arts and also served as a tribute to everyone who succumbed to the coronavirus.

According to Mr Thamsanqa Ncokwana, Deputy Head of the Music Department, Voice Lecturer and Opera Specialist, the idea was to give students a platform to perform staged operas in front of an audience. His selected repertoire included the following pieces:

- *Pije Jesu* from the Requiem by Andrew Lloyd Webber;
- *Leeba* by South African composer, JP Mohapeloa;
- *Gira Con me*, *Die Fledermaus* by Johannes Strauss.

"During the concert, we remembered Mozart as well as those who passed on due to Covid-19. We pray that they will continue to rest in peace. The song *Pije Jesu* from the Requiem (a mass for the dead) was specifically dedicated to them", said Ncokwana.

The stage was directed by Ncokwana and the music was conducted by Mr Makazole Tete, a UFH honours student. All performances were accompanied by Mr Asekho Zani, the resident pianist.

Soloists who participated included: Sazi Gcaba, Lusanda Matiwane, Chwayita Mdlankomo, Nomonde Makamba, Mzamo Siphokazi, Pinky Mbungwa, Amanda Phetheni, Sinazo Tosela, Simbongile Kase, Lazola Maconi, Ntsika Mfono and Ongezwa Mkumla. The chorus was rendered by the entire UFH Opera division.



# Konica Minolta Facilitates Establishment of a UFH Research Orchard

**“To leave a greener footprint means to live a more sustainable life. With Konica Minolta South Africa’s contribution to the university and the community as a whole, it will become easier to do just that.”**

Towards the end of May 2021 the University of Fort Hare’s Khanya Nursery, attached to the faculty of Science and Agriculture and in partnership with Konica Minolta held a fruit tree planting ceremony at the Research farm in Alice.

With more than 25 percent (1.6 billion) of the world’s population reliant on the resources of nature and its forests, it is imperative that trees remains protected.

In his remarks, the acting Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Michael Aliber acknowledged.. “Today, Konica Minolta South Africa should be excited to continue greening areas across the country with NPO, Food & Trees for Africa, by planting over 200 trees at the historical and prestigious University of Fort Hare”.

As part of the ongoing conservation efforts undertaken by Konica Minolta South Africa, an additional 13 schools and 2 tertiary institutions in communities around the area of Alice in the Eastern Cape have also received donations of trees. A further three community farmer groups, supported by Fort Hare, will also receive 20 fruit trees each through this donation. These fruit trees will have a significant positive impact on the farmer groups in terms of long-term food security thanks to diversified produce.

The donation of the 200 fruit trees to UFH, in support of the Department of Agronomy, will assist in driving research and innovation in South Africa’s agricultural sector. The university’s capacity for fruit-tree research will benefit immensely from the planting of these fruit trees within their Research Farm.

Enabling this type of research can have profound knock-on effects in terms of enhancing South Africa’s knowledge base around fruit production and long-term food security. In a similar way, Fort Cox Agricultural College’s capacity for fruit-tree research is being bolstered through Konica Minolta South Africa’s donation of 240 fruit trees.

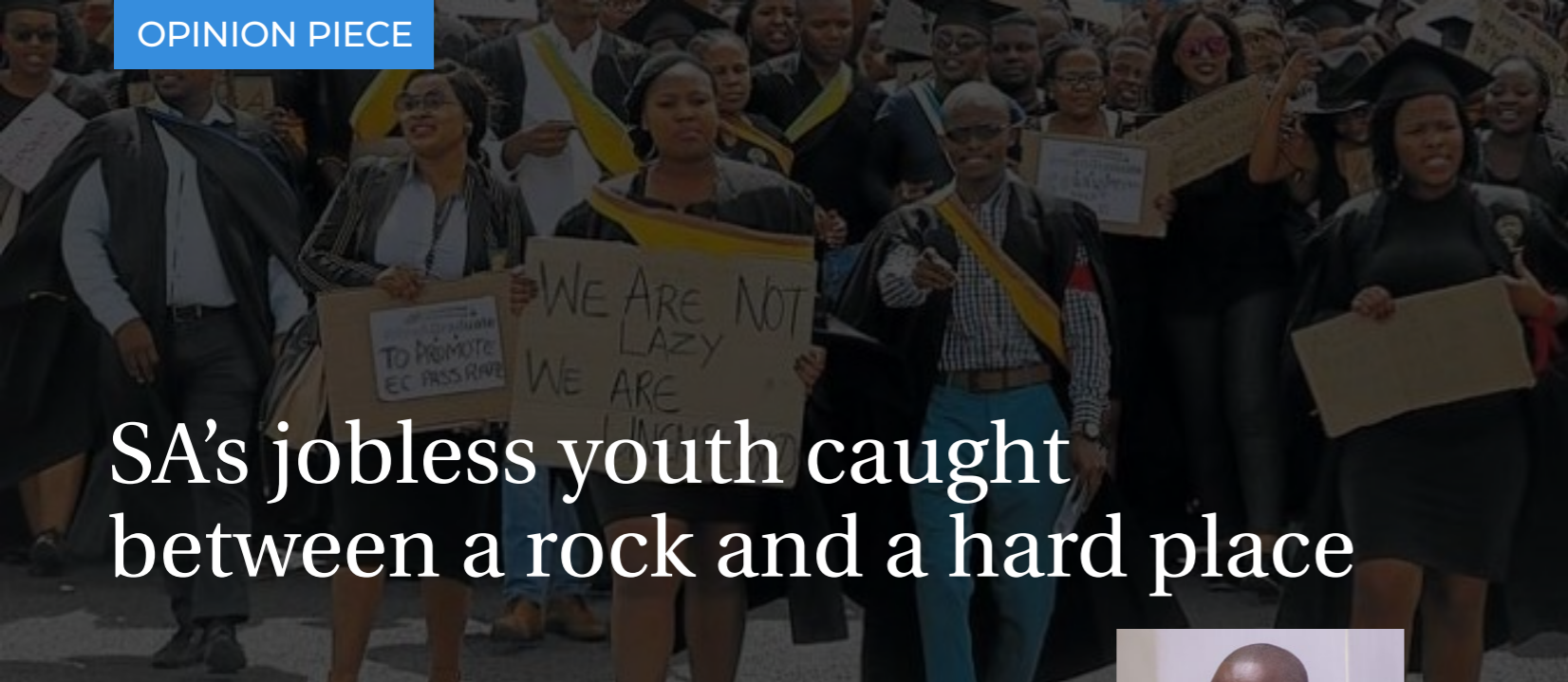
“Konica Minolta South Africa, is not only committed to greener recycling practices and greener manufacturing, however, the environment, the economy and local communities have also benefitted through the company’s ongoing tree planting initiative,” said Gary Eves, East London Branch Manager.

As much as 12 million hectares of forest are cleared internationally every year. To counteract these increasing carbon emissions, Konica Minolta South Africa has engaged in regular plantings and to date has planted in excess of 57,000 trees countrywide, offsetting 21,076.75 tons of CO2 equivalent.

“To leave a greener footprint means to live a more sustainable life. With Konica Minolta South Africa’s contribution to the university and the community as a whole, it will become easier to do just that. The benefits of planting just one tree will help create an everlasting giving-ecosystem when protected,” said Prof Aliber.

*Source: Faculty of Science and Agriculture (adapted by Mawande Mrashula)*





# SA's jobless youth caught between a rock and a hard place



>> Willie Chinyamurindi

**Opinion Piece by Willie Tafadzwa Chinyamurindi  
Professor and Head of the Business Management Department at  
the University of Fort Hare**

Published in the Daily Dispatch on 15 June 2021

Source: [OPINION | SA's jobless youth caught between a rock and a hard place \(dispatchlive.co.za\)](https://www.dispatchlive.co.za/opinion/2021/06/15/sas-jobless-youth-caught-between-a-rock-and-a-hard-place/)

**“In the last five years we have tracked youths who have exited the higher education system to see how they are faring. The experiences mixed, the battle cries common.”**

I am often inundated by feedback appraisals from my former students.

These habitually take the form of platitudes of gratitude that then transcend into a crescendo of misgivings.

A common feature of these youths, most of them being graduates, is they are unemployed.

Further, these youths face a societal burden manifest in high economic expectations.

Then there is the challenge of meandering through this uncertain, and at best difficult, labour market system.

All this happening in a period of challenge posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the noted rise of unemployment to 32.6% between January and March 2021.

The charge for the youth of today is often drawn in comparative narratives of stark parallels with their 1976 counterparts.

In one corner, the call is for an attitude of refusing the status quo of just fitting in.

Youths must opt for a more cavalier fighting spirit.

A failure to adopt such a fighting spirit relegates today's youth to another corner. One where they are classified to be impressionably weak, entitled and battled.

This leaves our youths caught between a rock and a hard place. The comparisons with the past not helping the situation but perpetually creating a dissonance and entrapment in a vortex of time.

So in the last five years we have tracked youths who have exited the higher education system to see how they are faring. The experiences mixed, the battle cries common.

The first of these experiences attributes blame to the political elite.

Often nebulous affirmations are made for the need to absorb young people in sectors where they are underrepresented. These include the marine, ocean and agricultural economies.

Yet the red tape accompanying this process deters young people.

Coupled with this, are high barriers of entry making it difficult for youths to participate in such spaces.

Where young people become absorbed into the labour market system, there is the added challenge of exploitation.

Graduates have written to us complaining at the exploitation faced in so-called internship opportunities, a masquerade in the name of skilling. This coupled by the perceived disparities and allocation of opportunities by geographical location and even the type of institution attended.

One that hits home for me is graduates complaining at the disconnect between what they have been taught and the actual needs of the labour market system.

Varied are the complaints here but there are two common features.

The first, a lack of preparedness by graduates to the expectations of the labour market system.

Second, a lack of relevance in terms of key subject offerings as part of tertiary enrolment. Included here is the lack of entrepreneurial training.

Where this training is provided, students complain of the obsession with theory — making students become experts at listing the steps of starting a business with little or no knowledge of the practical side of this.

So what can be done?

The youth of today at best can draw inspiration from the youth of 1976 to find meaning and expression of writing their own narrative.

The first work to be done appears more psychological than operational.

This is a work of affirming our youths as unique, distinct and important players in solving the obstinate challenges we have, while they are able to borrow from the lesson book of history using the class of 1976 as a launch pad to their own greatness.

Second is the work of advocacy through more streamlining and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of interventions aimed at helping the youth.

This includes calling to account through a multilayered stakeholder vigilance of the work of agencies, spheres of government and representative bodies claiming to be in it for the youth.

Key to this is the continued synergy between the private sector and government.

This work cannot be done alone.

Efforts of skills-building and entrepreneurial development, especially at grass roots level, call for such collaboration.

This is the experience of one of my former students, partnering as a supplier to a private company and in turn receiving much needed entrepreneurial experience.

Globally, there is also acknowledgment of the importance of private sector involvement and collaboration for realised success.

There is also the need for a total overhaul of the education system, bearing in mind contextual challenges.

The creation and activities of the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education platform and recent calls for our universities to become entrepreneurial hubs is a step in the right direction.

This is something that should be extended to the TVET sector and even at the Basic Education level.

We do not need another June 16, 1976, event to remind us what the youth can do!

---

*Willie Tafadzwa Chinyamurindi is a Professor and Head of the Business Management Department at the University of Fort Hare. Together with Dr Tinashe Harry (Rhodes University) have authored three papers detailing Labour Market & Human Capital issues with a focus on youths in South Africa. These papers have been published and are available online through: a) South African Journal of Human Resources; b) African Journal of Employee Relations and c) South African Journal of Industrial Psychology.*

# Burden faced by youth made even worse by Covid-19

Opinion Piece by Dr Siyabulela C Fobosi, Senior researcher Unesco Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights, University of Fort Hare

Published in Daily Dispatch on 24 June 2021

Source: [LETTER | Burden faced by youth made even worse by Covid-19 \(dispatchlive.co.za\)](#)



>> Dr Siyabulela Fobosi

When June 16 was designated as Youth Day in 1994, it was intended to honour those who had suffered and died on that tragic day in 1976. The day was also set aside to honour those who continue to carry on their legacy of selflessness, determination and devotion, which are essential for any society or nation's success and growth.

The year 2021 also marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of liberation struggle heroine and human rights campaigner, Charlotte Mannya Maxeke.

This year's theme is "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society".

For the second consecutive year, the month is commemorated as the nation battles Covid-19. Young South Africans are confronted with a slew of challenges, including disruptions in the right to education, training and on-the-job learning; job and income losses owing to layoffs and reduced working hours; and increased difficulty finding jobs which pay a decent wage.

According to the 2020 fourth quarter Labour Force Survey, about 8.6m people aged 15 to 34 are not in education or employment.

Due to extensive school closures, young women are experiencing a rising double burden of managing both paid and unpaid care and domestic chores.

More than ever, investing in youth employment and digital skills development is critical to successfully respond to the extra challenges posed by Covid-19 and achieve a long-term inclusive and sustainable recovery.

Youth recovery funds, as well as stimulus packages and subsidies for youth are required with a preference for the informal sector. These solutions would go a long way in solving problems, especially for young women who remain vulnerable to abuse if they are not economically empowered.



Young South Africans are confronted with a slew of challenges including increased difficulty in finding jobs. // Image: MICHAEL PINYANA

# UFH RUGBY TEAMS WIN BIG AT NTLAZA LIONS TOURNAMENT



The University of Fort Hare Rugby Team featuring both male (Blues RFC) and female (Baby Blues) teams came out victorious at the Ntlaza Lions Rugby Tournament recently held on 16-19 June 2021. The tournament was sponsored by Nyandeni Local Municipality

UFH Blues RFC well known as Blues played two games on Wednesday against the Mqanduli Zebras and host Ntlaza Lions RFC. The UFH Blues won both games but both were close encounters, which were highly contested. The Blues won the first encounter 13 – 9 against Zebras and played the main game against Ntlaza Lions RFC. The host put up a very good show and in the end succumbed to the Blues onslaught 13 – 10.

Lukhanyiso, the talented blind side flank who captained the UFH Blues on the day - admitted that "the competition was tough and the

standard of rugby was superb in the tournament. He said because teams have played each other before, they knew each other's strengths and weaknesses, hence the difficulty in scoring tries".

However, he was quick to thank the coaching staff for a job well done when it comes to tactics to outsmart the opposition on the day. He applauded Madoda Ludidi who was in charge of the team and praised him a great deal in this regard. The team went on to play the semi-finals which they won and had to square up against the host Ntlaza Lions which they beat 16 – 9.

The players that stood out throughout the tournament was the Captain himself Lukhanyo Tosholwane and Merlin Du Plessis. The latter was superb with the kicking game and kept the scoreboard ticking, and gave the boys points they needed.

The Baby Blues under the leadership of Ntyatyambo Mkhafu were in fine form throughout the tournament, won all their games, and qualified for the finals. This was commendable considering they have many new faces in their team after losing most of their players to the provincial team while others have completed their studies. They played WSU in the final and beat them comfortably in a very convincing fashion.

Mr Lumumba Currie - the Professional Rugby Coach, was very pleased with both ladies and men's rugby team performances. He applauded both Mkhafu and Ludidi for their dedication towards the growth of these athletes.

The next assignment for both teams is now the Border Rugby League matches and University Sport South Africa Rugby Tournament.

by Mawande Mrashula





University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

# *ThisWeek@FortHare*

your fortnightly newsletter

## **EDITORIAL TEAM**

**Editor:** Tandi Mapukata

**Writers:** Aretha Linden, Mawande Mrashula & Asaduma Baloyi

**Graphic Design & Layout:** Alida Mundell

**Photography & Videography:** Tim Wilson

**Creative Specialist:** Tim Wilson

**Marketing Advisor:** Khotso Moabi

**Social Media Specialist:** Velani Mbiza Gola

## **FOR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND STORY LEADS:**

Tandi Mapukata - [tmapukata@ufh.ac.za](mailto:tmapukata@ufh.ac.za) • Aretha Linden - [alinden@ufh.ac.za](mailto:alinden@ufh.ac.za)  
*Submission deadline 5pm Tuesdays*