

This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Vol 3, issue 16 • 28 October 2021



In this issue:

- >> Higher Health and UFH Executives Deliberate On Covid-19, GBV And Mental Health Challenges
- >> UFH and Institute of Human Settlements Practitioners Co-Host Groundbreaking Housing and Human Settlements African Student Conference
- >> 2021 Virtual Spring Graduation: 12 November 2021
- >> Prof Mzikazi Nduna Joins The Presidential Technical Reference Team For The Review Of Discriminatory Laws In Africa
- >> Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery from Covid-19 Pandemic
- >> "Teaching And Learning Heist: How Do We Come Out Of All Of This?"
- >> UFH Wraps Up Mental Health Month with Wellness Fair
- >> UFH Law Alumna, Inga Macingwane Joins Top 100 Brightest Young Minds Summit
- >> UFH Alumna makes History as Second Female Rugby Player to Secure European Deal

HIGHER HEALTH AND UFH EXECUTIVES DELIBERATE ON COVID-19, GBV AND MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

“It is imperative that in light of Covid-19, we continue our efforts on other social and health challenges, affecting our students, including GBV, Mental Health, HIV/TB/STIs, Unplanned Pregnancy, Substance Abuse, Disability and other pandemics.”

On 19 October a delegation from Higher Health (HH) led by CEO Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia met with a team from the University of Fort Hare led by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu to discuss Covid-19, Gender-Based Violence and Mental Health challenges in the Post-school education and training sector (PSET). The meeting took place in the VC’s Boardroom on the Alice campus.

Higher Health is a wellness and development centre for the PSET sector.

The meeting was initiated by Dr Ahluwalia and forms part of the centre’s nationwide visits to PSET institutions to ensure, in addition to Covid-19, that there are continued efforts to address other social and health challenges in the sector.

According to Dr Ahluwalia: “It is imperative that in light of Covid-19, we continue our efforts on other social and health challenges, affecting our students, including GBV, Mental Health, HIV/TB/STIs, Unplanned Pregnancy, Substance Abuse, Disability and other pandemics. Unfortunately, our country and sector are impacted immensely by the above pandemics, and it is important that we re-group, consult and find innovative solutions to continue student health, wellness and development programmes in integration with the Covid-19 pandemic.”

The engagement and consultation focused on the following interventions:

- Current Covid-19 Challenges
 - Regulations on Covid-19 Vaccination in the PSET System
 - Fourth and subsequent waves and its impact on the academic calendar
 - Outbreaks and residence support programmes and
 - Occupational health and safety
- Implementing Guidelines on GBV,
 - Sexual and gender-related misconduct
 - Implementing protocols on Rape and Sexual Assault and Code of Ethics in the PSET Institutions, and
 - Way Forward for GBV Institutional Responses
- Challenges of Mental Health and How to Strengthen Systems and Interventions across our campuses
- Integration of Covid-19 programmes with HIV, GBV and Mental Health
- Overview of Higher Health Direct Grants to Universities, including further funding support to Covid-19 response and vaccinations.

Dr Ahluwalia commended the University of Fort Hare for its efforts in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, its impact on staff and students, including the vaccination programme. Currently, UFH has two vaccination outreach sites (Alice and East London campus) and to date, more than 1000 students and staff have been vaccinated at these sites.

In-depth details about the meeting will be revealed in due course.





UFH AND INSTITUTE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PRACTITIONERS CO-HOST GROUNDBREAKING HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AFRICAN STUDENT CONFERENCE: 27-29 October 2021

Students, academics and professionals within the Human Settlement and Housing discipline in Africa, United States of America and the United Kingdom have converged (physically & virtually) on East London and Alice campuses for the first-ever Housing and Human Settlements African Regional Student Conference. The event will run from 27 to 29 October.

The conference is hosted by the University of Fort Hare's Human Settlements Department and the Institute of Human Settlement Practitioners - South Africa. It forms part of a multinational collaborative effort that focuses on professional development, capacity building, resource development, advocacy, legislation, and building principled partnerships to address the housing crisis.

Students from various higher-learning institutions are expected to present research papers related to the conference theme: Strengthening the Human Settlement Sector Wide Capacity Development Efforts during a Pandemic and beyond - Opportunities for Young Professionals.





University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

2021 VIRTUAL SPRING GRADUATION: 12 November 2021

It's all systems go for the 2021 Virtual Spring Graduation scheduled for 12 November.

This is the university's fourth graduation ceremony held under restricted conditions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Just under 400 doctoral, masters, honours and undergraduate qualifications will be awarded during the ceremony. In addition to the formal proceedings, the programme will also feature pre-recorded performances to make the day extra special.

The ceremony will be flighted on all UFH social media platforms from 1pm.

Management would like to extend an invitation to all members of the extended UFH community - especially graduands and their families - to mark this day and celebrate this milestone together.



12 NOVEMBER 2021

1pm on UFH Social Media channels



www.ufh.ac.za



[ufh1916](https://www.youtube.com/ufh1916)



[ufh1916](https://www.facebook.com/ufh1916)



[@ufh1916](https://twitter.com/ufh1916)



[@ufh1916](https://www.instagram.com/ufh1916)

PROF MZIKAZI NDUNA JOINS THE PRESIDENTIAL TECHNICAL REFERENCE TEAM FOR THE REVIEW OF DISCRIMINATORY LAWS IN AFRICA

Prof Mzikazi Nduna, University of Fort Hare incoming Dean for the Faculty of Health Sciences, is one of eight experts from different African countries that have been selected to serve on the Presidential Technical Reference Team for the Review of Gender Discriminatory Laws in Africa.

Prof Nduna, who has extensive continent-wide experience in the field of health and human rights and advocacy towards the realization of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all, said she is honoured by the President's invitation to serve on the team.

"I look forward to serving the team with humility, diligence, and commitment. This is a big task, not only for me but for the South African community as well as the Faculty of Health Sciences at Fort Hare. I have always been committed to justice for all. This role is going to keep me very busy in 2022 and I look forward to the challenge, the opportunity to learn and to make a difference."

She will serve alongside the following experts:

1. **Professor Rashida Manjoo** (South Africa) - University of Cape Town (Previous Special UN Rapporteur on Violence Against Women)
2. **Meskerem Geset** - (Ethiopia) - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
3. **Honourable Madame Bineta Diop** (Senegal) - Africa Union
4. **Honourable Maria Teresa Manuela** (Angola) - African Commission on Human and People's Rights
5. **Memory Kachambwa** (Regional representative from Kenya) FEMNET, also called the African Women's Development and Communication Network

6. **Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi** (Nigeria) - Every Woman Counts

7. **Emma Mogaka** (Kenya) - Akili Dada, an international award-winning leadership incubator.

According to Prof Nduna, the law plays a critical role in health justice. "We see this in the catalytic role played by anti-stigma, anti-discrimination, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, abortion laws and many others. Evidence suggests that the legacy of colonial laws in Africa still prevents many men, women, and gender non-binary people from adequate access to services, in an array of areas."

"These laws need to be repealed and replaced with anti-discriminatory legal tools. Most African states are signatories to global and continental tools such as the Maputo Protocol that are aimed at addressing gender discrimination. Ratifying these tools is a first and important step that needs to be followed up with timely, continuous, and informed advocacy to support the transformation of the judiciary and align it with the aspirations as expressed in the tools."

She further indicates that President Cyril Ramaphosa plays a very important role in supporting political advocacy to facilitate and usher a new dawn of anti-discriminatory laws across the continent. "To this effect, President Ramaphosa recognized the identification and repealing of gender discriminatory laws that perpetuate violence against women as one of the high levels actions he took forward over his AU Chairship in 2020."

The Team is to provide technical guidance and oversight of the review of discriminatory laws in Africa. It will provide technical oversight to the Centre for Human Rights which is undertaking research, to provide the evidence, and make recommendations that the President and other key role players will use to

"I look forward to serving the team with humility, diligence, and commitment. This is a big task, not only for me but for the South African community as well as the Faculty of Health Sciences at Fort Hare. I have always been committed to justice for all."



// Prof Mzikazi Nduna

take this agenda forward. The research will be used in political advocacy for legal regime change.

Prof Nduna brings to the Team a feminist analytical lens and research expertise. She has worked in the field of health justice for 25 years. She is a household name in the South African context as a regular guest lecturer at the South African Judiciary Education Institute (SAJEI) and at the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights, amongst others. She is a research partner with a number of academic institutions in the Southern Africa region as well as with civil society.

Prof Nduna was a member of the national interim committee which worked on the very first [National GBVF Strategic Plan](#) for the country. Her recent research work in the area of health justice is with the AIDS Foundation of South Africa's Sex Rights Africa Network and the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre. She currently serves in two other high-level task teams: SANAC's Prevention Task Team and the UNAIDS's Gender Assessment task team.

Prof Nduna will officially assume duties at UFH on 1 January 2022.



TEACHERS AT THE HEART OF EDUCATION RECOVERY FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC



// Prof Vusumzi Mncube

“Despite the obstacles, they have accomplished amazing things. Every day we see and hear of their inventiveness, tenacity, enthusiasm and strength shown during the pandemic.”

Professor Vusumzi Mncube, Dean Faculty of Education believes teachers are at the heart of education recovery as various sectors in the country are devising Covid-19 recovery plans.

Speaking at a Teacher’s Day event hosted by the Eastern Cape Department of Education recently, Prof Mncube said the pandemic has challenged an already constrained education system in various new ways which resulted in teachers having to review their teaching methods and how they work, generally.

“While the topic of leadership has been somewhat neglected amongst the multitude of issues facing the teaching profession in the push towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and Education 2030 goals, the issue of teacher leadership in relation to crisis responses is not just timely, but critical. Teachers have made a huge contribution in providing remote learning, supporting vulnerable populations, ensuring successful re-opening of schools and ensuring that learning gaps in the curriculum are being mitigated,” he said.

Held on 12 October - a few days after World Teachers’ Day (celebrated on 5 October), the theme of the event was: Teachers leading in crisis; reimagining the future.

Statistics released by UNICEF in July this year laid bare the impact of disruptions in the education sector since the Covid-19 outbreak in the country. According to the report, rotational attendance, sporadic school closures and days off for specific grades, have resulted in school children losing 54 percent of learning time.

The report further states that some 400 000 to 500 000 learners have reportedly also dropped out of school altogether. This is most likely for children living in informal, urban and rural settings, with household poverty also playing a critical role.

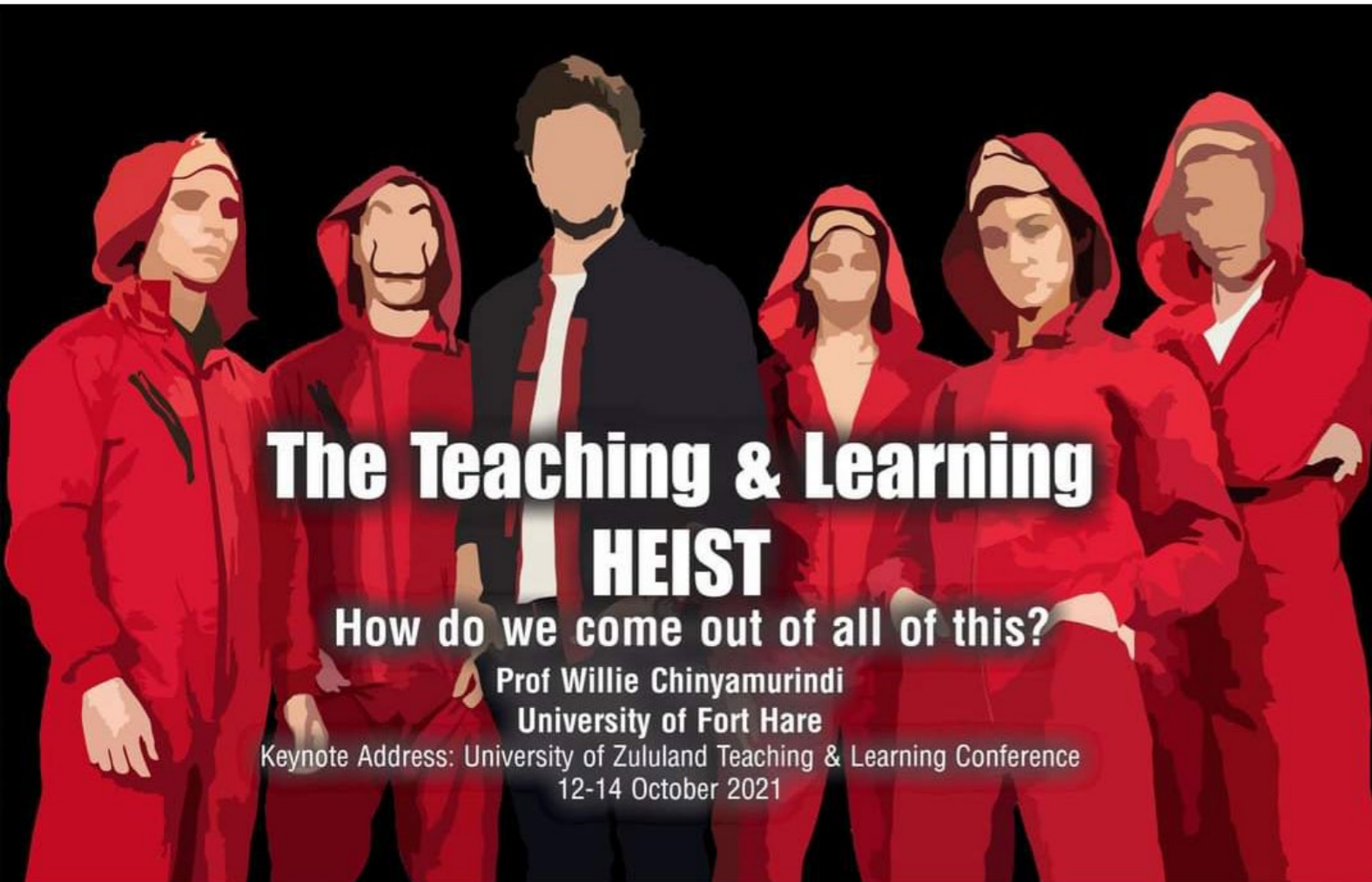
Prof Mncube said while the pandemic has been a major challenge for teachers, it created a unique situation for teacher creativity and innovation to be demonstrated.

“Teachers had to make many adjustments. They adapted to protocols and discovered new ways to teach and engage learners. Due to their resilience, they worked individually and collectively to find solutions and create new learning environments for their learners.”

“They turned challenges into opportunities and moved into the Fourth Industrial era through the adaptation to digital technologies in education delivery. Despite the obstacles, they have accomplished amazing things. Every day we see and hear of their inventiveness, tenacity, enthusiasm and strength shown during the pandemic.”

Prof Mncube pointed out that support from various stakeholders is crucial to the road to recovery in the education sector. According to him, aside from key roles played by the home as a primary socializing agent, the goals of education cannot be fully achieved without teachers reaching out to the community and imparting expertise on how the community should assist children in school activities.

“The role of teachers is even more applaudable in times of natural calamities when their wisdom and survival skills - which are at the disposal of learners and communities - can be tapped into. The essential work done by all teachers and educators in South Africa and around the world is well appreciated, especially during this time. They are a key pillar in building sustainable economies today and tomorrow,” he added.



Prof Willie Chinyamurindi Delivers A Keynote Address During a Conference Hosted by the University of Zululand



// Prof Willie Chinyamurindi

"The current situation that we face as institutions of higher learning can be equated to the situation of the Money Heist – a popular series on Netflix. You and I as academics, and people who work in the higher education ecosystem, are caught in a heist. We also have people who have been caught in the heist and these people must come out alive."

This is the view of UFH Professor Willie Chinyamurindi, Head of the Business Management department in the Faculty of Management and Commerce. He was speaking at the Teaching and Learning Conference hosted by the University of Zululand on 12-14 October. Prof Chinyamurindi was among three keynote speakers lined up for the three-day event.

Themed: **Adapting to a "NEW NORMAL": What are the Teaching and Learning Realities and Innovations in Higher Education?** – The virtual conference sought to explore new and innovative learning and teaching possibilities to enhance student access to meaningful learning and digital transformation.

For those who are not familiar with the series, the story portrays a group of criminals that break into Spain's Royal Mint to print their own money. A masterplan, orchestrated by 'El Professor', was aimed at robbing the bank without harming the 67 hostages in an attempt to maintain a positive public image.

In his presentation, Prof Chinyamurindi draws similarities between the series and likens the state of affairs presented by the Covid-19 pandemic in the higher education (HE) sector - especially in Teaching and Learning - to a heist.

Summarizing the start of the heist in the HE sector, Prof Chinyamurindi cites an abstract from Rudman RJ (2021), an article published by the Department of Higher Education on the unintended consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic which reads as follows:

"March 2020, the month the world stopped, and it wasn't a movie.

15 March 20:00, South Africa heard the greeting "My fellow South Africans" and lockdown was announced.

16 March 12:00, student activities ceased on campus.

30 March 08:00, the material for the first week's online lecture material was ready."

According to Chinyamurindi: "The challenge with dealing with the pandemic in our midst is that, already on the ground we had other issues we were still dealing with, such as institution culture some of which is toxic, disparities in our institutions, racism and the effects of decolonial tides in higher education. As the heist started, so was change in the horizon. The World Health Organisation started to estimate that our lives will never be the same and you and I had to start making drastic changes."

"These changes also necessitated a rethink in terms of telling a story of not only where we are but where we are going. This also affects issues related to the dissemination of information and how we create knowledge in a world filled with so many restrictions."

Further, he listed the complexities and opportunities brought by the heist to lecturers and students.

Prof Chinyamurindi believes that in order for everyone to come out of the heist, new professional roles must emerge from the pandemic experience. These include:

- prioritisation of personal physical and mental health;
- more technological skills and acumen needed to adjust to the challenges posed by the pandemic;
- A need for a balancing act – "technology is no replacement to what Dr Shawa refers in his address "Ubuntu".
- promotion of continued professional learning; and
- the necessity for support networks amongst practitioners

Emphasizing the importance of coming out alive from the heist, Prof Chinyamurindi reminded participants that: "There is still a world and a life to live."

LISTEN TO FULL PRESENTATION HERE:

<https://www.facebook.com/703975197/videos/141319104847482/>



UFH Wraps Up Mental Health Month with Wellness Fair

Thursday 28 October 2021 will be remembered with fondness by staff in the Student Counselling Unit (SCU) and the UFH student community at large.

To mark the end of Mental Health Awareness month (October), the SCU collaborated with various units under the Student Affairs Department and hosted a first-of-its kind Wellness Fair at the new Student Centre on the university's Alice campus.

The objective of Mental Health Month is not limited to raising awareness but also aims to reduce the stigma and discrimination that people with mental illness are often subjected to.

According to a poll conducted by UNICEF recently, 65% of young people stated that they had some form of a mental health issue but did not seek help.

The poll results found that more than a quarter of respondents did not think their mental health problem was serious enough to seek support, while 20% did not know where to get help and 18% were afraid of what people would think. Increased poverty and a lack of hope for the future, top the reasons given for children and young people's anxiety.

Explaining the background to the event, Ms Thobeka Msengana, SCU Manager said:

"We felt that the year has been filled with a lot of tragic incidents. Our students have experienced a lot of trauma and we saw it necessary to have a moment of relaxation where we are not gathered because of tragedy. We want to say to our students, you have come this far and survived, we want to emphasize that as you approach exams it is important to take care of your mental health and wellness."

Through the SCU, the university has developed several awareness programmes to stamp out the stigma attached to mental health. These include adopting a culture of talking about mental health-related issues. Ongoing discussions are held through web seminars and res-talks, where trained counsellors go into student residences to speak about an array of issues related to mental health.

During the fair participants learnt about mental health by visiting information stalls and took part in fun and games. There was a fitness boot camp, a photo booth and lots of opportunities to win prizes.



2021 FORT HARE
FOUNDATION



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

ANNUAL GOLF DAY

DATE:
29 OCTOBER 2021

VENUE:
EAST LONDON GOLF COURSE

REGISTRATION:
8 AM

SHOTGUN START:
11 AM



PACKAGES

4 BALL*
R2 000 (incl. goodie bag
and golf shirt)

BANKING DETAILS

Standard Bank
Branch: East London
Branch Code: 051001
Account Name:
Fort Hare Foundation
Account Number:
241573963
Type: Cheque
Ref: (Your Name) Golf

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

PLATINUM*
R50 000
Two 4 Balls, branding
of Tee Box 16 OR
1 and slot in the Gala
Dinner Programme

GOLD*
R30 000
One 4 Ball, Branding
of any hole except
Platinum Hole

SILVER*
R10 000
Any hole branding
except gold and
platinum hole

HOLE BRANDING* R5 000 (excl. 1-3 above)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT :
Ms N Nkanti, via email: nnkanti@ufh.ac.za;
Tel: 043 704 7693/ 073 6762 319



// Inga Macingwane

"I am passionate about learning and I continuously strive to expand my knowledge, experience and skills to become the best version of myself."

UFH LAW ALUMNA, INGA MACINGWANE *Joins Top 100 Brightest Young Minds Summit*

Inga Macingwane, UFH Law Alumna is among the top 100 brightest youth from Africa that were selected to participate in the 2021 Brightest Young Minds (BYM) Summit.

Themed: ***African Lions on the Rise: How Africa Will Change when a Younger Generation Leads***, the virtual summit was held on 15-16 October in Cape Town, South Africa.

BYM is a 20-year old non-profit public-benefit organization aimed at providing a platform for identifying, connecting and mobilising the next generation of African leaders. According to the organization's website, through the summits, participants are able to conceptualize and further innovations and impactful interventions that address social and developmental challenges across the African Continent.

The participants were selected from a pool of applicants after they demonstrated the highest

level of quality, leadership and positive impact on society.

Inga obtained her LLB Degree from UFH in 2017. Currently, the 25-year-old is a Legal Cadet at the Competition Commission South Africa. She is also pursuing a Masters Degree in Commercial Law at the University of Johannesburg. She completed her articles of clerkship earlier this year at one of Africa's biggest corporate law firms, ENSAfrica.

Some of her notable accomplishments include being a Canon Collins Scholar, Abe Bailey Fellow and a Mandela Rhodes Scholar.

Commenting on the BYM selection, she said: "I am passionate about learning and I continuously strive to expand my knowledge, experience and skills to become the best version of myself. I am honoured to have been recognized by BYM. I am excited to join this prestigious network of thought-leaders and change-makers."



UFH ALUMNA MAKES HISTORY AS SECOND FEMALE RUGBY PLAYER TO SECURE EUROPEAN DEAL

Source: [SA Rugby welcomes stint in England for Mpupha \(clubrugbysa.com\)](https://clubrugbysa.com)

// Zintle Mpupha

“The opportunity to actually compete against the best in world, to learn and to experience how it is to play at a higher stage will aid so much to my development.”

University of Fort Hare alumna, Zintle Mpupha has become the second South African female rugby player to secure a deal in Europe after being signed by English club Exeter Chiefs.

Mpupha graduated from UFH with a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Human Movement Science Degree.

According to ClubRugby SA News, the Springbok Women’s centre has clinched a one-year deal with English club Exeter Chiefs, making her the second South African female player to pen a professional deal in Europe - a move that was welcomed by SA Rugby.

The versatile Mpupha, who has played in seven Tests for the Springbok Women since her international debut in 2018, will become the first woman from South Africa to take up a professional contract in the Allianz Premier 15s.

Mpupha - a former captain of the Springbok Women’s Sevens team at the Commonwealth Games and Rugby World Cup Sevens tournaments, also in 2018 - will hit the English club scene in scintillating form, having recently scored a record four tries in a Test when South Africa defeated Kenya in Stellenbosch in August.

Earlier in the season, she was also in fine form for her provincial side, DHL Western Province, who made the finals of the SA Rugby Women’s Premier Division.

Mpupha will not be lost to the Springbok Women’s team however, as her contract enables her to fulfill her national commitments, including the forthcoming November tour to Europe, and she will be available for selection to next year’s Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.

The contract underlines the growing prominence of women’s rugby in the global sporting landscape and the playing opportunities provided by SA Rugby, as Mpupha follows in the footsteps of Babalwa Latsha, who joined a club in Spain on a professional contract in 2020 - reports ClubRugby SA.

The one year contract has been welcomed by SA Rugby’s High Performance Manager for Women’s Rugby, Lynne Cantwell, and Springbok Women’s coach, Stanley Raubenheimer.

“Exeter Chiefs is big step for Zintle and helps take South African rugby another step closer to understanding and experiencing what the elite women’s game can look like,” Cantwell said.

“The women’s 15s game is growing in South Africa, with each province making ground towards a more professional set up. More competitive games and creating performance environments that support the players athletic and skills development will help accelerate standards across the 15s and 7s games.

“She is one of our role models in the women’s game and to have her recognized on a global scale is great. Her performances in England should also be a good advertisement of the talent we have in South Africa.”

Raubenheimer also welcomed the move: “Players need time on the field to develop and this will be great for Zintle and ultimately, for our national team.

“We have seen how our players progressed when we extended our Women’s Premier Division to a double round and I have no doubt that Zintle will become a very popular and valuable player to Exeter. We wish her the best of luck and we know she will benefit from the experience of playing at that level.”

Mpupha, who also played represented South Africa in cricket was very excited about the new challenge awaiting her.

“I am honoured that Exeter think I will fit into their style of rugby very well, but ultimately, getting an opportunity to play overseas has always been one of the dreams in my rugby career, and I guess it has come now,” she said.

“I will be tested in different conditions, one of them being the weather, but that is one of the things I can’t control really. I am hoping for a lot of game time as that will make me grow as a player.

“The opportunity to actually compete against the best in world, to learn and to experience how it is to play at a higher stage will aid so much to my development.”

Mpupha thanked SA Rugby and DHL Western Province and said she hopes the stint in England will strengthen her claim to a spot to New Zealand next year.

“I will still be up for selection for Tests that Springbok Women will be playing in preparation of the World Cup and hopefully I will be able to give something back to the team from that perspective,” Mpupha said.

“I am grateful to SA Rugby for broadcasting our provincial games, for the first time ever - I don’t think opportunities such as these would have come up if we weren’t seen everywhere. Hopefully this will draw attention and open more doors for the other South African female players too.

“Also, if it wasn’t for WP which helped with training fields, gym, top class coaching and amazing teammates, we would not have been able to perform, so I am grateful and thankful. This is really not for me alone, but I hope it brings hope to any other girl who would want to get an opportunity to play overseas.”



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

FOR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND STORY LEADS:

Tandi Mapukata - tmapukata@ufh.ac.za • Aretha Linden - alinden@ufh.ac.za

Submission deadline 5pm Tuesdays