



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

# Institutional Advancement

# This Week @FORT HARE

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// De Beers Centenary Art Gallery, Alice Campus

16 October 2020

In conversation with

# Prof Anthony Jide Afolayan

UFH Professor and C2 NRF-rated Scientist Researcher

Professor Anthony Jide Afolayan is a world-renowned scientist whose expertise is rooted in many areas of phytomedicine, pharmacology and toxicology including bioprospecting for novel drugs from medicinal plants.

He holds BSc Honours and MSc degrees in Botany and Plant Ecology respectively from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He completed his PhD degree in Plant Physiology, with emphasis on phytomedicine, at the University of Pretoria.

In 2011, he was declared the most cited scientist in the WORLD by the NRF.

*ThisWeek@FortHare* spoke to Prof Afolayan recently to get to know the scientist behind several ground breaking studies.



// Prof Anthony Jide Afolayan

## Who is Prof Afolayan?

I am a Research Professor at the Department of Botany under the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at the University of Fort Hare.

I am also the Leader of the Medicinal Plants and Economic Development (MPED) Research Centre and the Director of the Electron Microscopy Unit - an NRF funded research unit that I brought to the university of Fort Hare.

I joined the university in 1997 as a lecturer. I moved up the ranks to senior lecturer and now am a full professor.

### A HISTORY OF FIRSTS:

- I am one of the first people to start research activities in the Faculty of Science. On two occasions, I was the only person to produce PhD graduates during graduation ceremonies. To date, I have graduated more than 50 PhD graduates.
- I am UFH's first academic to be rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the first recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Medal in recognition of my outstanding research output for the years 1997, 1998, 1999.
- I have published over 500 scientific peer-reviewed papers in internationally journals that are recognised and accredited by the Department of Higher Education.
- In 2015, I was declared the 12th Most Productive Lecturer in South Africa.
- I am the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Medicinal Plants for Economic Development (JOMPED). I have served on several editorial boards of scientific journals
- I am a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, the highest scientific body of the country.
- I am also the Founder and first President of the Society of Medicinal Plants for Economic Development (SOMPED).
- I have served as a member of various research evaluation committees and scientific societies and acted on a number of institutional committees including the University of Fort Hare Ethical Committee.

## Please share with us your research interest as well as your past and current work/projects.

In 1998 I started the phytomedicine research centre at UFH - which focuses on the use of plants for medicinal purpose. The centre was born out of the fact that many African or South African plants are duplicated in human healing for medicinal purposes. But most of the plants have not been investigated to find out what is in the plant that makes it active against viruses such as Cancer and Tuberculosis.

The university recognised my productivity and established the MPED Research Centre.

To date, we still investigate plants for their medicinal use. In addition, we include conservation to look into how they can be preserve because some of these plants are very rare.

Another aspect of my research activity is the domestication of white vegetables. We have discovered that most white vegetables are more nutritive and are medicinally active.

Currently, I am focussing on Phytomedicine and drug development including essential oil projects. This entails the fortification of food with medicinal plants. People who are diabetic or have hypertension often take medicine they do not like. So, we are trying to incorporate anti-diabetic plants into some normal foods. For example, you will be having a biscuit and still get the medicinal value from it.

### COMPLETED AND ONGOING PROJECTS:

- Moringa oleifera: bridging the gap between laboratory knowledge and human consumption, January 2019 to date
- Project Leader: Medicinal Plants and Economic Development Research Niche Area (several projects). 2013 to date
- Project Leader: Validation of the medicinal values of crude extracts and pure compounds extracted from plants used in herbal medicine. 2006 to date.
- Research Niche Area Leader: Unlocking the potential of indigenous plants for sustainable livelihood in the Eastern Cape. 2006 to date.
- Project Leader: Propagation and cultivation of ethnoveterinary plants as means for their conservation and preservation in the Eastern Cape. 2005 - 2011
- Leader: Phytomedicine Research Centre, University of Fort Hare. 2005 - 2013
- Project Leader, Chemical analysis of high valued plants in the Eastern Cape. University Research Development Project of NRF. 2002 - 2006.
- Project Leader: Screening of medicinal plants in the Eastern Cape for antimicrobial investigations, Indigenous Knowledge System of the NRF. 1999 - 2005.
- Research Niche Area Co-Leader: Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use Strategies of the NRF, South Africa 2002 - 2005.
- Project Leader: Screening of medicinal plants for antibiotics, Medical Research Council of South Africa. 1999 - 2001.
- Project Leader: Bioprospecting for drugs from higher plants, NRF of South Africa. 1998 -2001

### BOOKS and CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- Bvenura C and Afolayan AJ (2017). *Tackling food and nutrition insecurity using leafy wild vegetables: The nutritional compositions of some selected species*. Book Chapter In: *Science within food: Up-to-date advances on Research and educational ideas*. Méndez-Vilas A. (Ed). Formatex Research Center, Spain, pp 243-250; ISBN: 97884-947512-1-9.
- Adedapo AA, Koduru S, Jimoh FO, Masika PJ and AJ Afolayan (2008). *An Ethnoveterinary Survey and the Antibacterial Activity of Some Plants in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa*. 22:1-7. *Recent Progress in Medicinal Plants*, (editors) SK Sharma, JN Govil and VK Singh, Studium Press LLC, USA. ISBN: 1-9336991-2-4.

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- Afolayan, A.J. & Adebola, P.O. (2006). *Aloe vera (L.) Burm.f. [Internet] Record from Protabase*. Schmelzer, G.H. & Gurib-Fakim, A. (editors). *PROTA (Plant Resources of Tropical Africa / Ressources végétales de l'Afrique tropicale)*, Wageningen, Netherlands. <<http://database.prota.org/search.htm>>

## What would you say are your most significant research accomplishments?

It is very difficult to say as I regard all my research work as my most significant accomplishment. I have discovered a lot of plants that are used for medicinal purposes (cancer, TB and diabetes).

### SOCIETY FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Overall, my aim is to leave a legacy. When I leave UFH and active research, I want people to remember me for establishing an international scientific organisation, called the *Society for Medicinal Plants and Economic Development*. The society has members in several countries in the world. It has also founded the *Journal of Medicinal Plants for Economic Development* which I am the Chief-Editor.

The society and the journal are my two babies now and I count them amongst my greatest achievements.

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

This is a wonderful question. If you do a google search on my profile you will see I am cited by over 60 000 people. This means my work is widely read and widely cited, all over the world.

Fellow researchers contact me on a regular basis for collaborations, but now that I am getting old, I tell them that I am winding up.

## What do you consider to be the greatest impact of your work?

- For my work to be considered by people as a point of reference and me being recognised as a person to seek advice from.
- Industries contacting me for collaborations and seeking to bring my products to the market.
- The graduates I have produced

I consider all these to be the greatest impact of my work.

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

Firstly, I would tell them that in Academics and Research there is no money. Academics is like a calling, if you want to drive a flashy top end car, do not follow in my footsteps.

But there is great respect, there is dignity and that is the greatest reward. People respect your intelligence. You move with confidence in society and when you die, your legacy lives on through your work.



## Getting to know

# Prof Jabulani Gilford Kheswa

Jabulani Gilford Kheswa is an Associate Professor and Head of the Psychology Department at the University of Fort Hare. He holds a PhD in Psychology from North-West University.

In the last seven years, he has co-published 47 articles in accredited journals, locally and internationally. Prof Kheswa also contributed a chapter in *Psychology Themes and Variations* (3<sup>rd</sup> South African Edition), a prescribed textbook in a number of South African tertiary institutions.

His teaching and research areas include Health Psychology, Social Psychology, Sexual behaviour, Marriage and Family Transitions, LGBTQI, HIV/AIDS, Personality Theories, Community Psychology, Inclusive Education and Cultural Studies

Prof Kheswa spoke to *ThisWeek@FortHare*.

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

In the past 12 years I have passionately conducted research on the sexual behaviour and psychological well-being of African adolescents. The reason why I chose this area is because most young people are often left inadequately equipped in the domain of reproductive health and end up being parents prematurely. Also, due to peer pressure and lack of quality role models, they become vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

During the Covid-19 lockdown I had an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from my department, UFH Social Work department as well as colleagues from the University of Zululand and Vaal University of Technology, to write two papers on the implications of the pandemic on culture and homeless people.

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

- Having presented conference papers locally and internationally, for example, Ghana, Portugal and Canada. Debating and interacting with well-renowned scholars while representing the University of Fort Hare. It was phenomenal!
- In 2018, I was one of the guest speakers at the International HIV/AIDS workshop for adolescents, which was held in Cape Town. The workshop addressed youth from all over the world. The knowledge gained over the years enabled me to regard myself as an activist and advocate for people living with HIV.
- In June and July 2020, I presented two papers at webinars organized by Stellenbosch University and the School of Education (UFH), respectively.
- During lockdown I also worked with the community of Sebokeng Township in Gauteng, where I was born, to provide emotional support to homeless people. This made me realize the power of healing in showing kindness and unconditional love.

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

Being instrumental, practical or proactively involved in the lives of others is important to me. I preach about the link between risky sexual behaviour and depression on radio stations such as Umhlobo Wenene, Forte FM and Thetha FM.

Through seminars organized by Student Christian Movements, I get the chance to empower our students on the importance of self-reliance and ways to sharpen mental wellness without engaging in risk-taking acts.

Also, the dialogues and campaigns organised by the university's Dean of Student Affairs enable me and a group of well-trained students called the *Champions against Gender-Based Violence* to destabilize atrocities and marginalization of women.

### As an Academic and a Researcher where do you draw your inspiration and what keeps you motivated?

I do not have enough words to describe the support I have received from both staff and students since joining the University of Fort Hare as a Lecturer in October 2009. It is fulfilling to work in an environment where organizational goals align with one's career path and growth.

The support and guidance I continue to receive from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities is immeasurable. Thus, I wake up with joy, ready and willing to render my services for the betterment of our students, country and continent.

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

As a Young Researcher myself, my advice for growth is simple: *consistency, willpower and loyalty*.

# NATIONAL SCIENCE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE UNDERTAKES A STUDY VISIT TO THE FOSST DISCOVERY CENTRE, ALICE CAMPUS

The UFH Remote and Virtual Education Laboratory (ReVEL) Technology continues to make significant strides. The latest was a study visit by members of the National Science Project Steering Committee comprising representatives from the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The visit took place at the Alice campus on 6 October 2020 and was hosted by Mr Phumezo Kwinana, Director of the Forté School of Science and Technology FOSST Discovery Centre and Founder of the ReVEL Technology.

The visit by the delegation was prompted by two reasons:

- Firstly, to study the UFH ReVEL Technology, the first of its kind virtual lab in South Africa, and
- Secondly, to find ways in which the ReVEL Technology can play a role in the state-of-the-art Cofimvaba Science Centre, the biggest science centre by far in South Africa.

The construction of the Cofimvaba Science Centre commenced in 2016 and the sod-turning ceremony was carried out by the then Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Naledi Pandor. Once completed, the centre will assist 26 high schools with the teaching of science and technology subjects in surrounding areas. It will also be the first science centre in the country to be purpose-designed, with green science, technology and innovation used in the actual building.

For more about the centre please [CLICK HERE](#).

The ReVEL technology is attached to the university's Physics Department and was launched last year. Using coding and robotics, it allows users to interact with peers on experimentations in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) field.

More information about the ReVEL Technology please [CLICK HERE](#).

**“It will be one of the best 4IR innovations to be realised. We have no doubt that the UFH ReVEL will be able to handle this task”**

According to Kwinana, the visit by the committee was prompted by a meeting held earlier this year with DSI Director of Science Promotion, Mr Isaac Ramovha.

“During the meeting I also shared with Mr Ramovha some of the articles published by our Institutional Advancement Department on this project. This triggered his and DSI's interest.”

The Project Steering Committee aims to establish a world-class virtual interactive space where STEMI (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation) exhibitions from various parts of South Africa will be displayed.

“They want the ReVEL Technology to play a role in making this exhibition space a reality,” said an excited Kwinana.

Currently, the UFH ReVEL team is busy with its digital conversion of science experiments for high school learners and for first-year Bachelor of Science students in Physics and Chemistry.

“The team received the training from Labsland, the global remote laboratory providers, to create ultra-concurrent laboratories. It is envisaged that this skill will be used to create the STEMI exhibits”, he said.

Should the UFH ReVEL be selected for the assignment, UFH will play a huge role in realising such a technology. “It will be one of the best 4IR innovations to be realised. We have no doubt that the UFH ReVEL will be able to handle this task”, said Kwinana confidently.

*by Aretha Linden*



# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE TAXI INDUSTRY IS DIFFICULT: ITS HISTORY SHOWS WHY



// Siyabulela Christopher Fobosi

**Opinion piece by: Siyabulela Christopher Fobosi**  
- UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo' Chair of Human Rights  
Senior Researcher at the University of Fort Hare.

He holds an MA in Industrial and Economic Sociology and is a University of Johannesburg PhD Candidate. His area of expertise is Public Transport (particularly, minibus taxi industry) and Human Rights issues.

**Source: Daily Dispatch**  
**Published on 13 October 2020.**

Image: SOWETAN/ ANTONIO MUCHAVE

The South African government has initiated a process to formalise and regulate the country's large, yet informal minibus taxi industry, with a view to making it viable and free of violence.

The government envisions the industry being restructured "along legally recognised business units" that pay corporate tax and comply with labour laws.

Formalisation will eventually pave the way for taxi commuters to benefit from public transport subsidies, resulting in cheaper fares.

According to transport minister Fikile Mbalula, training of operators and taxi workers across the value chain should be an integral part of the industry development and skilling programme.

The effort, if it succeeds, will resolve the anomaly whereby the government relies on the informal transport sector to provide a key public transport service.

Minibus taxis are the preferred mode of transport for most South Africans because they are more efficient and more widely available than buses and trains.

Having studied the various approaches to the industry over the decades, I believe its integration into the country's public transport plans is long overdue.

It will also bring to an end the industry's long struggle for economic justice.

The minibus taxi industry in SA was established by black people and continues to serve mostly that community.

The industry traces its origins back to the 1930s, when five-seater sedan cars were used.

Regulation then stipulated that taxis could carry four passengers.

The black taxi industry's battles mirror those of black people against racial oppression and economic exclusion.

Black people were considered temporary residents in the country's urban areas, and to "belong" instead to ethnically defined, mostly rural areas called bantustans.

These were characterised by extreme underdevelopment and poverty.

Blacks were not allowed to live and trade in urban areas unless they qualified for urban rights under the Urban Areas Act of 1945.

Being in urban areas legally was made even more difficult by the "pass law", introduced under apartheid in 1952.

It was compulsory for black people to carry identity documents - called passes - that controlled their movements in urban areas.

The early taxi operators used sedan cars and only for trips within black communities.

Minibus taxis operated illegally, as public carrier permits were difficult to obtain.

At the same time, bus and rail transport was regulated and subsidised, but inefficient.

Black people were only allowed to be involved in one business.

Companies and partnerships were prohibited, as were black financial institutions, industries and wholesale concerns.

This changed in the late 1970s when black people were allowed to establish small businesses.

Further relief for taxi operators came through the Breda Commission of Inquiry into transport deregulation in 1977.

This led to the Road Transportation Act of 1977, which recommended freer competition and less regulation of the industry, making it easier for black people to enter the transport industry.

Its definition of a bus opened the way for taxi operators to introduce ten-seater vehicles.

This made the industry more profitable, attracting many new entrants and creating strong growth.

But there were still barriers. The operators were limited to only one vehicle each, in keeping with policies designed to exclude the majority black population from playing a meaningful role in the economy.

The demand for minibus taxi transport far outstripped supply. As too few taxi permits were being issued, the number of taxis operating without permits ballooned as operators sought to satisfy the growing demand.

The government established the Welgemoed Commission in 1983 to study the industry.

It recommended that no more permits to operate taxis should be granted.

Even more taxis then operated largely illegally. Taxi operators were subjected to fines, and often had their vehicles impounded and forfeited to the state.

Despite the limitations, the demand for taxi services continued to grow fast.

Competition over routes grew and often became violent.

Eventually, the Transport Deregulation Act of 1988, in conjunction with the White Paper on Transport Policy, tabled in January 1987, eased restrictions.

The government decided to let market forces prevail.

Any applicant who wanted to enter the industry was granted a permit to operate a minibus taxi.

The industry kept growing. Profits were reinvested to buy new taxi fleets.

Thus, the minibus taxi industry was one of the first in

which black people could accumulate capital and gain economic power.

Minibus taxis have special significance as a black-owned industry which survived apartheid laws and without any subsidies to provide an essential service for black people.

From April 1994, efforts were made to bring the industry under some form of regulation and to formalise its operations.

The democratic government established the National Taxi Task Team in 1995 to look for ways to improve safety and profitability and end violent conflicts over routes.

The task team recommended that the industry be regulated and formalised.

The state failed due to the lack of willingness to implement the recommendations (and refusal from the industry to be formalised). It continued to support only the formalised bus and train services.

In 1999, the government took another shot at formalising the industry.

It introduced the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme to remove old, unsafe minibuses and replace them with safer ones.

The government envisioned a new, regulated taxi industry, using larger 18-seater and 35-seater diesel powered vehicles.

The old, smaller taxis were to be phased out to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and improve safety.

Operators who agreed to scrap their old taxis were paid R50,000 for each, to buy a new, compliant one.

The programme was revised in 2019 and the scrapping allowance was increased.

But only 72,690 old vehicles had been scrapped by the end of September 2018, in the 12 years since 2006, against a readjusted target of 135,894.

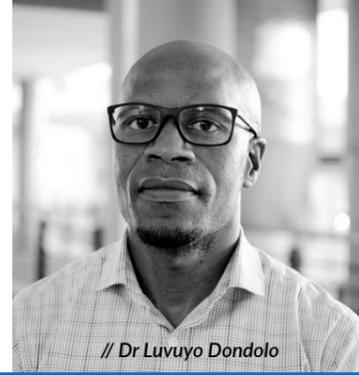
The minibus taxi industry plays an important role in the economy of the country. Besides being the preferred transport mode for most commuters, it's also a significant contributor to tax revenue and employment.

Equally importantly, it is one sector of the economy that is dominated by the black community, which was marginalised during colonialism and apartheid.

It is vital that the latest move by government towards formalisation results in an industry that is safe, reliable and viable so that it can keep contributing to the country's economy.

But the history of imposing unreasonable rules tells us that for this to succeed, the industry must be included in planning the route to its own future. — *This article was originally published in The Conversation*

# DR DONDOLO REFLECTS ON UBUNTU AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF PAN AFRICANISM IN SOUTH AFRICA: 2020 Ubuntu Dialogue



// Dr Luvuyo Dondolo

Dr Luvuyo Mthimkhulu Dondolo, Director and Head of UFH Centre for Transdisciplinary Studies recently participated in the 2020 Ubuntu Dialogue.

The discussion is a project between Michigan State University in the US and Stellenbosch University. It is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The dialogue has been going on for a while and prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, presenters would travel to Michigan State University for the traditional face-to-face dialogue. This year, the discussion took place online on 14 October.

Dondolo was among several American and South African scholars who were invited to participate. He shared the stage with Prof John Edwin Mason from the University of Virginia, US.

His talk was titled: *Towards Re-Africanisation: Reflections on Ubuntu and the Philosophy of Pan Africanism in South Africa*

*ThisWeek@FortHare* spoke to him about his talk. Due to space constraints, we are only able to publish excerpts of what he shared about this interesting topic. We are confident that the university will provide other platforms for a thorough engagement.

## Please share a bit more about your topic

The thesis of my talk covers two canons:

1. UBUNTU
  - (a) **Ubuntu as an African Philosophy:** the concept of being is not in isolation from other people, as is the case in the western outlook
  - (b) **Ubuntu as a Social Accord:** as a communistic orientation, promotes togetherness, humanity and a collective identity.
  - (c) **Ubuntu, Ethics and Societal Morals:** advocates for a community centeredness/ centremost ethos and the moral attribute
  - (d) **Sensationalisation of Ubuntu, Forgiveness and National Reconciliation:** frequently referred to, both in political contexts and in

public sector service delivery as a means to bring a sense of unity and reconciliation,

## 2. UBUNTU AND THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF PAN AFRICANISM IN SA

The concept of Ubuntu - an integral part of the African Philosophy and encapsulates the African worldview - is underpinned by Africanism. Ubuntu as a concept of resistance against western philosophy is revolutionary and embraces Pan Africanism.

The appropriate practice of the Ubuntu philosophy has potential to significantly contribute towards the re-Africanisation movement. The link between Ubuntu and the concept of Pan Africanism further amplifies the multidimensional nature of Ubuntu philosophy.

## What is the background and motivation behind your talk?

In South Africa, a lot has been written about the concept of Ubuntu. All texts focus on various aspects of Ubuntu and its practice which has permeated the present. The Ubuntu philosophy has its own history, complexities and sociology which characterise its practice.

In recent times, the concept of Ubuntu has been oversimplified and improperly used to embrace and sustain the national reconciliation and rainbowism in post-1994 South Africa. In this liberal and populist discourse, Ubuntu philosophy is not intellectually engaged with. Rather, it is employed for political transition and consolidation of power and political advancement, as has been experienced in South Africa post-1994. This sociology of the use of the Ubuntu philosophy illustrates simplification, cultural appropriation and aesthetics of the subaltern people. The sensational and de-Africanised usage has produced a struggle for the meaning of Ubuntu.

Some aspects of the legacies of colonialism and apartheid such as spatial, social and economic justice, coloniality of being, culture and knowledge

which facilitated the phenomenon of 'recognition by assimilation' (Spivok, 1987); have yet to be dismantled or reconfigured. Thus, the present reality in South Africa - the outlook and attitude, social values and behaviour and national consciousness - is an antithesis of the philosophy. Ubuntu as a social accord is linked to humanity with equality, respect, ethics, morals and socio-cultural, political, economic, historical and spiritual dimensions, amongst others. Further, it is at the centre of African outlook and being.

For Dani Nebudere, Ubuntu philosophy, in its different settings, is at the base of the African philosophy of life and belief systems in which the peoples' daily-lived experiences are reflected.

A human being in the world of the living must be umuntu in order to give a response to the challenge of the fundamental instability of being (Ramose, 2005: 46). Lack of morality, prevalence of children and women abuse or violence against women and children, the levels of corruption in the present and racialised inequality, demonstrate the disturbance of the 'cosmic harmony' (Ramose, 2005) and the end of Ubuntu amongst South Africans.

## What was the intention of your address?

- The intentions were multifold:
- Firstly, to give a different perspective of Ubuntu philosophy,
  - Secondly, to showcase the link between the non-liberal account of Ubuntu with the notion of Pan Africanism, and
  - Further, to advocate for a move towards the re-Africanisation Movement.

Dr Dondolo says his perspectives and thoughts on this topic will be documented in a book on Ubuntu Philosophy, expected to be out early next year (2021).

*Adapted by Tandi Mapukata*

# UFH LIBRARIES SANITARY TOWEL PROJECT REACHES OUT TO FEMALE STUDENTS

**“We cannot do this alone. We believe that many hands are better than one and for the project to be successful, we need the entire university community to drive it.”**

UFH Libraries have launched a Sanitary Towel Outreach Project that seeks to ensure no female student misses class due to lack of access to sanitary towels.

Through the project, a call has been made to the university community to donate at least one pack of sanitary towels. These will be given to students who cannot afford to buy for themselves. Drop-boxes have been placed at the East London, Alice and Bhisho campus libraries.

According to the South African Human Rights Commission, the lack of menstrual hygiene products inflicts indignity upon millions of women and girls. The commission further states that not only does it have adverse effects on school attendance, but it also has ripple effects on the economic development of communities and countries as a whole.

Ms Khunjulwa Sanqela, UFH East London Librarian shared some more details about the project and how it all started. According to her, the idea was initiated during the Libraries' annual strategic planning meeting for 2020.

“We were concerned by the growing number of students who consult Librarians asking for sanitary towels, especially after hours. We initially came up with the idea of keeping sanitary towels for students who might need them. However, with the growing requests, we decided to launch this project to meet the demand,” said Sanqela.

This the second time that UFH Libraries has reached out to the girl



// East London Library (Phyllis Ntantala Collaborative Library) staff, L-R, Nomkhangiso Nkohla, Lunga Ndava and Khunjulwa Sanqela.

child/women by donating sanitary towels. In 2017, during the launch of the Alice mobile lab by Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa Nqakula, Library staff donated sanitary towels to high school girls who attended the event.

Sanqela indicated that so far, the response from the university has been good. “Some specific departments and individual staff have contacted the library, asking for posters, and promising to request donations from their circles. Some have been enquiring about where they can make donations.”

“Once we have collected enough, we will let students know that there are sanitary towels available in the library. Unfortunately, it will not be for every student but for those who cannot afford to buy.”

She encouraged the university community to get involved in the project. “We cannot do this alone. We believe that many hands are better than one and for the project to be successful, we need the entire university community to drive it.”

Should you wish to get involved in this project please contact the following Librarians:

**East London Campus:**  
Ms Thembisa Dyakalashé,  
Ext: 7105, [tmona@ufh.ac.za](mailto:tmona@ufh.ac.za)

**Alice Campus:**  
Ms Liyaduma Balfour,  
Ext: 2441, [lbalfour@ufh.ac.za](mailto:lbalfour@ufh.ac.za)

**Bhisho Campus:**  
Ms Lulama Sodidi/  
Ms Esethu Dlabantu, Ext: 3460,  
[lsodidi@ufh.ac.za](mailto:lsodidi@ufh.ac.za)

*by Aretha Linden*

# UFH ENACTUS APPLICATION SAVES USERS FROM LONG QUEUES



// Mr Lebogang Dluđu



// Mr Vuyo Mbalane



**“It was a challenging time for us. The fact that we were representing UFH Enactus, kept us going. It was our biggest reason not to give up”**

The UFH Enactus team of two has broken new ground!

The award winning duo has developed a Mobile Application called **“Eazy2Q”**, a platform that provides queuing services, and a storage facility for medical records. The project is one of the 2019 MTN ICT challenge winners.

Enactus is a community of students across universities using entrepreneurship to transform lives.

The **Eazy2Q** App is the brainchild of Enactus leader, Mr Lebogang Dluđu, together with the organisation’s former leader, Mr Vuyo Mbalane. The pair entered the MTN ICT Challenge that propelled them to use a Design Thinking Methodology to develop a digital service that will help communities within the Health, Agriculture, and Education sector.

After conducting research, they opted for the health sector. “It was a challenging time for us. The fact that we were representing UFH Enactus, kept us going. It was our biggest reason not to give up,” stated the pair.

The competition received more than 21 entries from Enactus organisations across South African universities. After numerous submissions, the UFH duo was selected by MTN South Africa and Enactus South Africa to be in the top six. They received funding of R60 000 to develop their digital service.

The main feature of the application is that it allows the user to request someone to queue for them at places such as banks, supermarkets and government offices at an affordable fee. Additional features include storage of records and the ability to track your fitness.

Dluđu said In the long run, the duo is planning to improve the application in line with the needs of industries such as banking institutions. “We are attempting to do away with queuing altogether. The plan is to develop the platform to provide virtual rather than actual human queuing, while at food retailers, human queuing remains the preference,” he said.

The application is available on Google Play Store. Click here for more details on how sign in and use it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPJQTMLRUPU>

by Mawande Mrashula

# ECAVC PARTNERS WITH C-TONE PRODUCTIONS AND GUILD THEATRE TO STAGE A LOCKDOWN SPECIAL SHOW

The Eastern Cape Audio Visual Centre (ECAVC) has partnered with a local events company, C-Tone Productions and the Guild theatre to stage two episodes of the ECAVC Lockdown Special show. This initiative aims to give artists a platform to showcase their craft to a live audience since the onset of the Covid-19 lockdown in March when artists could only perform for digital audiences. The shows will be held at the Guild Theatre starting this Saturday, 17 October 2020.

C-Tone Productions has taken advantage of the opportunity opened by level 1 regulations to give audiences a much awaited artistic experience of live music after a long drought. Eastern Cape artists will perform live at the Guild theatre, while also streaming live on Youtube.

“ECAVC is excited to partner with C-Tone productions and the Guild Theatre. This is a stepping stone to what the future of the ECAVC will look like - a shift towards a 4IR future loaded with digitized platforms and music business”, said Professor Zoliswa Twani, ECAVC Director.

According to Luzuko Khohli, Organizer and Managing Director of C-Tone Productions, “the initiative will produce two episodes of the ECAVC Lockdown Special that will see five provincial artists of different genres sharing the stage.” Two artists will be streamed live on Youtube while the other three will be streamed the following day. “The reason we are not live streaming all artists on the same day is to give value to our live audience who will be attending the show. Those who can’t make it to the venue will be able to view the show on our youtube channels which will be shared in our facebook pages and other platforms”, he said.

The show will be held under strict Covid-19 regulations - no mask, no entry. The objective of the ECAVC Lockdown Special is to entertain, build the creative and cultural industry, as well as profile Eastern Cape artists, one of the hardest hit hot spots of the corona virus pandemic. “The vision is to continue to expand our beneficiaries by partnering with different stake holders and incorporate other elements of the creative industry. We are grateful to the ECAVC for making this vision possible. We hope more stakeholders will come on board so that we can create a sustainable industry in our province”, said Kohli.



// ECAVC Centre, University of Fort Hare, East London

All partners believe the creative and cultural sector should begin to provide a holistic sense of humanity and togetherness that has been disturbed by social distancing. This is also a reminder that it is time to approach the sector differently. “Furthermore the virtual platform will give artists a frontline role in the fight against the virus by entertaining people in their homes”, he said.

The line-up includes one of the most celebrated gospel stars, Putuma Tiso; multiaward winning artist Dumza Maswana featuring our local talent: Nosiviwe, Asithandle and Poeticsoul.

Issues of copyright and content ownership have been carefully considered and will see the Eastern Cape leading in sustainable creative industry systems that will see the artists and collaborators having a share in the life of the content. This initiative needs sponsors, funders and local media partners. ECAVC and the Guild theatre would welcome participation by any person or business that has an interest in the arts in Buffalo City.

**Issued by:**  
**Zane Flanagan (EL Guild Theatre) – 043 743 0704**  
**Luzuko Khohli (C-Tone Productions) – 083 734 3752**  
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Edited by Tandi Mapukata



# CORONAVIRUS

## COVID-19

Dear Staff and students,

## THE WEARING OF MASKS AT THE UNIVERSITY

It has come to our attention, that there are persons that are not wearing their masks while on university property.

We would like to remind all staff and students that this is a legal requirement as per **NATIONAL HEALTH ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 61 OF 2003) No. 41330 GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, SECTION 67** of the Level 1 Regulations;

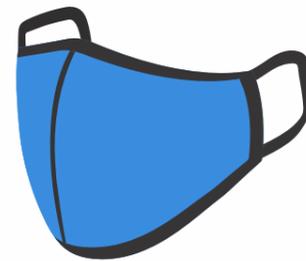
Mandatory protocols when in a public place

A person –

(a) must, when in a public place, wear a face mask, except when undertaking vigorous exercise; and

(b) may not be allowed to be in a public place, use any form of public transport, or enter a public building, place or premises, if that person is not wearing a face mask.

 **ATTENTION**



**FACE MASK  
REQUIRED**

**Any person found not to be wearing a mask on University premises is liable to be removed from the institution and disciplinary action instituted.**

We encourage all personnel, both staff and students that the wearing of a mask is part of the national fight against the spread of Covid 19 and their refusal to comply is placing themselves and others at risk.



University of Fort Hare  
Together in Excellence

**UFH COVID-19 TASK TEAM**



University of Fort Hare  
Together in Excellence

## PLEASE NOTE

All Staff Members  
**Please Do Not Enter**

**Please Note The Following:**

1. Please contact all HR staff via email or telephone for all queries
2. If you urgently need to see an HR staff member, please make appointments via email
3. Appointments will be scheduled on Tuesdays between 09:00 – 14:00

**When you do enter, and have received an appointment please maintain 1.5 metre social distance and wear a face mask at all times.**



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

# ***ThisWeek@FortHare*** your weekly newsletter

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