Univen Chancellor Kgalema Motlanthe

confers 29 doctoral degrees during

Spring Graduation Ceremony

Doctor Mauene Ishihene Sigidi

Among the 29 doctoral degrees was Doctor Mauene Ishihene Sigidi who was graduating with a doctoral degree in Microbiology. The title of her study: Selection and evaluation of terrestrial plants used in the Vhembe district, for

Doctorating medicinal, which constitutes indigenous Knowledge Sources, correlating with the Vhembe medication. The findings of her study that was conducted in the Vhembe district indicated that the majority of traditional medicine is indigenous knowledge-based and the pharmacological activities of plants are mainly understood by traditional healers.

The aim of her study was to investigate the use of plants by traditional healers to treat HIV/AIDS.

Dr Elzbieta Balkowska Dangola, Shoshoni Masimba, and Calvin Mushwatu

It was interesting to note that during the graduation ceremony, Calvin Mushwatu, Farmer SRC Secretary General, graduated with his Honours degree in Environmental Sciences. Furthermore, Thulomzi Dangola, a Univen Campus Clinic staff member, graduated with a Masters Degree in Nursing. And lastly, Shoshoni Masimba, Univen Farmer SRC Deputy President, graduated with her Masters of Public Health.

Univen’s Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbiti

"I am so happy to see that the university has, in the past ten years, put in incredible efforts to create a phased learning environment for both its staff and students," said the Univen Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbiti, when delivering his speech during the graduation. Prof Mbiti said a lot of sacrifices have been made by the professors, teaching and non-teaching staff to ensure that Univen produces quality graduates who are capable for the work environment. He further added that as part of their curriculum transformation, Univen has introduced a number of new degree programmes, and is working towards the introduction of a suite of new engineering and allied Health Sciences degree programmes in the near future.

He said the University has a new institutional culture embodied by its staff and students which focuses largely on the core business of the University. Prof Mbiti, in his ten years in the helm of Univen, indicated that Univen has witnessed substantial growth in many important indicators for a vibrant and healthy University. He spoke about the new infrastructure projects, the growth in the number of post-graduate students and the substantial increase in the University’s research output. "This growth did not happen suddenly, but through careful planning with clear vision. We celebrate these achievements and realize the need to consistently keep our eyes on the ball to ensure even greater success in the future," concluded Prof Mbiti.