



Gaudeamus igitur  
Juvener dum sumus  
Fors...  
Nos habebit humu

# UNIZULU earmarks the opening of a campus in Ulundi

GCINA NHLEKO

THE University of Zululand (UNIZULU) was invited to give a presentation on the development of Ulundi Campus. This followed a ministerial oversight visit to Zululand District Municipality on April 13 2021 by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande in connection with the district development model programme at Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi airport at Ulundi.

The district development model affords government an integrated planning mechanism using an institution-based, integrated and district-based development approach. The aim of this approach is to fast-track service delivery by ensuring that municipalities work together with provincial and national government, and that they were adequately supported and resourced to carry out their mandate.



UNIZULU gave a detailed presentation on the planning work that has already been done in ensuring that the vision of a campus in Ulundi is realised. The intention is to relocate part or all of the faculty of education and its complement of staff and students to this new campus.

The number of people to be accommodated for work, study and living is estimated at 500 staff members and 5 000 students. The university is working with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works, which will assist with the land assembly process and are in support of the proposal to develop land and the acquisition agreement.

# First batch of UNIZULU engineering students want to be exemplary

SAMKELE SOKHELA

FIRST-year students who have been admitted into the new Engineering programmes offered at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) were elated to be the trailblazers for the courses and have accepted the challenge to set the bar high for the next generation of students.

Last year December, UNIZULU (Richards Bay Campus) launched the four-year Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering degrees.

This was not only a milestone for the institution, but also a great feat for the entire higher education sector, as it was the first engineering department to be launched in post-apartheid South Africa.

According to UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Xoliswa Mtose, the last engineering faculty was introduced four decades ago.

Electrical engineering student Nkosinophile Kimba said it was a great honour to be a part of such a memorable moment in history.

She admitted that, at first, the realisation of being among the first group studying towards the engineering qualifications was daunting. However, she was comforted and motivated by the fact that many of her family members had successfully graduated from the institution.

Phakasani Mkhize, also registered for the electrical engineering degree, said: "It is a great feeling to be in the first group of students in my degree. I have always dreamt of being an engineer and now that I am about to start this journey, and at the University of Zululand, sounds special to me. I mean, UNIZULU has a good track record when it comes to producing good graduates."

For Talent Ntshangase, who enrolled for the Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering degree, studying towards his newly-accredited degree was exciting. "I feel honoured. What I like about UNIZULU is that most of the people who completed their degrees in this institution are employed. That is why UNIZULU was my first choice".



With effect from January 2021, the University of Zululand is offering two new engineering qualifications. These are the Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering and the Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering.

the culmination of a project that began in 2013, when the institution submitted a business case for the establishment of a facility to offer engineering programmes.

The programmes are accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

# First-year engineering students offered 100% funding

GCINA NHLEKO

THE launch of engineering qualifications at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) in November 2020 by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande was a fulfilment of a vision that inspired the opening of the Richards Bay Campus in 2010.

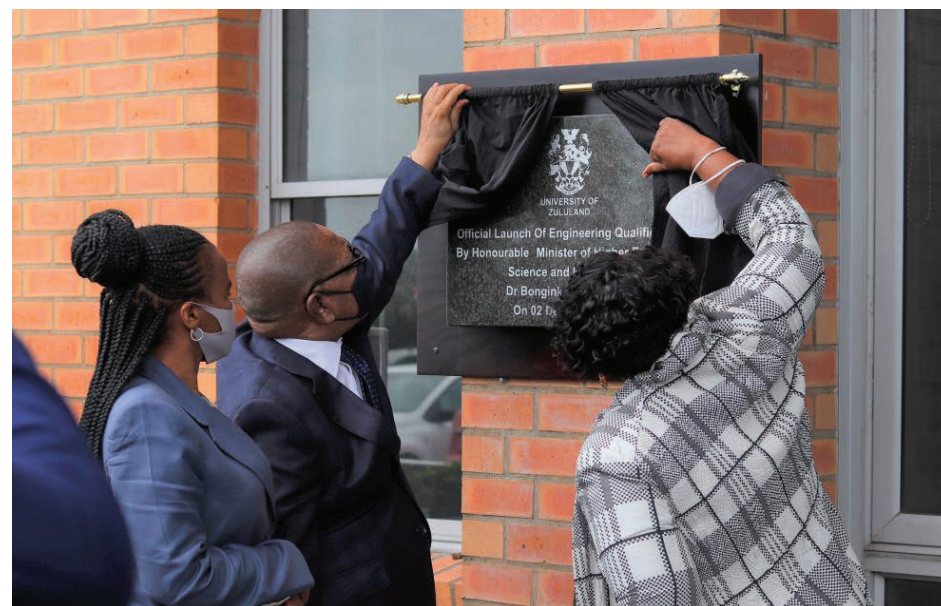
The campus was designed to broaden the institution's base in the provision of quality education, while simultaneously providing much-needed skills development in the region's industrial and commercial hub.

When launching the programmes, Nzimande said: "I must indicate that UNIZULU's commitment to strengthen its relevance and quality of academic qualifications and programmes, the quality of programme delivery, the aggressive upscaling of staff qualifications, the recognition and strengthening of stakeholder relations as well as the upgrading of teaching, learning and research infrastructure has been compelling since the university became a comprehensive institution."

Therefore, the generous gesture by the Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA) was an evidence marker of the confidence that the industry has in UNIZULU's Engineering offerings.

The EWSETA has pledged bursaries worth R4 million for "missing middle" students at UNIZULU. The funds will be allocated according to the EWSETA funding policy.

These funds will go a long way in



The University of Zululand is the first tertiary education institution to launch an engineering department in South Africa in more than 40 years. The university's two newly accredited engineering programmes were launched by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande in December 2020.

enabling access to students, as only 60% of engineering students are currently sponsored by NSFAS.

The EWSETA is one of the 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities established in accordance with section 9 of the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act 97 of 1998), and has all the powers granted to it in terms of the Act.

The main areas of focus of the EWSETA are the energy, renewable energy, gas and water services sectors, as determined by

the Minister of Higher Education and Training in terms of section 9(2) of the Act, read in conjunction with Government Gazette No 33756, RG 9417 (No R1055 of 11 November 2010).

The launch of the UNIZULU engineering programme was heralded as a positive turning point in South African history, as it was the first time after a gap of more than 40 years, that engineering qualifications were introduced by a South African public university.

# REGISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS



■ RE-VITALISED ■ RE-INVIGORATED ■ RE-FRESHED ■ PROUDLY UNIZULU

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