



## Disaster Management Training And Education Centre For Africa (DiMTEC)

*"Building Resilience through education, training & research"*

### get to know us: WHO IS UFS-DimteC?

UFS-DiMTEC is an education, training, and research centre within the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences on the Bloemfontein Campus of the University of the Free State in South Africa. UFS-DiMTEC strives to educate the public on disaster risk reduction and resilience-building through the Postgraduate Diploma, Master's and PhD degrees in Disaster Management, Research Projects, and Short Learning Programmes (SLPs). UFS-DiMTEC's first course was approved and registered by the South African Qualifications Authority in 2001, after which UFS-DiMTEC joined the Department of Agricultural Economics with the vision of becoming an independent centre, which came about in 2005.

#### Vision

Our vision is to be an internationally recognised centre of excellence in disaster management training, education and research.

#### Mission

Our mission is to equip and produce professionals in disaster management, who actively contribute to disaster risk reduction and management to build resilience as constituted in the United Nations, regional and national frameworks. We also engage in disaster risk reduction and disaster management consultancy projects, as well as research that align with environmental, social, economic and political changes. We endeavour to succeed in our mission by making use of professional academics, support staff, recent technology and state-of-the-art facilities.

#### Values

**Humanity** – to treat everybody with dignity and respect

Inclusiveness in diversity – UFS-DiMTEC prides itself in embracing diversity in unity.

**Innovation** – to advance scientific knowledge through innovative teaching, learning and research.

**Excellence** – to pursue opportunities that optimise the value of our activities.

**Professionalism** – to uphold professionalism in everything we do.

**DiMTEC first** – to put the centre before any personal interest.

**Ubuntu** – to conscientise the fact that 'I am here because you are there'.

We are committed to shaping leaders, who will influence disaster management across South Africa, the African continent and the world. Your journey with us will be transformative; the knowledge and skills you develop here will empower you to make a meaningful difference in communities facing risk and uncertainty.

Embrace the opportunities that come your way – this is where your impact begins.

#### TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

To disaster management practitioners, returning students, collaborators and prospective partners – we are delighted to have you engage with us once again. Together, we

*Continue page 2*

### A word from the UFS-DiMTEC director

Dear **VALUED UFS-DiMTEC STAKEHOLDER**

Thank you for taking a moment to explore this year's newsletter. Within these pages, you will find highlights, reflections, and stories from the UFS-DiMTEC community – our staff, students, research fellows, interns, postdoctoral researchers, and disaster management partners, capturing the strides made throughout 2025, as well as an exciting preview of what lies ahead in 2026.

#### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS

To all our first-year students, welcome to the University of the Free State (UFS), Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (NAS), home of the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC). You are joining a dynamic, diverse, and intellectually stimulating community.

By stepping onto our campus, you officially become a Kovsie – a proud name that represents the spirit, resilience, and excellence of UFS students.

At UFS-DiMTEC, we cultivate excellence in teaching, learning, research and community impact.



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The editor reserves the right to accept or reject submissions

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Co-Editor: **Keketso Mokoaledi**



## STUDYING AT UFS-DiMTEC: WHAT AN EXPERIENCE!

**Words of wisdom from a UFS-DiMTEC student/alumnus – a must-read!**

My academic journey at the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (UFS-DiMTEC) began with the

Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management (PGDip), which laid a strong foundation for my growth in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The PGDip sharpened my understanding of disaster risk management, preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and policy frameworks, providing me with the tools to approach disaster management with confidence and strategic insight. Building on this foundation, I advanced to the Master's in Disaster Management, which deepened my knowledge and moved my learning beyond theory into research-driven practice. During this stage, I learned resilience, discipline, and the importance of asking critical questions that shape real-world solutions. Through the programmes, I gained essential skills, such as designing and conducting field

research, analysing data, using SPSS, engaging ethically with communities, and applying disaster management frameworks to case studies and practical contexts. These experiences enhanced my ability to develop actionable recommendations for policymakers, municipalities and communities. Beyond the academic lessons, my journey at UFS-DiMTEC built my confidence in presenting research, taught me patience and persistence, and strengthened my sense of purpose in contributing to disaster risk reduction across Africa.

Words of wisdom: Embrace the journey, not just the destination. Lean on collaboration, be resilient, stay curious, and always strive to balance theory with practice.

## A word from the UFS-DiMTEC director

*Continue from page 1*

continue to build a foundation of innovation, education, and action that strengthens resilience across Africa.

The year 2025 has reminded us of the urgency of our work. South Africa has continued to experience a series of impactful events, from seasonal floods and heatwaves to service delivery disruptions and other socio-environmental challenges. These events continue to expose vulnerabilities in our systems and communities.

### THE CALL FOR A NEW DISASTER MANAGEMENT MINDSET

The changing risk landscape requires more than just response – it demands a new way of thinking. Disaster management must move decisively toward future-focused, proactive and resilience-centred approaches. This means shifting from reacting to crises after they strike to anticipating risks, strengthening capacity, and building preparedness at every level of society.

Achieving this paradigm shift involves collective effort: engaging communities, investing in capacity-building, harnessing technology and data, as well as embedding risk reduction into policy and practice. Only through intentional collaboration can we build adaptable, disaster-resilient societies, capable of thriving in a rapidly evolving world.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Dear valued stakeholders, students and partners – let us continue to work together, united in purpose and driven by a shared vision of a safer, stronger and more resilient Africa.

Welcome to the 2025/2026 academic and programme year. May it be productive, inspiring and filled with growth.

Wishing you a successful, healthy and fulfilling 2026.

Yours Sincerely

PROFESSOR ABIODUN OGUNDEJI  
UFS-DiMTEC: DIRECTOR

# GRADUATIONS: our time to shine!

At the April and December graduation ceremonies, the UFS-DiMTEC awarded postgraduate diplomas, master's degrees, and PhD qualifications. UFS-DiMTEC congratulates the graduates of 2025. You have achieved greatness: your hard work has been recognised and rewarded. The graduation ceremonies were our time to shine and reap the rewards of the hard work we put into teaching our students. The graduates were ecstatic as their degrees were conferred on them.

Congratulations to our Postgraduate Diploma, Master's of Disaster Management and PhD graduates. May these qualifications open golden doors for you, and may they be the much-needed knowledge and qualifications to make our communities resilient to disasters. Have continued success in all your endeavours!

### Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management

DLAMINI Sanelisiwe Cynthia, DU PLESSIS Pieter, FURUMELE Shilavi Dennise, GAONEWE Lesedi Judith, KATALI Naleli, KHUMALO Hlengiwe Witness, KIBITI Nthabiseng, LEBEKO Lerato Mpho, LEKHETSOANE Mo Selina, MABILWANA Noxolo, MACALA Dintle, MAFRIKA Zizizpho, MARITI Refloe Irene, MAVUNDA Exelent, MEHLOMAKHULU, Zintle, MKHIZE Ntombizoxolo Angel, MOAGI Morongwa, MOELA Reginah Dimakatso, MOJAHl Seadimo Jessica, MOJl Thabang, MOSHOESHOE Thuto Regina, MOTLOU Retshepile Precious, MTETANDABA Nomsa, NGUBANE Hlakaniphani, NOFEMELE Noxolo Vivacious, NTULI Nompumelelo, PLAATJIES Pulane Setshego, SKOMOLO Tshela, SPRINKAAN Kearabetswe Evelyn, TIGER Randy Natalie, TSUKA Ronald Edward, Mokhothu Tshepisio, Maswanganye Edward

### Master of Disaster Management

CENTANE-BEKEZULU Noyise, KALICHARAN Sanchay, KHUNOU Audrey, LINDA Mlindi Cyrus, MAFADZA Maria, MAGAGULA Happiness Trudy,

MOEPENG Tlanelo Iris, MOKHUA Eustace Ramakhua, NXUMALO, Nontobeko Nompumelelo Pretty, SHORIWA Melody Tarisai, THUKWAYO Thandeka Pearl, Tsalong Thabo, Khumalo Sibusisiwe, Makolomakoe Thuto, Ngwabe Mpumelelo, Lebeko Lemohang, Owolabi Victoria, Diko Onke

**Doctor of Philosophy, majoring in Disaster Management**  
**Congratulations in obtaining your PhD in Disaster Management. Halala Dr's Halala!!!**

### Dr Chisola-Darris, Olive

The title of her dissertation is: LEVERAGING WEALTH CREATION FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO FLOOD RISKS. A CASE STUDY OF KANYAMA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

### Dr van Straaten, Mariëtte

The title of her dissertation is: DEVELOPING DISASTER SOCIAL WORK GUIDELINES TO BRIDGE POLICY-PRACTICE GAPS BASED ON THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN, SOUTH AFRICA

### Dr Ilonga, Simon

The title of his dissertation is: DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NAMIBIA

### Dr Maisiri, Maureen

The title of her dissertation is: INVESTING IN RESILIENCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION TO REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY AMONG SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN SOUTH AFRICA: LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### Dr Lefutso, David

The title of his dissertation is: PERCEPTIONS AND THE DEMAND FOR FLOOD RISK INSURANCE BY HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTH AFRICA. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BEST PGDip,





**MASTERS, AND RESEARCH STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS**

Pieter Du Plessis received the Best Student award for the postgraduate diploma, while Melody Shoriwa was recognised as the Best Master's student. The award for the Best Master's student in Research went to Eustace Mokua. These awards were presented during the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Prize Giving Ceremony, which took place at Kopanong Centre on April 9, 2025. The awards for UFS–DiMTEC students were presented by Prof. Ogundeji.

# UFS–DiMTEC

## *Collaborations, academic escapades, and achievement*

**ALFRED NZO DISTRICT RISK ASSESSMENT VALIDATION WORKSHOP**



After two weeks of intensive engagement with community members from all local municipalities (Matatiele, Umzimvubu, Winnie Madikizela–Mandela and Ntabankulu) in the district last year, the UFS–DiMTEC team returned to Alfred Nzo for a validation workshop held from February fifth to sixth.

This risk assessment project also serves as the foundation for informing the district's fire and flood contingency plans. UFS–DiMTEC is grateful for the support and contributions from the Old Mutual Foundation, and we are proud to be part of these efforts.

**UFS–DiMTEC WELCOMES MORE THAN 50 PGDip CANDIDATES**



UFS–DiMTEC wished the new PGDip in Disaster Management students a successful one-year journey toward obtaining their Diploma. The contact sessions ran from February 10th to 18th.

Although it was a busy period, it was also an exciting time for students to explore our beautiful Bloemfontein campus and city!

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY**



Dr Zachariah H. Mshelia attended and presented a paper at the International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography. The conference was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town, South Africa, from March 31 to April 4, 2025.

Dr Mshelia collaborated with Prof. Johannes A. Belle and Ms Anele Mthembu on this research project, which analysed shoreline dynamics and the associated socio-ecological risks, along the Southern and Northern Durban coastline.

# More UFS-DiMTEC Collaborations, academic escapades, and achievements

## SOUTHERN AFRICAN RESILIENCE ACADEMY (SARA) WORKSHOP



Prof Ncube and Dr Lum were part of the team that got funded to conduct research and produce articles, non-academic products, and policy briefs that could enhance resilience in Southern African communities as part of the academy and the broader Global Resilience Platform. The workshop was from April 8 to 11, 2025.

The Southern African Resilience Academy was established in early 2021 and is coordinated through the Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST) at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, in partnership with the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP).

One of the GRP's main objectives is to strengthen the Global South's research and practice networks through the establishment of "South-to-South Resilience Academies". The aim of these academies is to support resilience and development-related knowledge production and exchange across regions in the Global South and facilitate knowledge transfer from the Global South to the Global North. SARA is the Southern African node of the South-to-South Resilience Academies.

The name of our project is Resilience Rewired, which is a collaborative research and practice group working to transform resilience strategies in humanitarian aid across Southern Africa. Anchored in CARE's programs in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and possibly Ethiopia, we explore what is working and what is not in resilience-building, with a focus on gender, local knowledge and systems change.

Using CARE's existing data, group concept mapping and stakeholder engagement, we co-produce insights that bridge academic and practitioner worlds.

Our outputs, research, policy briefs, engagements, guidelines, and a framework aim to improve service delivery, influence policy, and reshape humanitarian approaches in the region. We seek real-world impact by cutting through the humanitarian "maze" with clarity and purpose, elevating good resilience practices.

Prof Ncube says, "Transforming pathways are the way to go, considering that climate change is reducing community resilience, especially for vulnerable communities.

## BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY STAFF VISIT UFS-DiMTEC



The department was honoured to host colleagues from Babes-Bolyai University, the Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, on the Erasmus+ Staff Exchange Mobility. The two colleagues, Dr Eliana Sevienu and Prof Ramona Balc, were with us from April 13th to 17th, 2025. They had the opportunity to engage with us on their research projects on Geology and Zoology. Also, as part of the Erasmus+ programme, we had an experience of the local culture, and our Romanian colleagues were able to experience the diverse South African culture and all it has to offer through conversations, cultural tours, food experiences and many more. We are thankful to the Geology Department, Dr Megan Welman Purchase, and colleagues who supported us in engaging with the visitors. We are also grateful for the heart-warming message we received from the colleagues after they visited with us, "We extend our sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and outstanding support you provided during our Erasmus exchange program. Your kindness, professionalism, and attention to every detail made our experience not only smooth and enriching, but also truly unforgettable. We deeply appreciated the care you took to ensure we felt at home, from organising everything so efficiently to being available whenever we had questions or needed assistance. Your efforts made a real difference and left a lasting impression on us. Thank you once again for your generosity and dedication. We leave with wonderful memories, new friendships, and a deep appreciation for your institution and culture," said Eliana and Ramona.

To learn about the Erasmus+ Programme, visit <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

## SUCCESSFUL PhD RESEARCH WEEK



We had a successful PhD Research Week from May 12 to 15, where PhD candidates enjoyed presentations covering a variety of topics, including PhD outlines and expectations, the ethics application process, plagiarism, various research methods, academic writing, library services and more. The candidates also had the opportunity to present their work and receive constructive feedback.

Clinton Amatebelle stated, "The session greatly benefited me by boosting my confidence in presenting. I appreciated the diverse perspectives from various presenters, which motivated me to enhance my own presentations. The feedback I received was instrumental in improving my work."

## OUR MASTER'S STUDENTS RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN A PRACTICAL EXAMINATION FOCUSED ON THE PERSISTENT ISSUE OF SINKHOLES IN THE GAUTENG PROVINCE



Our master's students recently participated in a practical examination, focused on the persistent issue of sinkholes in the Gauteng Province, from May 26 to 30, 2025. Organised into collaborative groups, the students conducted in-depth research to formulate viable solutions for the sinkhole challenge in the region. They presented their findings, not only to faculty members, but

## ... and more

also to representatives from the Gauteng Disaster Management Centres.

The students' proposals included nature-based solutions, enhanced public education on sinkholes, and effective institutional arrangements for addressing the issue. Working in three groups, they shared the following reflections after the exercise: "The practical exam involved a lot of work in a short amount of time, but it provided us with the opportunity to apply our skills in practice. It also helped us prepare for our upcoming exams."

Teamwork has its advantages and challenges, as noted by one of the groups: "Initially, we faced difficulties in figuring out how to support each other throughout the exercise and determining a cohesive approach. However, we ultimately succeeded in clearly defining our roles and responsibilities, which allowed us to find the best strategy."

After completing this exercise, the 2025 class offered advice to prospective students: learn to compromise, listen to others, seek mediation from someone outside the team, and manage your time wisely.

### PROF. ALICE NCUBE PARTICIPATES IN TRAINING ON TRIGGER DEVELOPMENT FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION



Prof. Alice Ncube participated in the Network of Excellence (NoE 111) training on Trigger Development for Anticipatory Action, held at the University of Cape Town's Department of Environmental and Geospatial Science (Climate Systems Analysis Group) from May 26 to 30, 2025.

The Network of Excellence, formally launched in March 2023, aims to strengthen collaboration among African research, academic, and science institutions to foster innovation and knowledge development for disaster risk reduction. By 2024, the NoE had successfully advanced its mission through the establishment of collaborative partnerships with public and science-based institutions across Africa, enhancing local capacity in applying disaster risk knowledge and informing policy and decision-making in both the public and private sectors. These efforts continue into Phase III of the project in 2025.

As part of this phase, partners, including the University of Cape Town (UCT), the African Institute of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIKS) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) at the University of the Free State, conducted training to support the Governments of Ghana, Uganda, and Mozambique in developing quantitative and qualitative triggers for Anticipatory Action (AA). The goal is to improve access to information for Early Warning and Early Action (EW/EA).

Participants included experts from the three countries, as well as representatives from the South African Red Cross Society and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in Nairobi. The workshop focused on building skills in:

- Using observed climate, environmental, and social vulnerability data to inform AA triggers.
- Evaluating weather and seasonal forecasts for AA.
- Integrating impact data and forecast analysis.
- Assessing correlations among multiple indicator variables
- Testing thresholds and understanding implications for risk management.
- Incorporating gender, social inclusion, and indigenous knowledge systems into AA frameworks.

"Quantitative triggers for anticipatory action must integrate socio-economic factors such as gender and social inclusion, along with indigenous knowledge systems, to ensure their effectiveness and inclusivity", Prof Alice Ncube said.

### UFS AND NUPS CELEBRATE A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP AND IMPACT



The University of the Free State (UFS) joined the National University of Public Services (NUPS) in Hungary to celebrate 10 years of successful collaboration through the Erasmus+ International Mobility Programme, held from May 5 to 9, 2025.

Prof. Samuel Adelabu, Abiodun Ogundeji and Johannes Belle represented UFS at the event, marking a decade of achievements that include student and staff exchanges, joint research, publications, conferences and cross-cultural learning.

The partnership, initiated in 2015 by Prof. Restás Ágoston (NUPS) and Prof. Andries Jordaan (UFS), has expanded to include DUT, Rhodes University, and several government departments, notably strengthening the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), through training in firefighting technology.

During the celebration, Prof. Adelabu delivered a keynote address, while Profs. Ogundeji and Belle participated as panellists. Certificates of recognition were presented to Profs. Jordaan, Adelabu, Ogundeji and Belle for their contributions.

### UFS REPRESENTS SOUTH AFRICA AT THE 8TH GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Prof. Johannes Belle and Abiodun Ogundeji from UFS-DiMTEC represented the University of the Free State at the 8th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025), held from June 2-6, 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Global Platform is the world's leading forum on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), convening heads of state, UN agencies, academia, NGOs, and other global stakeholders to discuss strategies for reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate change.

The 2025 session, attended by over 3,000 delegates, was co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Prof. Belle played a key role as a member of the organising committee for the thematic session "Leveraging the Value of Nature as a Unique Resource for Resilience Building and Preventing Future Risks."

He also served as a panellist in the session "Leveraging Locally Led Good Practices for Upscaling Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to Address Disaster and Climate Risk."



## ... and more

### PROF. ALICE NCUBE PARTICIPATES IN ZIMBABWE FOREWARN EXPERTS INDUCTION PROGRAMME



Prof. Alice Ncube was invited as one of the members of the Zimbabwe FOREWARN group of experts to participate in the induction programme held in Nyanga, Zimbabwe, from June 5–6, 2025.

The FOREWARN (Forecast-based Warning, Analysis and Response Network) group brings together researchers, academics and scientists, organised into thematic subgroups, aligned with their areas of expertise. Members provide technical advice and informed guidance to anticipatory projects led by Start Network members, including contributions to Start Fund alerts and forecasting tools. Through continuous monitoring of emerging risks, FOREWARN experts support proactive decision-making by offering practical recommendations to the Crisis Anticipation Window.

The Start Network is a global consortium of more than 134 humanitarian agencies across five continents, encompassing both large international organisations and national NGOs. Its mission is to transform humanitarian action through innovation, early action, fast funding and localisation. The Network seeks to address systemic challenges within the humanitarian sector, such as slow, reactive funding mechanisms, centralised decision-making, and resistance to change, which often delay effective crisis response and increase human suffering. "Why wait for the formalities to unfold instead of being ready and funding anticipated disasters to avert the multiple fatalities and economic losses that will become more costly to finance?" Prof Ncube said.

### NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE



UFS-DiMTEC had the privilege of participating in the inaugural Natural and Agricultural Sciences (NAS) Conference 2025 that was held on July 1 and 2. The marketing team showcased the qualifications and initiatives offered by the centres, engaging with numerous potential students and stakeholders interested in the Centres' work.

To contribute to the scientific discussions at the conference, Dr Zachariah Mshelia presented a paper titled, "Geospatial Analysis of Informal Settlement Susceptibility to Multi-Hazards in eThekweni, South Africa." His presentation emphasised the importance of spatial data and analysis in identifying areas at risk within informal settlements, especially concerning exposure to multiple hazards. Dr Mshelia noted, "It was well received and added valuable insights to the broader discussion on sustainable urban development and disaster risk reduction".



### DIMTEC CELEBRATES MANDELA DAY THROUGH A TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVE



In celebration of International Mandela Day 2025, the University of the Free State's Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (UFS-DiMTEC), participated in the 67 minutes for Mandela Campaign by planting five trees on the Bloemfontein Campus. This environmentally conscious act symbolised both service and sustainability, honouring Nelson Mandela's legacy through action that nurtures the planet.

Of the five trees planted, four were generously donated by the Housing and Residence Affairs Department, while the fifth tree, an indigenous Wild Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *africana*), locally known as Mohlware, was purchased by UFS-DiMTEC. The Wild Olive was chosen for its cultural and ecological significance, as well as its resilience and drought tolerance, making it

perfectly suited to the Bloemfontein environment.

The initiative also reinforced the Centre's ongoing commitment to Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) and environmental stewardship. "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit." Nelson Mandela.



### PROF ALICE NCUBE JOINS AFRICAN UNION'S MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PROGRAMME IN GHANA



Accra, Ghana, July 24, 2025: Prof Alice Ncube was invited by the African Union Commission (AUC), in partnership with its Technical Partners, to take part in the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Early Action (AMHEWAS) Technical Working Group workshop held from July 23–24, 2025 in Accra, Ghana.

The Technical Working Group is central to coordinating the implementation of the AMHEWAS Programme, the African Union's flagship mechanism, designed to close critical gaps in disaster early warning and preparedness across the continent. Adopted by the AU Executive Council in February 2022, the programme strengthens Africa's capacity to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disasters more effectively.

Prof Ncube's participation highlights her continued contribution to advancing disaster risk reduction, resilience-building, and evidence-based solutions to safeguard vulnerable communities across Africa.



## ... and more

### DIMTEC MASTER'S STUDENT PRESENTS AT UFS URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE



Ms Retshepile Motlou, a master's student at the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (UFS-DiMTEC), under the supervision of Dr Tlou Raphela-Masuku, presented her master's thesis titled, "Assessing the Impacts of Settlement Encroachment Over and Near Water Infrastructure in Phomolong in the Gauteng Province of South Africa" at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

The Conference, held on July 29, 2025 at the University of the Free State's South Campus, brought together scholars, practitioners, and students to reflect on five decades of excellence in urban and regional planning. Ms Motlou's research offered critical insights into the intersection between urban expansion, infrastructure sustainability and disaster risk, focusing on how settlement encroachment affects water systems and community resilience.

Her participation reflects DiMTEC's ongoing commitment to academic excellence and applied research that supports sustainable development and informed policy in South Africa.

### DR. RAPHELA-MASUKU SPEAKS AT THE 4TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER, AND FIRE SERVICES LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Dr Tlou Raphela-Masuku, from the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (UFS-DiMTEC), was invited as one of the distinguished speakers to deliver a talk on "The Intersection of Climate Change and Disaster

Management". Her presentation explored the crucial links between climate adaptation, resilience building, and women's leadership in disaster and emergency management.

The event brought together influential women leaders from across South Africa's disaster and emergency sectors, including Mrs Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, MEC for Health in Gauteng Province. Other notable attendees included Mrs Tshidi Lemeko-Mogoera (Deputy Disaster Manager, Fezile Dabi District Municipality), Mrs Lebogang Mosotho (President of DMISA), Ms Pinkie Netshidzati Tshildizi (Deputy Director for Fire Services, COGHSTA Limpopo), and Ms Sanky Mahlangu (Head of Safety, Central Region, Transnet). "As women in disaster and emergency management services, let's empower ourselves by pursuing postgraduate studies in Climate Resilience quietly, to outsmart our opponents when we claim our seats at the table." Dr. Raphela-Masuku said.

### DR LUM-AWAH JOINS THE AWARD CLIMATE ACTION TRAINING PROGRAM (ACA PROGRAM)



## congratulations

We are excited to announce that Dr Sonita Lum-Awah, a UFS-DiMTEC post-doctoral research fellow, was selected as one of 52 African women from across the continent to join the second cohort of the AWARD Climate Action Training Program (ACA Program).

This prestigious program, supported by the CLARE initiative and funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), together with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is dedicated to strengthening climate change adaptation and resilience through agricultural research and development.

Congratulations, Dr Lum-Awah, on this remarkable achievement! We are proud of your progress and wish you continued success in advancing resilience and sustainable development across Africa.

### UFS-DiMTEC LECTURER SERIES



The Centre hosted its first lecture series, where we had guests from Hungary and Germany. Prof. Agoston Restas from the Public University, Budapest, Hungary, delivered an engaging presentation on the applications of drones in Disaster Management, highlighting how technology, in particular, drones are transforming risk reduction, emergency response, and post-disaster assessments. Prof. Joerg Szarzyński from the United Nations University, Bonn, Germany, presented on the topic Disaster Risk, Early Warning, and Emergency Response in Southern Africa: Current Challenges and Opportunities, where he emphasised the importance of early warning systems and regional cooperation in strengthening resilience. We are grateful to both professors for sharing their expertise, which enriches our academic community and advances disaster management education across Africa.

### PROF ALICE NCUBE JOINS HIGH-LEVEL AFRICA URBAN RESILIENCE WORKSHOP IN CAPE TOWN



Cape Town, South Africa – August 16, 2025, Prof Alice Ncube was among the leading experts invited to the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP) Technical Working Group (TWG) workshop, held in Cape Town from August 14–16, 2025.

The workshop, as part of a series of AURP initiatives, brought together specialists from across the continent to strengthen Africa's response to urban challenges and climate-related risks. Its primary aim was to provide technical guidance, foster knowledge exchange, and support the implementation of resilience strategies, in line with the AURP Steering Committee's vision.



## ... and even more

The TWG plays a crucial role in shaping urban resilience policies by promoting evidence-based, inclusive approaches at continental, regional, national and sub-national levels. It also ensures that AURP activities are aligned with African Union frameworks, continental development priorities, and global resilience agendas.

Speaking on the significance of the workshop, Prof Ncube (5th from left to right) highlighted the urgent need for collaborative action: "Urban resilience is not just about withstanding shocks but building systems that enable communities to thrive despite adversity. The Technical Working Group provides the expertise and platform needed to advance that vision for Africa".

The AURP initiative continues to build momentum as African cities face mounting pressures from rapid urbanisation, climate change and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

### UFS ALUMNUS LEADS SAFER PLACES OF WORSHIP PROGRAMME IN CAPE TOWN



The Safer Places of Worship Programme, an initiative by the City of Cape Town's Disaster Risk Management Department, was co-founded in 2019 by Mr Ismail Baker and a UFS-DiMTEC alumnus, following the tragic mosque shooting in New Zealand. The incident underscored the vulnerability of religious institutions worldwide, many of which lacked adequate emergency and response plans.

The programme aims to equip religious leaders of all faiths with vital knowledge and practical skills in emergency planning, crisis communication, fire safety and bomb threat awareness. It also incorporates Emergency First Aid Response (EFAR) training and concludes with a simulated emergency exercise, conducted at a participating place of worship.

Key partners in the initiative, include Disaster Risk Management, Fire and Rescue Services, the South African Police Service (SAPS) Explosives Unit, and Metro EFAR.

Now in its sixth edition, the programme continues to grow in strength and reach. The most recent session concluded at the Municipal Disaster Management Centre in Goodwood, Cape Town, marking another milestone in promoting safety, preparedness and interfaith resilience.

As the project leader, the alumnus proudly represents the University of the Free State (UFS) at each graduation ceremony by wearing their UFS blazer, a symbol of continued excellence, leadership, and commitment to community

safety.

### DR. TLOU RAPHELA- MASUKU IN KYOTO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN



Dr Tlou Daisy Raphela-Masuku was on a three-week research visit at Kyoto University, Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), hosted by Professor Hirokazu Tata, Head of the Research Division for Disaster Management for a Safe and Secure Society at DPRI and Secretary-General of GADRI from September 1st to 19th, 2025. On September 4th, she presented preliminary findings from her BAAP-funded study, "Resilience and Preparedness of Public Hospitals of the Free State for Pandemics" and also shared her research on South Africa's Flood Impacts with the DPRI Team.

Dr Raphela-Masuku said, "Japan's proven disaster management systems show that strong preparedness frameworks, clear communication, coordinated hospitals, early warning, community engagement, and resilient infrastructure are vital in offering practical lessons to strengthen resilience and disaster risk reduction across South Africa".

### FREE STATE CLIMATE CHANGE TECHNICAL TEAM FORUM



Dr Tlou Daisy Raphela-Masuku was on a three-week research visit at Kyoto University, Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), hosted by Professor Hirokazu Tata, Head of the Research Division for Disaster Management for a Safe and Secure Society at DPRI and Secretary-General of GADRI from September 1st to 19th, 2025. On September 4th, she presented preliminary findings from her BAAP-funded study, "Resilience and Preparedness of Public Hospitals of the Free State for Pandemics" and also shared her research on South Africa's Flood Impacts with the DPRI Team.

Dr Raphela-Masuku said, "Japan's proven disaster management systems show that strong preparedness frameworks, clear communication, coordinated hospitals, early warning, community engagement, and resilient infrastructure are vital in offering practical lessons to strengthen resilience and disaster risk reduction across South Africa".

### UFS-DiMTEC REPRESENTS AT G20 EXPERT-LEVEL CLIMATE INFORMAL CONSULTATION



The G20 expert-level climate informal consultation was hosted by African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Government of Kenya. The consultation brought together African experts to shape the continent's contribution to global climate and development dialogues. The discussions focused on issues relating to adaptation, loss and damage, mitigation and just transitions, as well as climate finance. Dr Raphela-Masuku emphasised the importance of such platforms, noting that under the South African Presidency of the G20 (2025), the initiative provides an

opportunity to amplify Africa's united voice in advancing inclusive climate action and sustainable development.

"It was an honour to represent the University and the Centre at the G20 Expert - Level Climate Informal Consultation, held from October 9-10, 2025 at the Indaba Hotel in Johannesburg," Dr Raphela-Masuku said.

UFS-DiMTEC remains committed to contributing to high-level continental and global dialogues that promote resilience and equitable climate solutions for Africa.

## ... and even more

### GAUTENG TAKES ACTION ON SINKHOLE RISKS WITH SCIENCE AND COLLABORATION



On October 9, 2025, the Gauteng Department of CoGTA hosted a provincial roundtable at Silverstar Casino, Mogale City, to explore sustainable approaches for managing the growing impact of sinkholes and dolomitic land across the Province.

Led by MEC Jacob Mamabolo and Deputy Minister, Dr Nqame Biko Masekela, the event brought together experts from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Council for Geoscience, local municipalities, and academic institutions to promote science-led collaboration and data-driven planning.

Dr Zachariah Mshelia from the University of the Free State – Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (UFS-DiMTEC) presented on “Scientific and Nature-Based Solutions to Sinkhole Impacts in Gauteng, South Africa: Insights for Disaster Risk Reduction.” His presentation highlighted how advanced geospatial tools, such as remote sensing, LiDAR, and GIS modelling can be combined with nature-based solutions, like urban greening, wetland restoration, and green infrastructure to reduce sinkhole risks.

Dr Mshelia emphasised that integrating scientific monitoring with ecosystem-based interventions offers a cost-effective and sustainable approach to enhancing resilience in Gauteng’s dolomitic areas.

### DISASTER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DMISA) – DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CONFERENCE (DRRC 2025)

The Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA) successfully hosted its annual Disaster Risk Reduction Conference (DRRC 2025) at the Sun City Resort Convention Centre in Rustenburg, Northwest Province, from October 22 to 23, 2025. A pre-conference workshop was held on October 21.

This year’s conference, themed “A Decade of Sendai in Southern Africa: Progress, Gaps, and the Road Ahead,” marked an important milestone, reflecting on ten years of implementing the Sendai Framework for

Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in Southern Africa. The event brought together a diverse group of practitioners, academics, and policymakers to evaluate progress, identify challenges, and discuss practical strategies for



enhancing resilience across the continent. The University of the Free State’s Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (UFS-DiMTEC) was well represented at this prestigious gathering. Prof. Belle delivered a presentation, showcasing DiMTEC’s contributions to disaster management research, education and training. Dr Lum, a Postdoctoral Fellow, also shared valuable insights through her presentation.

Additionally, three of DiMTEC’s interns, Ms Nxumalo, Ms Ramakoloi and Ms Mohoje, presented their work, highlighting the depth of emerging scholarship within the Centre. DiMTEC also hosted an engaging exhibition stand that attracted significant attention from delegates. The Centre’s exhibition was recognised for its creativity and impact, earning the award for Best Exhibitor at the conference. Our exhibitors were Mrs Ronel Smith and Ms Keketso Mokoaledi. UFS-DiMTEC takes pride in its ongoing involvement in national and regional platforms that promote disaster risk reduction, knowledge sharing, and collaboration across Southern Africa.

### DISASTER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DMISA) – DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CONFERENCE (DRRC 2025)

From the University of the Free State – Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (UFS-DiMTEC), Dr Olivia Kunguma attended as a keynote speaker and spoke on the topic, “Alert and Warning in the Climate Change Era: Reconsidering a Risk Communication Consensus in Africa”, presenting on the importance of acknowledging and integrating local and indigenous knowledge/science with modern technology for effective risk communication.

Other colleagues in attendance were Dr Zachariah Mshelia, Prof Alice Ncube and Prof Abiodun Ogundeyi. Dr Mshelia’s presentation was titled, Geospatial Analysis of Informal Settlement Susceptibility to Flood Hazards in Windhoek, Namibia. Prof Ncube’s presentation was, Theme: Regional Governance, Communication, and Cross-Sectoral Adaptation Chair. Prof Ogundeyi’s presentation was, Innovation and adaptation as a pathway to resilience and transformation. All these presentations contributed immensely to the climate change discourse. UFS-DiMTEC Master’s graduates and PhD candidates were part of the conference, with Noyise Centane’s presentation titled, Disaster Risk Communication Channels for Improved Preparedness. Zukiswa Poto’s presentation was titled, An Investigation in Business Continuity Management (BCM) in South African Urban Municipalities: Reinforcing Service Delivery. Blessing Sibanda’s was titled, African smallholder farmers’ mitigation and adaptation Strategies for Climate change. The Integration of Disaster Risk Assessment (DRA) into the Upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) within LepelleNkumpi Local Municipality by Lebogang Mosotho. Investigating the impact of meteorological drought on Maize Production in Free State, South Africa was the title of Victoria Owolabi’s work. Koketso Mpshane’s was titled, Impacts of Recurring Floods On The Mental Health Of The Setswetla Community in Johannesburg, South Africa.



## ... and yet, even more!

### DR TLOU RAPHELA-MASUKU CONTRIBUTES TO THE FREE STATE CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE GUIDE



Dr Tlou Raphela-Masuku contributed to the development of the Free State Climate-Smart Agriculture Guide, a collaborative publication, designed to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience among smallholder farmers in the Province. The guide serves as a practical reference document to support local climate action and was developed through the collective expertise of researchers, extension officers, and practitioners across multiple agricultural disciplines.

Dr Raphela-Masuku authored Chapter 4: Agricultural Water Management, which focuses on adaptive and sustainable approaches to water use in semi-arid farming systems. The chapter highlights simple, low-cost practices, suitable for smallholder farmers in the Free State's variable climate, including rainwater harvesting, mulching, soil moisture conservation, and the use of drought-tolerant crops. It further emphasises the importance of participatory learning and integrated water resource management in strengthening farm-level resilience and promoting sustainable agricultural production.

In addition to the chapter, two interns under Dr Raphela-Masuku's mentorship, Ms Mantsoi Ramakoloi and Ms Keitumetse Mohoje, participated in the Climate-Smart Agriculture Knowledge Exchange Workshop held at the University of the Free State on November 6th, 2025, where contributors engaged directly with farmers to share research-based insights and field-tested practices.

This engagement reaffirms UFS-DiMTEC's ongoing commitment to translating academic

research into practical solutions for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, particularly in the agricultural sector. Through both written and collaborative contributions, DiMTEC continues to support evidence-based approaches that enhance food security, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods across South Africa's rural communities.

### THE SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Dr Tlou Raphela-Masuku and Mr Mosekama Osia Mokhele, a PhD candidate at DiMTEC, proudly represented the Centre at the Social Sciences International Research Conference held from November 6 to 7, 2025 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Umhlanga, Durban.

Dr Raphela-Masuku delivered two insightful presentations, titled, "Evaluating the Hospital Resilience to Pandemics: A Case of General Justice Gizenga Mpanza Regional Hospital in South Africa" and "Evaluating Resilience Strategies for Pandemics in African Countries: A Case of Healthcare Facilities."

Mr Mokhele presented his paper, "Can Centralisation Strengthen Human Resource Management Functionality in the South African Public Sector? Recruitment of Senior Management Services Perspectives."

All three papers underwent rigorous peer review and have been accepted for publication in a special issue to be released by Springer Nature in 2026, a noteworthy achievement that underscores DiMTEC's growing contribution to impactful research in Africa and beyond.

### DIMTEC INTERNS REFLECT ON A YEAR OF GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT



DiMTEC proudly celebrates the contributions of its four interns, each bringing unique strengths to the Centre's work in disaster risk management, research and communication.

Keketso Mokoaledi joined DiMTEC on April 1, 2025 through the W&R SETA under Dr Kunguma's mentorship. As a marketing and communications intern, she gained experience in branding, social media, stakeholder engagement and event coordination. She also represented DiMTEC as an exhibitor at the DMISA Conferences and volunteered as an interviewer for UFS Career Services.

Nontobeko Nxumalo, an ETDP SETA intern, mentored by Prof Ncube, began her journey on January 1, 2024. Her internship strengthened her skills in research, report writing, project coordination, and presenting complex disaster-risk concepts with confidence.

Mantsoi Ramakoloi joined on July 2, 2025 through the ETDP SETA, mentored by Dr Raphela-Masuku. Her experience has been transformative, building her confidence in workshops, meetings and professional presentations.

Keitumetse Mohoje, who joined on September 1, 2025, through the Bank SETA, FS Premier, also under Dr Raphela-Masuku, focuses on climate change. She has attended key environmental forums, deepening her understanding of South Africa's climate risks and adaptation strategies. Together, these interns embody growth, collaboration, and DiMTEC's commitment to resilience and innovation.

## Links to other news

#### WRITTEN BY: PROF ALICE NCUBE

See the link to the article on the **International day for disaster risk reduction**

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/.../africas-path-to-resilience-time...>

#### PROF JOHANES BELLE ON eNCA NEWS ABOUT THE G20 DRR WG

Prof Johannes Belle talks more about The Conversation Africa article "Climate disasters are escalating: 6 ways South Africa's G20 presidency can lead urgent action", recently

published. See the interview here <https://www.enca.com/.../sa-urged-use-g20-presidency...>

#### WRITTEN BY: DR O. KUNGUMA AND PROF J. BELLE

Climate disasters are escalating: 6 ways South Africa's G20 presidency can lead urgent action #TheConversation #G20SouthAfrica #NDMC <https://theconversation.com/climate-disasters-are-escalating-6-ways-south-africas-g20-presidency-can-lead-urgent-action->

[262654?fbclid=IwY2xjawNUiQRleHRuA2FlbQlXmQABHvky0beqPR4D\\_qyaZm9YjllhWGf-88-\\_-ft6ETxX87Y9FK8aeZT-LKn3AY6fd\\_aem\\_dJLokHNO1DpYAwKEKXRzkg](https://www.ufs.ac.za/.../ufscholar-recognised-as...)

#### WRITTEN BY: DR T. RAPHELA-MASUKU

We are excited to share some great news from our Centre with all our stakeholders. Read the full article for the details!

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/.../ufscholar-recognised-as...>

WRITTEN BY: DR NYAM

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/south-african-system-dynamics-chapter\\_africa-systemdynamics-liverpoolfc-activity-7360550659709906944-Ya02?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAEuDqR4BipC7xK4xoYqcHe2g7M2oZLRHtzY](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/south-african-system-dynamics-chapter_africa-systemdynamics-liverpoolfc-activity-7360550659709906944-Ya02?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAEuDqR4BipC7xK4xoYqcHe2g7M2oZLRHtzY)

WRITTEN BY: NONTOBEXO NXUMALO

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/templates/news-archive-item/campus-news/2025/july/planting-the-roots-of-disaster-resilience--honouring-nelson-mandela-day-through-nature-based-solutions>

WRITTEN BY: OLIVIA KUNGUMA (PHD), BLANDINA

MANDITEREZA (PHD) & KEKETSO MOKOALEDI  
<https://www.ufs.ac.za/.../teaching-and-learning--bridging...>

# A word or two

## Wise words from wise minds



There is a proverb that says, "He who advises you is yours", or "He who advises you is on your side". Nevertheless, this section provides you with some good advice from our staff.

PROF Alice Ncube – From the Programme Director's desk

Welcome to the 2026 Academic Year. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the University of the Free State and to the dynamic community of the Disaster Management Education and Training Centre for Africa (DiMTEC). As you step into this new academic year, you are joining a Centre that actively contributes to global, continental, and national development aspirations. Our work aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk

Reduction, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and South Africa's National Development Plan, which emphasises the transformative power of higher education in shaping an inclusive, skilled, and resilient society. These commitments also resonate with UFS Vision 130, which calls for excellence, impact, and innovation as the Institution approaches its 130th anniversary. These frameworks will shape your learning, research, and leadership journey at DiMTEC.

You will soon discover that "DiMTEC" is more than just a name; it is a spirit of inquiry, resilience, and community to which you now belong.

As you begin this academic journey, allow me to highlight a few fundamentals that will set you up for success:

- **Your academic success is our priority.** Our team is dedicated to help every student complete their studies within the specified timeframe. We ask that you actively partner with us in this effort.
- **Take ownership of your academic journey.** Keep track of your student account, registration status, assignments and marks. Report any discrepancies promptly so that we can assist you effectively.
- **Academic integrity matters.** Plagiarism, including the misuse of AI tools, is prohibited and considered academic misconduct. Uphold the highest ethical standards in all your work. If you decide

to use AI, please use it responsibly and consult the university's policies on this matter.

- **Communicate professionally.** Please use your studentnumber@ufs4life.ac.za email address for all correspondence and always include your student number in the subject line.
- **Use your registered name.** Ensure that the name you use in communication and academic submissions matches your official registration details. If you have had a name change, kindly update this with the administration.
- **Know the rules.** Familiarise yourself with all university policies and regulations, which are available on the UFS website.
- **Engage with Blackboard.** It is your primary learning platform. Check it regularly for updates, materials and announcements.
- **Reach out when you need clarity.** My door is open. If you have questions about your studies or concerns that are not addressed on official platforms, please speak to me.

I wish you a fulfilling, inspired, and successful year ahead. Welcome to DiMTEC, where your journey as a future leader in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, truly begins.

# Get to know the UFS–DIMTEC LECTURERS AND SUPPORT STAFF.

## LECTURERS



**Prof A. Ogundeji:**  
Director/ Lecturer:

1. Management of Natural and Human-Made Disasters
2. Research Design and Methodology
3. Ecosystems-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
4. Management of Media Relations and Communication in Disaster Management.

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<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=--EsNKEAAA&hl=en>



**Prof J. Belle:**  
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2. Ecosystems-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
3. Legal and Institutional Arrangements
4. Introduction to Disaster Management
5. Strategic Disaster Management

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3. Theoretical Models for Disaster Risk Reduction
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# LECTURERS



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# Get to know the UFS–DiMTEC LECTURERS AND SUPPORT STAFF.

## LECTURERS



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# Get to know the UFS-DiMTEC SUPPORT STAFF



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# Get to know the UFS-DiMTEC POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH FELLOWS

## FELLOWS



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$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$



# Get to know the UFS-DiMTEC POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH FELLOWS

## FELLOWS



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# Get to know the UFS-DiMTEC POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH FELLOWS

## FELLOWS



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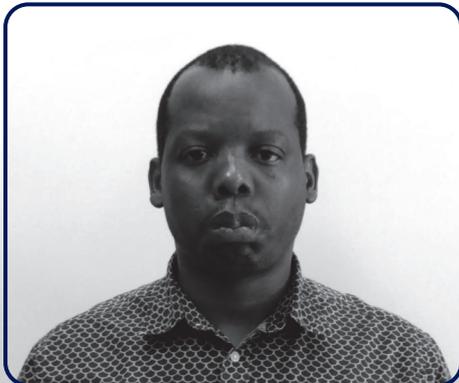
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# Get to know the UFS-DiMTEC INTERNS

## INTERNS



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# Bloemfontein

## Get to know the home of UFS-DiMTEC & UFS main campus

### BLOEMFONTEIN, THE CITY OF ROSES

Studying in Bloemfontein is the greatest choice and decision a student can ever make. Bloemfontein is poetically known as the "city of roses" and the "place of cheetahs", because of its Sesotho name, Mangaung. Bloemfontein is the capital city of the Free State Province, the judicial capital of South Africa. One of the frequent questions people usually ask when they plan a trip to a new place is, "Is the place safe?" The answer to the safety of Bloemfontein is yes, Bloemfontein is much safer than most cities. However, caution is always necessary for a disaster risk manager. Here are some of the places you can visit while in Bloemfontein, well after classes, of course.

1. Mimoso Mall – Want to shop, eat, or watch a movie? The mall is just a 30-minute walk or a 7-minute drive away.
2. Loch Logan Waterfront Mall – One-stop shopping and entertainment centre. The mall is a 43-minute walk or a 10-minute drive away.
3. 2nd Avenue – So you want some good music, food, drink, and maybe a little dancing to shake off all the heavy learning about disasters, hazards, vulnerabilities, you name it! This street will be the perfect place to visit and enjoy Bloemfontein's nightlife, but do not stay out too long!
4. The rest is about Bloemfontein. We look forward to hearing from you and your personal experiences.

### UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE – BLOEMFONTEIN MAIN CAMPUS

We have exciting activities and opportunities at UFS-DiMTEC as you begin this journey with us.

First, when you step outside the classroom, you will discover a campus buzzing with activities – student organisations, politics, performances, and community service projects. The entire city of Bloemfontein is at your doorstep. The vibrant culture of the University and the city will come alive through the courses you take and the professors you meet.

Engaging with the community and the surrounding area is an integral part of your education and will help you understand what makes UFS unique from other universities.

Second, the incredibly talented academic and non-academic staff at UFS-DiMTEC will be your guides and allies in your exploration. They are your greatest resource. The academics in the Centre are leaders in their fields, applying their expertise through scholarship, research, and real-world practice to tackle pressing social challenges.

Get to know them, engage with them after class or during office hours (they are eager to meet with you), ask about their research, and share your ideas. They will challenge you, guide you, and open doors to new possibilities.

Finally, I want you to know that the entire University community is here to support and encourage you as you commit to your studies at UFS. It is a privilege to welcome you into this vibrant learning community. Your presence enriches our environment, and we look forward to the fresh ideas and energy you bring to UFS-DiMTEC. On behalf of the entire UFS-DiMTEC staff, we are thrilled you chose to join us.

The University of the Free State has three campuses, and Bloemfontein hosts the main campus. During tea break, lunch, or dinner, take some time to explore our beautiful, green, and well-maintained campus. Here are some key areas you have to know about.

1. Thakaneng Bridge – Also known as the student centre, you can find a wide selection of food, books, grocery stores, banks, ATMs, internet cafes and many other stores here.
2. The Library – The library is a knowledge hub for students. It contains many books and places where one can study and discuss with fellow students. There is also a designated area for postgraduate students only.
3. The Computer Lab – Technicians are available to ensure the computers are fast and make use of the latest software. The computer lab also has discussion rooms where students can work on a group assignment.
4. Taxi rank – Need transport? A taxi rank is conveniently located on campus; it is next to the visitors' centre (gate 5).
5. Kovies Health – If you require medical attention while on campus, doctors and nurses are available at Kovies Health.
6. George Du Toit building (Admin building) – here you will find all the information you need about Student Academic Services (applications and admission division, student accounts, quotations, study records, graduations, financial aid, and many more).

### LET'S CONNECT

Visit our website for more information and activities at the Centre

[www.ufs.ac.za/dimtec](http://www.ufs.ac.za/dimtec)

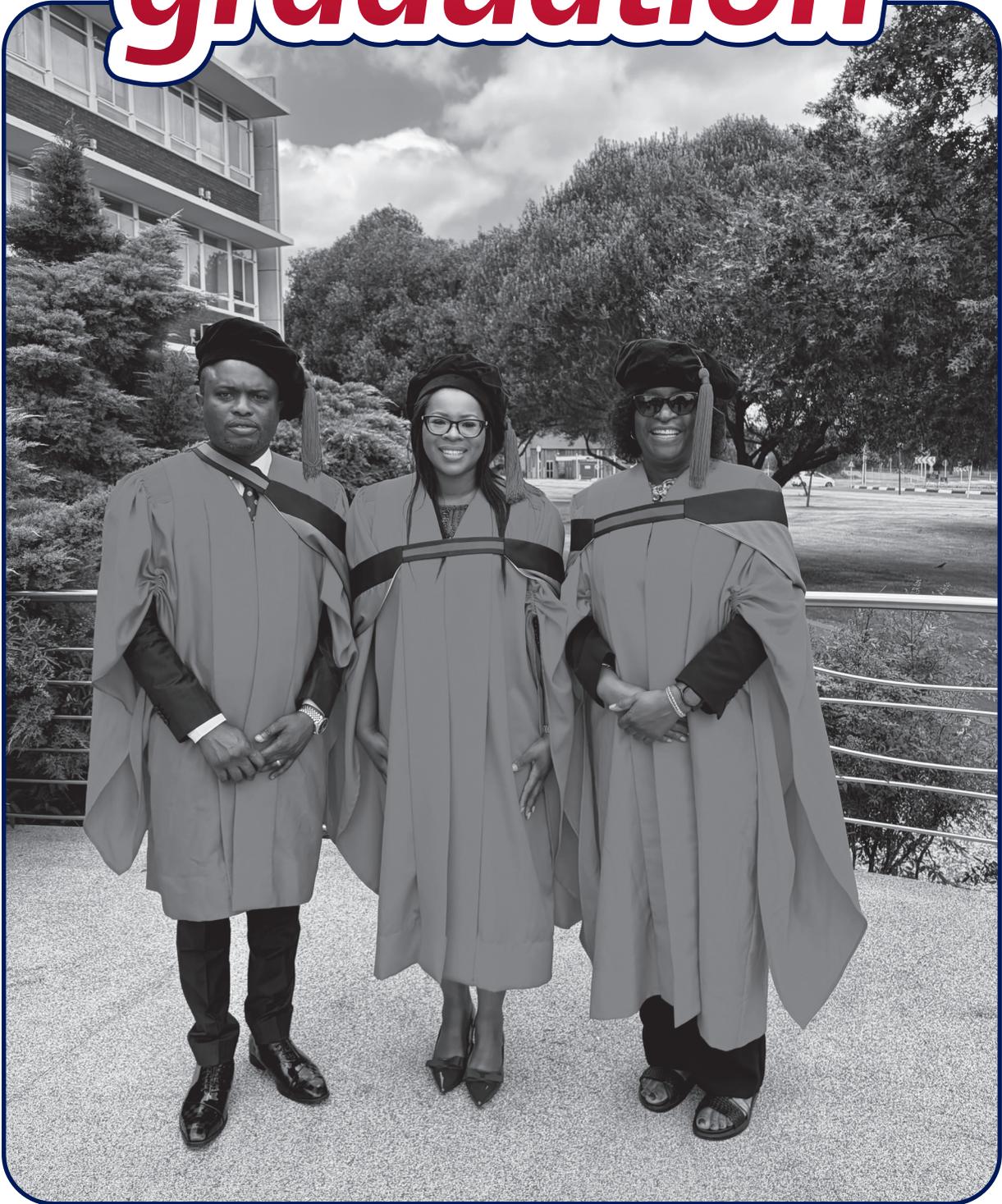
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