

DIMTEC NEWS

Disaster Management Training &
Education Centre for Africa

*Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.
Inspireer uitnemendheid. Verander lewens.*

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UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS·UV
NATURAL AND
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
NATUUR- EN
LANDBOUWETENSKAPPE



"Building Resilience through education, training & research"

January 1 2020

A WARM WELCOME

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Dear Class of 2020

Thank you for choosing UFS-DiMTEC as your post graduate institution and centre that will facilitate the advancement of your knowledge, skills and competencies in Disaster Management. At UFS-DiMTEC we understand Disaster Management as defined in the South Africa Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002 and similar legislations around the world, which looks at the discipline from a holistic perspective.

This informative Newsletter provides you with much information that you need to know about UFS-DiMTEC, as well as to boost your confidence as you take the first step in advancing your career in disaster management with us. To set the tune, let me pose for a moment to allow one of our successful alumni welcome you to UFS-DiMTEC.

Good luck and I wish you total success with your studies at UFS-DiMTEC.

DR JOHANES A BELLE
ACTING DIRECTOR: UFS-DiMTEC

As part of our stakeholder and community engagement, we invited a successful alumnus to inspire you with a note of welcome. Dr Bongani Elias Sithole graduated with his

Masters in Disaster Management with UFS-DiMTEC. Following that, he pursued his PhD studies with the Central University of Technology. With all his hard work and perseverance, he heads one of the successful provincial disaster management centres in South Africa.

DR BONGANI ELIAS SITHOLE
HEAD: GAUTENG PROVINCIAL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT CENTRE



Dear Students

Welcome all of you to the New Year, 2020. As you start a new academic year, take advantage of the many services available to help you achieve your full potential. UFS-DiMTEC offers many programs to keep you on the road to graduation and professional success. I am counting on you to make this your best year yet with UFS-DiMTEC. We are here to support

you every step of the way. For those of you returning, we are glad to have you back as you continue your journey to the graduation stage. For those new students who are just joining our community, we encourage you to make the most of your time here. Your UFS-DiMTEC experience will be what you make it, and your opportunities will only be limited by the limits you place on yourself. The mission of UFS-DiMTEC is to be the leading organization in disaster risk management education, training and research in Africa. We are thrilled to be partnering with you as you participate in an exciting educational journey of discovery. Whether you are a PGDip, Master's or PhD student, you will find unlimited opportunities to enjoy campus life by learning, exploring, and engaging with others. As a university dedicated to "engaging the world," UFS-DiMTEC places a high value on international knowledge and collaboration and has committed itself to be an engaged partner and contributor on the world stage. We are especially proud of the many educational, research and other relationships that we have developed in the SADC and other regions.

Over the decades, the centre has risen rapidly to become a preeminent world-class institution within the University of the Free State. UFS-DiMTEC is nationally and internationally vital to excellence, creativity, and innovation and commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. They are the first member of the prestigious institution to introduce the Disaster Risk Management programme in South Africa. Cultivating a rich diversity is a hallmark of the university. We encourage one another to celebrate our differences and to foster a community free of intolerance and discrimination. Together we work to promote a campus climate that is respectful, civil, supportive, and safe. These core values allow us to provide a living and learning environment where we can all pursue our dreams and reach our highest potential. I am confident that the year ahead will be full of rewarding experiences. Thank you for being a special member of our UFS-DiMTEC family.

Get to know your lecturers & UFS-DiMTEC staff

UFS-DiMTEC SUPPORT STUFF

Dr J. Belle

Acting Director/Programme Director

Lecturer:

1. Research Design and Methodology,
2. Legal and Institutional Arrangements and,
3. Ecosystems Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.

"Remember always, winners never quit and quitters never win"



Dr A. Van Straten

Senior Assistant Officer/Secretary

"Nothing in life that is worth-while comes easy. You reap what you sow and in all your ways, acknowledge God, for he has set you on a journey, and will direct your path"



Dr A. Ncube:

Short Learning Programmes Officer

Lecturer:

1. Research Design and Methodology,
2. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"It is only through perseverance that you can achieve your goals. Studying as an adult requires more than intelligence, you have to be able to multi-function as a parent, worker and member of a complex society. Hence, it is not easy but doable"



Ms G. Van Coppenhagen
Officer/Finance Officer



"Life can be simple and beautiful. Focus on the good things." – Maxime Lagacé

Ms O.Kunguma
Marketing Officer/Lecturer:



1. Strategic Disaster Management,
2. Management of Media Relations and Communication Systems.

"Knowledge is power, the question is, what are you going to do with it?"

Ms Z.Poto
Research Assistant/Programme Director



- Assistant/Lecturer:
1. Strategic Disaster Management

"Make preparations in advance, and you will never have trouble if you are prepared for it. A prudent person

foresees danger ahead and takes precautions. 'Because we can!'"

Mr Y. Nyam
Research Assistant



Lecturer: Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"It is far more honourable to fail than it is to cheat." – Abraham Lincoln

Dr O. Temitope:
Postdoctoral Research Fellow



"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity while an optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty".

Ms S. Mkafu:
Facilities Maintenance Officer



"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever " – Psalms 107:1

UFS-DiMTEC LECTURERS

DR A. Ogundenji



Lecturer:

1. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment,
2. Management of Natural and Man-Made Disasters

"Education and knowledge transfer is a priority for the future"

Prof R. Bragg



Lecturer:

1. Public Health,
2. Management of Natural and Man-Made Disasters

"A basic understanding of micro-organisms which can be a problem in disaster situations is important for disaster management. I see my role as trying to explain the differences between bacteria, viruses and fungi to the disaster managers."

Ms L. De Wet:



Lecturer:

1. Management of Natural and Man-Made Disasters

"UFS-DiMTEC students are much easier to work with because they are working adults. My subject on drought is a bit difficult because of the terms so I give the students the basics of the topic. The best advice I would give is 'listen but enjoy the class as well.'"

Dr M. Schutte-Smit:



Lecturer:

1. Management of Natural and Man-Made Disasters

"What an adventure and privilege to work with so many dedicated students; a great course to present each year."

Dr N. Matthews:



Lecturer:

1. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"In a time of destruction, create something". – Maxine Hong Kingston

Prof. B. Grove:



Lecturer:

1. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"Knowledge is power!"

Ms J. Joubert:



Lecturer:

1. Disaster Mental Health

"No one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."

Ms L. Nogabe



Lecturer:

1. Public Health,
2. Management of Natural and Man-Made Disasters

"UFS-DiMTEC is quite the experience because it is one of the most inclusive departments, it is encompassing and does not choose. It puts disaster management at the centre. My wish is for the knowledge to extend beyond the students, into the community."

Ms C. Nel

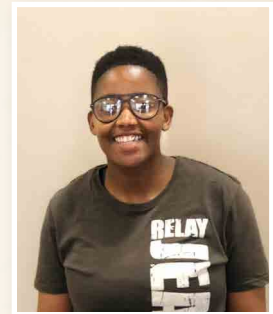
UFS Librarian/Facilitator:

Library Orientation and Academic Writing

"The positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible." – Winston Churchill



Ms N. Towa:



Learning Developer: Blackboard Training

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." – Abigail Adams

Dr B. Hlalele



Lecturer:

1. Research Design and Methodology

"Decision is a risk rooted in the courage of being free" – Paul Tillich

Mr E. Willis



Lecturer:

1. Political Strategic Planning

"You have to be fast on your feet and adaptive or else a strategy is useless." – Charles de Gaulle

Dr H. Booysen:



Lecturer:

1. Information Technology in Disaster Management

"DiMTEC provides a valuable service to South Africa through the disaster management practitioners it produces and the research it conducts. This is being done through caring for its students".

Ms D. Banyane:



Lecturer:

1. Strategic Disaster Management

"You might wake up one day and realize that the life you are living today is not the one you truly want, don't allow your circumstances to contaminate your future. To become an exceptional human-being tomorrow, make the decision and take action that will make you become exceptional today."

Dr M. Coetzee:

Lecturer:

1. Information Technology in Disaster Management



"Researching the role of social media in disaster management is exciting and challenging. Over the next few years, we will be faced with many challenges related to climate change, hence, we should employ social media to inform communities and manage the events".

Dr M. Serekoane:

Lecturer:

1. Ethnic and Cultural Conduct

Graduations: Our time to shine!

On Tuesday 9 April, Friday 28 June, 10 and 11 December 2019 the centre had a total of 31 Post Graduate Diploma, 23 Masters and 1 PhD graduate. The graduates received their certificates with great excitement and relief of accomplishment. This great achievement was celebrated with dinner that was held at the Pimento Restaurant on the Bloemfontein campus. Dr Johannes Belle commended the students for their hard work and he also took the opportunity to thank the students' families for their patience and support.

UFS-DiMTEC says, Congratulations to the graduands of 2019. You have achieved greatness, your hard work has been recognized and rewarded. The April and June graduations were our time to shine, our time to harvest the hard work we put in imparting knowledge to our students. Even the graduates themselves could not keep calm as their degrees were conferred on them.

PhD IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The Doctor of Philosophy majoring in Disaster Management was awarded to Daniel Hodges Mlenga. His thesis is titled "Integrated drought monitoring framework for Eswatini applying the standardised precipitation index and the normalised difference vegetation index." Here is what Dr Daniel Mlenga has to share about his journey.

"My UFS-DiMTEC experiences between the years 2015-2019 was amazing. I learnt and experienced so many things over the four year period. Studying at UFS-DiMTEC and being supervised and mentored by a well experienced and respected Disaster Management Professional, Professor Andries Jordaan has



Dr D. Mlenga

developed my academic, research and professional skills.

Petra Nemcova once said “we cannot stop natural disasters but we can arm ourselves with knowledge: so many lives wouldn’t have to be lost if there was enough disaster preparedness’. Inspired by Petra, this PhD journey strengthened my professional capacity in resilience programming, vulnerability analysis, evidence-based early warning and climate change, which in this day and age are vital for making timely decisions.

Disaster risk management is a responsibility for everyone and as Albert Einstein said, “The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything”. We all need to play a role to act before it is too late and I thank UFS–DiMTEC for shaping its graduates to take such responsibility.”

MASTER OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In no specific order, the Master’s degree was awarded to: DU TOIT Gerda, HAGAN Aniebo Benita, KELLY Mbulelo Richard, KODISANG Makgosi Luisa Jacqueline, LORIMER Katherine Louise, MOSESE Victor Lesole, MOTHWA Tebogo Lesetja, MUKOMONDERA Tongai Regis, NDOVELA Jamila Joyce, NTULI Thabisile Thobeka, PUGENI Vurayayi, SETEBE Moeketsi Ishmael, TUKUTA Patricia, VETSHEZA Tobani Friend and VILJOEN Oscar Charles.



From left to right: Mr T. Mukomondera, Ms P. Tukuta, Ms A.B. Hagan, Ms K.A. Lorimer, Mr V.L. Mosese and Ms G. du Toit



*From left to right:
Mr T.L. Mothwa,
Ms J.L.M. Kodisang,
Mr V.L. Mosese and
Dr B. Hlalele*



Mr T. Mukomondera



Ms P. Tukuta



Ms G. duToit

Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management

Twenty-six students made us proud as they walked on the stage to receive the hard-earned Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management.



In no specific order, the graduates names are as follows: UAZUKUANI Kupaha, MPHULO Makhotsi Merriam, MOSHODI Thabiso John, TUPA Lauretta Tozama, NANGULA Shivute Ndeshimona Ngeendina, MOKOKA Lemohang Precious,

MOTAUNG Nthabeleng Carol, MNIKA Nokuzola, KHUMALO Gabriella Sbusisiwe, MAKUKA Tshepo Innocent, QOMOYI Masande, BECKER Owen Henry, CHAUQUE Mthembu, LINDA Mlindi Cyrus, MALAZA Musa Eugene, MATHE Hlonolofatso Ruth, CHINGONZOH Ruvimbo, HLOLE Moipone Valentine, EKEKE Nompumelelo Sibongile, LESENYEHO Mathe Helekia, BUTHELEZI, Siphamandla Christopher, NONYA Teboho, MOHLALA Makgoke Walter, MACALA Ziyanda Cikizwa, MTSHAKAZI Nolubabalo Venus, NKGUDI Mampshe Sunnyboy.

MASTER OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT – December 2019



The following students made us proud at the **December graduations** on Wednesday 11 December 2019: ALBERS Therésa, MOYO Beauty, MUGERI Nkhetheni, MURERWA Regina, NETSHIDZATI Tshildzi Pinkie, POTO Zukiswa Vallery, SAUNGWEME Kuziwa Evans and VAN DER MERWE Schalk-Willem

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT – December 2019

On Tuesday 10 December five students received their diploma in disaster management and their names are as follows: BOB, Tsepo Quentin, MAHLO, Motlalatsuku Humphrey, MAPHEPHA, Moleboheng Desiree, MEBALO, Bakang Conrad and NTSEBESHA, Bongani Richard

Studying at UFS-DiMTEC: What an experience!

At UFS-DiMTEC, we do not only impart knowledge, but we also build friendships and networks that help bring resources together to build resilient communities. Below is a new group of friends busy with final touches before seating for the final Post Graduate Diploma examinations.

From left to right: Ms T.Mongale, Mr Mfundu Mathunjwa, Ms H.Magagula



and Mr H.Mekondjo

Motivation to study disaster risk management

Ms Thato Mongale is a professional Economic and Management Sciences as well as Life Skills Educator.

Ms Thato Mongale attending the grade



7 entrepreneurs competition

She teaches grade 6 and 7 learners. Thato said she was inspired to study at UFS-DiMTEC by her mother's friend who is a Director at the South African National Disaster Management Centre.

As a teacher, she found that the environment at the school where she teaches it is unsafe and has a lot of potential hazards. There is also a current increase in incidents involving violence against teachers by learners.

"I wanted to study something that would help me contribute to the safety and security of the community, said Thato with a broad smile. I needed to have the technical knowledge to be able to prevent, plan and prepare for incidents. I teach learners about natural disasters and health epidemics as part of the curriculum so I felt the need to get a piece of in-depth knowledge of disasters".

With a deep sigh, she further said, "Little did I know that the course would grill me and make me reach a cognitive level I never knew I could. It was a challenging experience,

but with the support of fellow students and UFS-DiMTEC assistants Valerie and Sebastián, I was able to overcome the challenges. I am glad I went through it. I'm now able to carry out risk assessments for my school. Indeed Disaster Management is a multidisciplinary field. I learned a lot about law, mental health, microbiology, weather, applying strategies and a whole lot more in the Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management”.

A journey of a thousand miles begins at UFS-DiMTEC

Mr Eustace Mokhua



Meet Mr Eustace Mokhua is a proud member of the class of 2019.

He is an Aviation Safety Compliance Officer working for King Shaka International Airport in Durban.

His job entails maintaining aviation safety and aviation rescue fire fighting adhering to the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation as well as the South African Civil Aviation Authority. With so much enthusiasm, Eustace said, “My job is to ensure that the King Shaka International Airport maintains its operational licence by maintaining a behaviour safety culture. I chose to study disaster risk management because an airport is considered as a major hazardous installation in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2003”.

The airport's disaster management department and the municipal disaster management centre together with the emergency services must form a forum for coordinated disaster risk management to deal with possible management of disaster occurrences. He further stated that his experience studying

at UFS-DiMTEC has been fulfilling and that the curriculum introduced him to many areas that a prospective disaster management practitioner will experience in a real-life situation. The lectures and student assistants have been helpful, as well as very dedicated. They have deep knowledge of the course content as well as practical applications and as such, he would recommend UFS-DiMTEC to any person who is serious about a disaster risk management career. “The UFS-DiMTEC centre is the best in Africa and has many international collaborations”, concluded Eustace.

Building my academic career with UFS-DiMTEC

Mr Collins Muhame



Meet Mr Collins Muhame, one of our PhD Candidates in Disaster Management.



Mr Collins Muhame presenting at PASA

He presented a research paper from one of his PhD sub-objectives at The Population Association of Southern Africa (PASA) hosted its 14th Annual Conference between the 10th and 12th July 2019. The Conference took place at the University of Venda, South Africa. His research paper was titled “mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the sustainable human settlement”.

He used the 2011 census and lower geographical data as an early warning sign for disaster risk reduction for in-situ informal settlement of Khayelitsha. Mr Muhame said that “Although the actual thesis is work in progress, I would like to thank my Supervisor Dr Alice Ncube for mentoring and coaching me in my studies which indirectly steered me to grab such learning opportunities. I will always be grateful for the skills, tips, research workshops and plenary session experiences that I have gained at both the PASA Conference and at UFS-DiMTEC.

Here at UFS-DiMTEC, we pride ourselves in the success of our students as they continue their academic journey through exploring conferences and other research sharing platforms.

UFS-DiMTEC Collaborations and academic escapades

When the UFS-DiMTEC team is not in the office, researching and writing publications or teaching during contact sessions and many other office activities, here is what they got up to in 2019.

Scholarships obtained from the South African National Disaster Management Centre

We won the tender! Fifteen of our students were awarded bursaries on Monday 24 June 2019. Ms E.R. Tau, the Director of the Directorate, Disaster Risk Management, Training, Awareness and Research at the South African National Disaster Management Centre honoured the bursary signing day and came to our UFS-DiMTEC offices to witness the signing of the contracts.

The following are some of the students that received the bursary: Mrs M. Matsididi, Ms L. Gumede, Mr M. Mlele, Ms N. Daniso, Ms M. Sigenu, and Ms R.S. Moremane. The bursary amount for the year of 2019 amounted to R629 910. From the bursary, a total of 15 students were fully-funded, 7 from the PGDip and 8 from the Masters.



The NDMC Bursary holders

The International Summer School on Disaster Management held in Romania motivated UFS-DiMTEC to establish a “Disaster Response Summer School”

Ms Olivia Kunguma and Dr Alice Ncube were invited to attend the International summer school on disaster management at the University of Babes Bolyai in Cluj Napoca, Romania.



The Summer school was from 12 – 19 July 2019. It was well attended by many other students from Hungary, Romania, Brazil, Italy and Germany. The programme explored in-depth topics ranging from information management systems, water, sanitation and hygiene and public awareness.

The trainers were officials from the European Union Civil Protection who shared their practical experience from the various missions they attended with the recent one being the Mozambique Cyclones. The summer school was concluded with



an intensive field exercise, where participants had to plan and put up a campsite in the forest for 2 nights. During the 2 days of camping, the participants had to plan for deployment to a mission, looking



at initial assessments, logistics, be arrangements, coordination with other responding organisations and the overall process of responding to the event. This exercise was hands-on and practical under the supervision of the European Union Civil Protection officials.



Dr Alice Ncube with her Non-Governmental Organisation summer school team

UFS-DiMTEC’s programme currently focuses on Disaster Risk Reduction and minimal practical disaster response. Hence, the exposure to such a programme fuelled the idea of proposing and developing a new programme that focusses entirely on Disaster Response. Hopefully, the programme will be ready for implementation by 2020.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2019

It was a great pleasure for UFS-DiMTEC when Ms Olivia Kunguma was invited to be the IDDR Conference Programme Director of the practitioners’ session. The conference was held from 5-6 December 2019 at the Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein, Free State

Province. In her welcome remarks to the delegates, she reiterated the 2019 IDDR theme, “Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and education facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030”.

As programme director, Ms Kunguma had the privilege to liaise with the organisations protecting our critical infrastructures. These organisations also presented their contributions to the 2019 theme, the organisations were, the Department of Transport, Eskom, Department of Public Works, Department of Basic Education, Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Health, South African Police Services, South African Weather Services, Gift of the Givers and Life Saving South Africa.

At the IDDR Conference, UFS-DiMTEC also exhibited and had the opportunity to attract prospective students. “We are grateful to the National Disaster Management Centre for inviting us to collaborate with them on such a global event”, commented Ms Kunguma.

UFS-DiMTEC represented at the 44th Natural Hazard Workshop and Researchers Meeting in Colorado, USA

Dr Johannes Belle represented UFS-DiMTEC well at the 44th Natural Hazard Workshop and Researchers Meeting. It was held from 14th to 18 July 2019 at the University of Colorado, Boulder in the United States of America. The conference attracted 610 delegates from all over the world and brought together disaster researchers and practitioners under the new theme “Convergence” as a way of managing disasters.



Dr Johannes Belle and other 3rd session panellists

Widening our footprint at the Disaster Management Institute for Southern Africa

The 2019 DMISA conference was held from 18 to 19 September 2019. It is a South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) approved professional body for Disaster Management in Southern Africa and the home of disaster management practitioners and academia. The 2019 theme for the event was “Adapting to extremes and limiting disaster loss – pathways to integrated resilience and sustainability for basic services, critical infrastructure, and thriving communities”.

The conference was held in the Mossel Bay Municipality in Western Cape. Dr Alice Ncube, Prof Andries Jordaan, Dr Johannes Belle, Ms Vallery Poto and Mr Yong Nyam attended the conference.

Ms Poto and Mr Nyam did an excellent job of manning the exhibition and marketing the university and centre. Dr Ncube presented a paper titled, “Community resilience and adaptation to fire: the case of Palmiet informal settlement, eThekweni Municipality, South Africa” and Prof Jordaan presented a paper titled, “Scenario Development as a key element for disaster risk reduction: Agricultural water management scenarios for South Africa”.



UFS-DiMTEC exhibition stand

UFS-DiMTEC and DMISA institutes the disaster risk management professional body in Lesotho

Dr Johannes Belle of UFS-DiMTEC and five National Executive Committee (NEC) members of Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA) facilitated a one-day workshop in Maseru, Lesotho on the

professionalization of the Disaster Management function in southern Africa on 31 July 2019. Dr Belle was the programme Director during the workshop that was well attended by disaster management practitioners in Lesotho. This workshop hosted by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) of Lesotho laid the groundwork for future close collaboration between disaster management practitioners



from both countries.

The CEO of DMA Lesotho and the NEC delegation of DMISA

Congratulations are in order! Eastern Cape Provincial Disaster



Management Centre launch

The Eastern Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre located in Bisho, Eastern Cape, officially opened the centre on the 10th of April 2019. Ms Olivia Kunguma had the opportunity to attend this prestigious and historical event. The centre was built in 2012 at a cost of R34 million. It has an infrastructure for emergency communication call taking and dispatching.

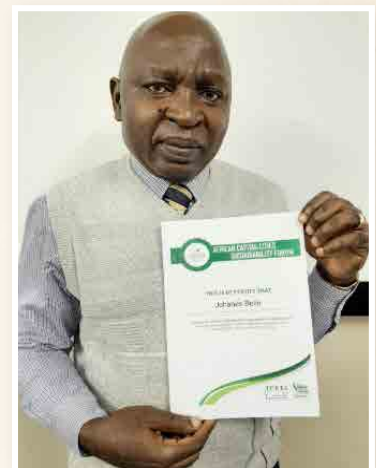


From left to right: Ms Mandisa Nohashe (Head of the Centre), Ms Nqatyswa Daniso, Mr Joe Mabuzi and Ms Olivia Kunguma

It also has a Joint operation centre (JOC) which accommodates the South African Police Services (SAPS), National Defence Force (NDF), Ambulance services, Media and the Traffic Department. The MEC Mr Xasa concluded the launch with a send-off message, saying, “as disaster managers we need to be accountable to the community we serve”.

African Capital Cities Sustainable Forum (ACCSF) 2019

The Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, His Worship: Cllr Stevens Mokgalapa and ICLEI Africa invited Dr Johannes Belle to be their guest speaker at the 2019 ACCSF. The forum was held in the City of Tshwane, South Africa from 24–26 June 2019. DR. Belle’s presentation was titled “The Role of Disaster Management in Urban Safety”. He received a certificate of attendance as a token of appreciation for the contribution he made to the forum.



Dr

Johannes Belle

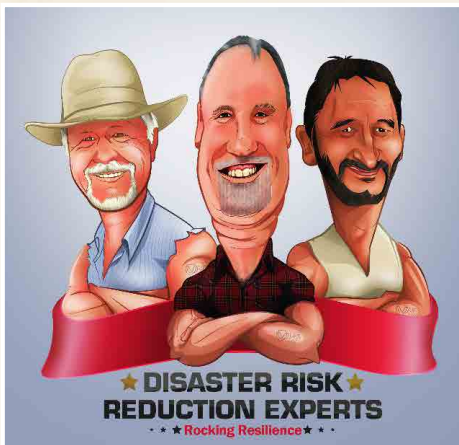
Staff Mobility Exchange Programme: the perfect platform to sharpen teaching and research

Dr Ncube and Dr Belle had the honour of being selected to attend the ERASMUS staff mobility exchange programme which was held in Budapest, Hungary from 25 November to 8 December 2019. The programme is sponsored by the European Union. It brings together distinguished academics and researchers from all over the world to share research, teaching and learning experiences on topical issues.



Dr Johannes Belle, Dr Alice Ncube and other participants

It is also a platform that yields networking and cultural exchange. The delegates Dr Belle and Dr Ncube had the privilege to network with, wherefrom China, Georgia, Russia, Hungary and Kenya.



Disaster Risk Reduction is everybody's business!!

Meet the coolest risk reduction, gurus!

Prof A. Jordaan, Mr S. Carstens and Prof D. Sakulski

manager, precaution is key. Here are some of the places you can visit when in Bloemfontein, well after classes of course.

1. Mimosa Mall – Want to shop, eat, watch a movie? then the mall is just a 30-minute walk, 7 minutes drive away.
2. Loch Logan Waterfront Mall – Also another shopping, eating and movie spree. The mall is a 43-minute walk and 10-minute drive away.
3. 2nd Avenue – So you want some good music, food and drink, maybe a little bit of 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 nightlife, but don't stay out too long!

The rest about Bloemfontein, we wait to hear from you and your personal experiences.

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE – BLOEMFONTEIN MAIN CAMPUS

The Kovies

The University of the Free State has three campuses and Bloemfontein hosts the main campus. So during tea-break, lunch or dinner whilst you are on the Bloemfontein campus, take some time out 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, here you can find a wide selection of food, book, grocer stores, Banks, ATMs, internet cafes and many other stores.
2. The Library – The library is a knowledge hub for students. There is a plethora of books in the library as well as places where one can study and hold discussions with fellow students. There is also a designated area for postgraduate students only.
3. The computer Lab – For a wide variety, fast and advanced computers, with technicians

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, poetically known as the “city of roses” and also 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 major questions people usually ask when they plan a trip to a new place is, “is the place safe?” and the answer to the safety of Bloemfontein is, yes Bloemfontein is much safer than most cities. However, as a disaster risk

available to assist. In the computer lab, there are also discussion rooms where students can work on a group assignment.

4. Taxi rank– Need transport? There is a taxi rank that is conveniently located on campus; you can find it next to the visitors' centre (gate 5).
5. Kowsie Health– Should you require medical attention while on campus, there are medically-trained professionals (Doctors and nurses) working at Kowsie Health.
6. George Du Toit building – Also known as the Admin Building, where 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).

Hutus lost their lives during the genocide. It would be correct to assume that after such an event, peace would be hard to achieve for all parties involved. Let alone make efforts to rebuild a united country and make attempts to make significant strides in building the economy.

President Paul Kagame is the man behind the success story of Rwanda. He brought reconciliation and innovative approaches to the country. The critics view Kagame as an undemocratic and authoritarian leader. However, his supporters point to the fact that before his reign, no democracy existed. Since his rule, he implemented many policies for the betterment of the country as a whole.

How does a man unite victim and perpetrator? How can unification and peace be achieved after so much hatred and fear caused by the Genocide from both sides? Only consistent efforts on the part of the government can help achieve this. While outsiders view Kagame as ruling with an iron fist, Rwandans see a man who does not tolerate any forms of corruption regardless of rank and no ethnic prejudice.

Due to the policies implemented in Rwanda, it has become a safe country for residents and tourists alike. People can walk safely at night without any fear of victimisation or theft. The health care system of the country has improved. This has had a positive impact on the mortality rate for both adults and children.

The country mindful of the need for foreign trade and investments has opened up to borders as a visa-free country. The government to rebuild the economy is combing the use of smart business practices and technology. According to Dr Martyn Davies, Deloitte's managing director of emerging markets & Africa Rwanda has become an early adopter of new technologies, making the country a testbed for various technologies.

An inspiring story about resilience in Africa

We just had to share a remarkable story about resilience and how a country once stricken by a terrible Genocide (1994) became an inspiring case study of a stable country for post-conflict societies in just 2 decades.

The Rwanda, Kigali Paradox: From Risk to Resilience

By: Olivia Kunguma

Despite its past and the effects of the genocide, Rwanda has become one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa. How has Rwanda in a short space of 25 years recovered from the horrific effects of the genocide to become one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa?

Genocide is the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group. More than 800000 Tutsis and

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