

*September 2017 Newsletter*

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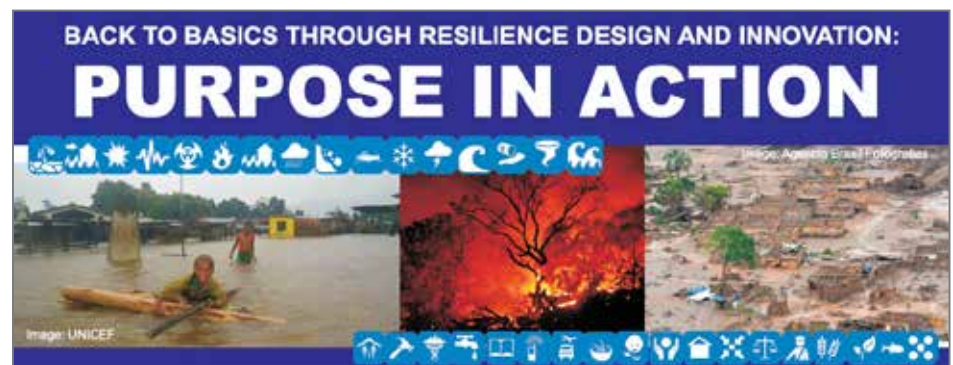
**Congratulations**  
**Find us at**

**Let's end it well**

We were happy to see some of our students exit the programme with a well deserved degree. While others are preparing for their final exams. The last couple of months of each year, tend to take an extra toll. We urge you to plan well, and get your friends' and families' support. You may become somewhat pressed for time, and a more stressed - you will need all the support you can get. But take heart, many students have done it before you, and many others still will. Make the best of your opportunity and remember - we've got your back! **D**

**DMISA conference 2017**

DiMTEC will be well represented at the 2017 DIMSA conference. We hope to see some students there, and will report back in 2018. **D**



DMISA, the voice of the Disaster Management Profession and the SAQA approved professional body for Disaster Management proudly presents:



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## ACES conference

Dr Johanes Belle, a lecturer from UFS-DiMTEC, attended the ACES (A Community of Ecosystem Services) International Conference. The conference was held in partnership with Ecosystem Markets and ESP (Ecosystem Service Partnership) from the 5 – 9 December 2016 in Jacksonville, Florida in the USA. The ACES is an international conference on ecosystems and is held bi-annually in four regions, America, Europe, Africa and Oceania. During the conference, Dr Belle presented part of his PhD research on the management of wetlands for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. His presentation at the 2016 ACES conference was published in the conference book of abstracts and is available online from the ACES website. The conference was attended by more than 400 delegates from all over the world. **D**



Above: Mr J. Belle at the ACES Conference, Jacksonville, Florida in the USA.

## Well done to us!

UFS-DiMTEC is in negotiations to be a research provider for COGTA (Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs) in KZN.

This agreement will span 5 years, to the value of more than R3 million. Phase one will deliver a “Gap analysis for KZN”. **D**



**cogta**

Department:  
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**



Despite tough competition from other research institution and universities, UFS-DiMTEC managed to secure another high profile contract with the WRC (Water Research Commission) to determine water scenarios for agriculture in South Africa.

This four year contract is valued and almost R3 million. **D**

Below: DiMTEC staff members and COGTA KZN representatives during the Workshop on the Strategic Research Collaboration and Partnership.





## African Symposium on Water and Climate Resilience

From 22 to 23 February 2017, DiMTEC hosted the first “African Symposium on Water and Climate Resilience” on campus. Keynote speaker Cosmonaut, Dr Dumitru Prunariu from Romania, was an astronaut on Soyuz 40 and worked in the Salyut 6 space station. He discussed the contribution of space research to a more resilient globe.

Various international scientist from Europe imparted expert knowledge about water and global resilience. African representation come from Kenya, Ghana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

The vital topics discussed greatly contributed to our local body of knowledge, and strengthened much needed global networks. More than 20 scientist contributed to this 2 day event.

Prof Jordaan and his DiMTEC team organized a post symposium tour for the international scientist that visited UFS and participated in the International Water conference in Bloemfontein. The Major and Council of Nelson Mandela Bay Metro welcomed the group with a formal dinner in Port Elizabeth. This was followed by a formal workshop at the Nelson Mandela Bay disaster management centre.

The group also visited the disaster management centres at Eden District Municipality and the City of Cape Town. During all meetings the potential for future collaboration was discussed. The contributions of Cosmonaut Dr Dumitru Prunairu during all visits were highly appreciated by all. The visit from the international scientists from Germany, Netherlands, Romania and Hungary already yielded positive results with joint research proposals and participation of South African delegates in the International Water Science Alliance conference in Hamburg, Germany. **D**

*Below: The International scientists (in no particular order) are: Prof Dr R. Liedl (Inst. of Groundwater Management, Germany), Dr. Agoston Restas (Director; Public University of Hungary, Hungary), Dr Dirk Jungman (Institute for Hydro Biology, Technical University of Dresden, Dresden, Germany), Prof Kees Boersma (Vrije University Amsterdam, Netherland), Dr J. Grundmann (Germany), Dr Joerg Szarzynski (United Nations University, Germany), Dr H. Börnick (Institution of Water Chemistry, Germany), Mr J. Seegert (Institution of Urban Water Management, Germany), Prof Zoltan Torok (Research Institute for Sustainability and Disaster Management (ISUMADECIP), University of Babas Baloyi, Romania) and (front, left) Prof Jordaan (Director of Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa - University of the Free State)*



## Mobility Program for Students and Staff

The Department of Engineering Sciences (EnSci) and Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) will be working closely together in future to establish student and staff mobility programs through Erasmus Plus.

Exciting times are lying ahead for us. Erasmus Plus is the new programme combining all the EU's (European Union) current schemes for education, training, youth and sport, which was started in January 2014. EnSci was represented by one of DiMTEC's staff members, Germie van Coppenhagen, during the end of May and beginning of June in

Budapest, Hungary, at various Universities. The aim is to establish MOU's between the UFS and The University of Technology and Economics as well as the Georgikon Faculty at the University of Pannonia.

Our plans for the future are to send and receive students and staff between Universities.

We are also in the process to develop a MOU with Turku University of Applied Science in Finland, which will enable us to send undergrad students and staff. [D](#) (Read p5 for more on this visit)

## Cancun Mexico

Prof Andries Jordaan was part of a South African Delegation to attend the UNISDR Global Platform in Cancun, Mexico. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Platform), as recognised by the UN General Assembly, is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. It was established in 2006 and is now the world's foremost gathering of stakeholders committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations.

*Below: Prof Jordaan with Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management South Sudan. On the left is his guard and on the right Mr Pios Ncube, former student of DiMTEC.*

The 2017 Global Platform was the first time that the most important international forum dedicated to the disaster risk reduction agenda has been staged outside Geneva.

It was also the first opportunity for the international community to review global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was adopted in Japan in 2015.

A poster on the Evidenz project was presented at this event. [D](#)

*Below: Dr. M Tau, Head of the NDMC, Representative for SA Foreign Affairs, Prof Jordaan, Minister Des van Rooyen, Ane Bruwer from the NDMC, Member from South African Embassy in Mexico*





## International Staff Week in Hungary



*Above: Staff Week attendees*

During May/June, Germie van Copenhagen attended the 2nd staff week for Erasmus Mobility Program in Budapest, Hungary. She represented DiMTEC as well as EnSci, since we work closely together. Germie facilitated future contracts between UFS and Universities of Budapest, Israel, China, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan and Netherlands. During the course of the Staff Week, the participants take part in lectures and can later try their skills in situational exercises and trainings. The main topics include interview and communication training, first aid and crisis management. **D**

## Incident Command System (ICS) Training Course

The Free State Umbrella Fire Protection Association (FSUFPA) and the University of The Free State Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) offered an exceptional training opportunity with the combined ICS 100 - 400 All Hazard training course.

A contingent of highly experienced US and SA instructors, presented the course from 2-5 May at the Rooipoort Training Centre in Dewetsdorp. The course was targeted at persons who perform duties during incident/events as part of an

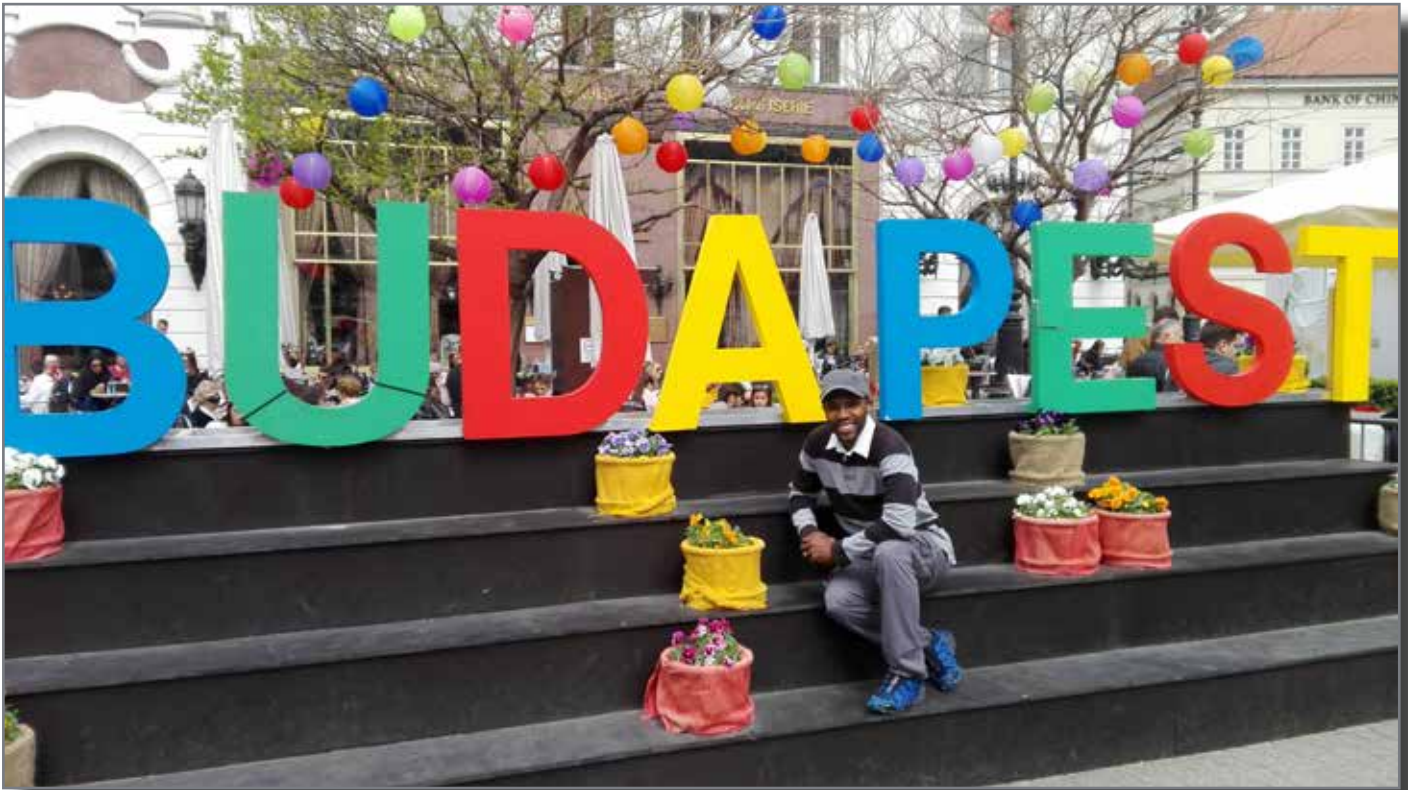
incident/event management team, and at senior managers who are expected to perform command duties during incidents or events.

Course included: Incident Assessment and Incident Objectives, Span of Control, Unified Command, Planning Cycles, Management by Objectives, Modular Organization, Comprehensive Resource Management, Integrated Communications, Universal Terminology, Resource Typing, Transfer of Command and many other aspects of all hazard ICS implementation during complex incidents. **D**

*Below: Incident and command System (ICS) training course attendees and instructors*



## Siviwe Shwababa studies abroad



Studying abroad at the Institute of Disaster Management of the National Public Service University in Budapest is one of the most significant experiences of his life, says Siviwe Shwababa.

Through this opportunity he was able to acquire high quality academic support which enabled him to complete his PhD study.

“I had an exceptional privilege of working with intriguing academics and experts in the field of disaster management who gave me international exposure and a golden opportunity of publishing portions my research in some of the most reputable academic journals in Europe.”

The time he spent in Budapest was outside of his comfort zone.

“It enabled me to grow in unexpected ways, it was loaded with fantastic sightseeing opportunities and helped me find lifelong friends.”

Living at the Ludovika dormitory initially seemed

like a challenge, however it turned out to be the best place to stay at. “It was truly a warm place full of people who are also far from home, wishing to make their experience of living abroad as joyful as possible.

“Dormitory living allowed me to meet people of different races, cultures and backgrounds and enhanced a lot of cultural exchange and sharing of cuisines from all over the world.

“Being able to communicate with others and understand their way of living was a great exercise in adaptation and getting out of my comfort zone.”

Through his regular interaction with Hungarians, Siviwe was able to pick up common phrases in Hungarian that assisted him in the day to day communication with locals.

“I know a handful of Hungarian phrases, jokes and vocabulary which I would have otherwise never have learnt. Like ‘köszönöm’ meaning ‘thank you’ in Hungarian.” **D**



## Welcome Prof Joerg Szarzynski



"I am honoured to work even closer in the academic context of the University of the Free State in South Africa.

"At UNU-EHS we really believe that this new development will strengthen the long-lasting collaboration between DiMTEC and our institute in Bonn, which goes back for almost a decade of joint training courses and increasingly also includes collaboration in the frame of scientific projects, especially in Africa."

Along with Dr. Fabrice Renaud, also of UNU-EHS, Prof Szarzynski lectured to a group of some 15 academic students and practitioners from different disaster management centres and related organisations, NGOs and ministries earlier this year. For that course, participants attended predominantly from South Africa, with one colleague coming from Liberia and two from Hungary.

At UNU-EHS, Prof Szarzynski serves as head of the EduSphere section and Education Programme Director. **D**

*Below: Vulnerability assessment simulation exercise within an informal settlement in Bloemfontein, South Africa*



We are thrilled that Prof Joerg Szarzynski, from UNU-EHS (United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security) has been appointed Affiliated Associate Professor at the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC).

As part of his academic responsibilities, Prof Szarzynski will provide face-to-face lectures at DiMTEC during our annual course on vulnerability and disaster risk reduction. He will also give lectures via distance learning for the wider curriculum at DiMTEC.

In particular, Prof Szarzynski will lead teaching on Early Warning Systems and Geospatial Technologies in Support of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Emergency Response Preparedness. He will also lead courses on Assessment and Coordination in International Disaster Management and Humanitarian Response, and Information Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management.

About this challenge, Prof Szarzynski said: "The official confirmation of my professorship at DiMTEC is indeed a great privilege for me.

## Jordaan attend US NIMS symposium

US Forest Service invited 22 specialists from 17 countries to participate in an Incident Command course in California. Participants were introduced to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in the USA. The system was implemented in the USA after lessons learned during 9/11. Emergency agencies, and government organisations at all levels, had to standardise terminology and systems and implemented the Incident Command System. South African participants included Prof Jordaan, General Mahlabane from the SAPS responsible for disaster management in the SAPS in South Africa, and Mr Savage Breytenbach, trainer in rural fire fighting who assist Mangaung with command and control structures. Participants in the course had the opportunity to visit the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) headquarters in California,

State Coordination Centres, and several other disaster management centres at different levels. They also shadowed an Incident Management Team (IMT) during active operations. UFS accredited some of the FEMA accredited incident command courses. Prof Jordaan will assist the National Disaster Management Centre with the implementation of a national emergency management system and provide training for incident management teams. Prof Jordaan was a senior officer in the SANDF Reserve Forces and his experience as a Commanding Officer for 8 years gave him the necessary background to provide this training. DiMTEC is currently also in process of developing a Master module in disaster response. Command and control and Incident Command shall form a sub-module in the disaster response module. **D**



*Above: Prof Jordaan, General Elias Mahlabane, Johan Savage Breytenbach.*



*Above: Prof Jordaan, Head of a Fire Station in San Francisco, Brigadier Ali Ahmed Kahn - Head of disaster management in Bangladesh.*

## Jordaan leads high level delegation to US

Prof Jordaan lead a delegation of high level officials from South Africa on a fact finding mission to the United States National Drought Monitor Centre (USNDMC) in Nebraska, and several Fire Incident Management teams in Montana, USA. The purpose of this mission was to expose South African officials to drought monitoring and fire management. One of the major outcomes of a WRC research project completed by a team of scientists under the leadership of Prof Jordaan, was the need for a National Drought Management Policy and Framework for South Africa. The visit to the

USNDMC was a result of the WRC project. Drought is the biggest disaster hazard in SA, followed by wild fires. The visit by senior decision makers under leadership of Prof Jordaan opened the pathway for a national drought and fire management plan based on incident command principles in South Africa. The US Government was extremely supportive and allowed the SA visitors access to all operations and information. Prof Jordaan is of the opinion that the US visits will dramatically contribute to a more robust disaster response system in SA based on incident command principles. *(photos page 9)* **D**





*Above: Janse Rabie, Agri SA, Prof Jordaan, Dr Moses Kanghale, NDMC South Africa.*



*Above: Mark Svaboboda, Director of Natural Drought Monitor centre, University of Nebraska, Prof Jordaan.*

## Johanes Bele – Dr B

Dr Belle was born in Ebamut-Bangem on 21 May 1964. He matriculated at the Government High School Wum in 1984, and got his BA in Geography with Education in 1989 at the University of Yaounde. In 2002, he completed his Honours in Geography at UNISA, followed by a master's in Disaster Management at the UFS in 2009.

He started his career in 1989 as educator in Kumba, Cameroon, and moved to Lesotho in 1998, where he taught at the Sofia English Medium School and at the Holy Names High School, Bela-Bela, from 1998 to March 2010. He was appointed as lecturer at UFS DiMTEC from April 2010.

With his thesis, THE INTEGRATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES INTO WETLANDS MANAGEMENT IN THE EASTERN FREE STATE, SOUTH AFRICA, he used a systems-thinking approach to address wetland problems in the eastern Free State.

The study makes two fundamental contributions to the new and internationally embraced ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

First, the study examined the vulnerability of wetlands and proposed a national wetland policy for South Africa to guide wetland management. Secondly, the study developed a holistic and integrated wetland management framework,



which promotes wetland resilience to extreme weather risks and the negative impacts of climate change.

His work has been presented at four international conferences, three national conferences, and three local workshops (Indonesia, Germany, the Netherlands, the USA, and South Africa).

Four draft articles have been sent to internationally accredited peer-review journals and are currently under review. **D**

## DiMTEC students receive bursaries

The Department of Cooperative Governance, through the National Disaster management Centre (NDMC) awarded 22 bursaries to deserving students currently registered for the post graduate studies (PGD and Master's) at UFS-DiMTEC for the 2017 academic year. The 22 beneficiaries from UFS-DiMTEC are part of the 45 students who were awarded the bursary by NDMC in 2017. The signing of the bursary contract took place at UFS-DiMTEC on Friday 01 September 2017. Ms Macheli Malerata and Miss Jennifer Lekalakala represented NDMC while Dr Johanes Belle (a member of the National Bursary Steering Committee) represented UFS-DiMTEC at the signing ceremony. **D**



*Above: The 2017 NDMC Bursary beneficiaries from UFS-DiMTEC pose for a photograph after signing their bursary contracts.*

## Students in review: Aniebo Benita Hagan

Me Aniebo Benita Hagan completed an Advanced Diploma in Disaster Management in 2016. Her field of expertise is disaster risk and impact assessment, while she is also a French translator. She is currently a research assistant at DiMTEC, with a focus on Critical Analysis of Agricultural Water Management in South Africa. Through the people she works with, she is learning to project her voice louder than her echo. Her message to DiMTEC students is: "Without the dark, we would never see the start. Accept challenges, and embrace hard work." **D**



## Students in review: Maipisi Albert

Maipisi Albert is currently a PhD Student at DiMTEC with the following study focus: Strengthening current disaster risk reduction (DRR) interventions. He has the following to say about his research experience: "The partnership between UFS-DiMTEC and the National University of Public Service (NUPS) in Budapest, Hungary, became my gateway to the other world. It was a moment of cultural exchange, questioning of academic ideas, and other social beliefs. Though it was generally a mixture of hard work and play. I managed to close my major skills gap and I am becoming the professional I dreamt to be." **D**





## Alice's Corner: International Migration – Human Coping and Adaptation

I had promised to continue with my series on livelihood capitals as coping and adaptation mechanisms for migrants, but I felt it necessary to digress a bit and bring in my experiences as a migrant woman.

We are slowly approaching the end of the 2017 and it looks like international migration is gaining momentum and signs of slowing down are getting slimmer by day. The Arab spring effects have spiralled, becoming compound and complex. Migration patterns have reached far and wide, and many governments are now engaging each other because this migration trend seems to know no boundaries. As alluded to by the former UN Secretary General, Bin- Ki-moon, the migration issue needs to be part and parcel of global development agenda – international migration will be with us for decades to come. Some countries host migrants, some are passage ways of these migrants, and others are wary of the migrants that will eventually enter their borders.

I am sharing with you a short story of a tiny country, Slovenia, with a total population of 2.065 million (2016), GDP per capita of 21,304.57 USD (2016) and life expectancy of 81.08 years (2016). The country experienced a deluge of transit migrants in a short space of time and the relevant government departments and NGOs had to do their best to manage the situation during the winter months.

Transit migration is a synthetic concept that merges transit and migration. The concept is as dynamic as it is scientifically blurred and ideologically and politically loaded. It refers to real journeys and odysseys, which may be long in distance and time, they may continually change direction and at times they may be hazardous. This situation was experienced by the EU between October 2015 and March 2016 when mass migration took place from the Arab world. It was mainly from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries. Slovenia was one of the EU countries that experienced transit migration of refugees. Four hundred and forty seven, seven hundred and ninety one (447




791) refugees entered Slovenia between 16 October 2015 and 11 March 2016. Of these transit refugees 45% were Syrians, 30% Afghanists, 1% Iraqis and 7% were from various troubled countries. Of these 48.7% were male and 51.3% were female. This included children, and other vulnerable groups. One day on the 12 October 2015 13 000 refugees entered Slovenia. The country was faced with challenges of catering for such numbers of transit refugees who needed humanitarian assistances before they reached their intended destinations which are Germany and the UK. Emergency provisions such as temporary shelter, food, health facilities, and other non-food items were needed. Luckily it happened in the EU, the situation was contained. To date only 397 refugees remained in Slovenia. The rest they proceeded to their destinations.

This is food for thought for everybody. As disaster management practitioners, we need to think broadly about the aspect of international migration, and how the definition of migration will be effected in the next decades, with the cross-culturism in many communities.

In the next issue I will continue with my discussion on livelihood capitals impacting on migrants in host countries. **D**

## Congratulations Master Graduandi

During the winter of 2016, DiMTEC was once again proud to witness the hard work of our students come to glory. 12 Masters degree students, and 25 Advanced diploma students graduated:


**MASTER IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT:** ATSHIPARA, Frans Ndadhnitha | CHISUTA, Kagele Makoye | FAKUDE, Bongani Christopher | MAVUNDLA, Xola | MOSOTHO, Lebogang Linah | MOTLHALE, Tshepo Enoch | MÜLLER, Garrett Smith | MUTEKWA, Clemance Josiah | NZUZA, Sizwe Louis | RWILIRIZA, Kellen Namara | SIMUKOKO, Joseph Ivwananji | TAWODZERA, Margaret. 



## Congratulations Advanced Dip Graduandi

**ADVANCED UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT:**

CHOCHÉ, Mogomotsi Cathrine | HARRIS, Roysten Vernen | KHOZA, Moses | KHUMALO, Nkosinathi Samuel | KHUMALO, Vuyiswa Sinenhlanhla | KODISANG, Makgosi Luisa Jacqueline | KUBHEKA, Bongeka Nokwethemba | LOUW, Izak Jacobus | MABENGU, Mabel Ncumisa | MAGALE, Mmampe Shirley | MALAMBO, Judith Mainza |

MATSIDIDI, Mollin | MEHLOMAKULU, Lusanda | MOFOKENG, Masebele Eyenurse | MOKATI, Joseph Tsoeu Washi | MORKELE, Kelly | MPHAKI, Masoga Gerson | MSWANE, Goodman Lindani | MTHEMBU, Mduduzi Twince | MTHEMBU, Zamukwanda Bukhosibakhe | MUKWASHI, Tsungai | NYATHI, Admire Jealous | SAMSON-AKPAN, Aniebo Benita | VILAKAZI, Akhona Patricia | YALALA, Nonhlanhla Ndhlovu. 

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*Because We Can*