

Government Gazette
Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID AFRIKA

Vol. 734 11 August / Augustus 2026 No. 55172

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ISSN 1682-5845

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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

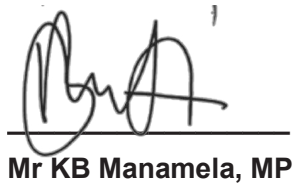
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

NO. 7802 **11 August 2026**

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT, 1997 (ACT NO. 101 OF 1997), AS AMENDED

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

I, Kgwaridi Buti Manamela, Minister of Higher Education and Training, hereby, under sections 44 and 47 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended, appoint Professor Norman Duncan as the Independent Assessor to conduct an investigation into the affairs of the University of Venda on the terms of reference set out in the Schedule.



Mr KB Manamela, MP
Minister of Higher Education and Training

Date: 06.08.2026

SCHEDULE

Terms of Reference for the Independent Assessor to Conduct an Investigation into the Affairs of the University of Venda (UNIVEN)

INTRODUCTION

1. In terms of Sections 44 and 47 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended ("the Act"), the Minister of Higher Education and Training appoints an Independent Assessor to investigate the governance, administration and management of the University of Venda. The overall purpose of the investigation is to advise the Minister on the source and nature of the problems, and the measures required to restore good governance and management.

SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION

2. The Independent Assessor shall conduct an investigation into:

    a) The governance decisions of the Council relating to the precautionary suspension process and litigation affecting the University, and its capacity to discharge its statutory responsibilities;
    b) The functioning and efficacy of the Council and Executive Management, including the relationship between them and its impact on the governance and administration of the University;
    c) Whether the ability of members of the Council and executive management to fulfil and perform their statutory and fiduciary duties has been compromised in any way;
    d) The financial decisions and concessions made by the Council, including legal fees and their impact on the financial sustainability of the University;
    e) The governance challenges relating to the Convocation, including matters relating to its Constitution;
    f) Any other matter which, in the opinion of the Independent Assessor, has a bearing on the effective governance, management or administration of the University.

3. The Independent Assessor shall report to the Minister in writing on the findings of the investigation, together with the reasons upon which the findings are based, and shall recommend appropriate measures together with the reasons why those measures are necessary.

4. In conducting the investigation, the Independent Assessor must conduct the investigation in accordance with section 45A of the Act, the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000), and the principles of procedural fairness.

DURATION

5. The Independent Assessor must complete the investigation and submit a written report to the Minister within 90 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001
Contact Centre Tel: 012-748 6200. eMail: info.egazette@gpw.gov.za
Publications: Tel: (012) 748 6053, 748 6061, 748 6065

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