



Eric Maluta is Head of Department of Physics at the University of Venda. He joined the academic staff in 2013 following studying and working as a laboratory assistance in the department. He obtained his undergraduate and Honours degrees in Physics at the University of Limpopo (Turfloop Campus). He then pursued his Master's degree (MSc) under renewable energy at University of Venda and obtained his PhD at University of Bath, UK.

Eric is currently a coordinator of Vuwani Science Resource Centre and community flagship of the University of Venda. Since the time he joined at UNIVEN as staff, He has worked on different projects, assisting in improving physical sciences in secondary schools and science public engagement. He has participated in the Kagiso Trust teachers upgrading projects, South Africa National Science Week, SAIP Teachers upgrading project, Regional and National Science Fair. He has served as Deputy Chair and Chairperson of local organizing committee for HDM international workshop 2013 and 2017 respectively.

His current research projects are based on the computational studies of semiconductors, energy materials and dye sensitized solar cells. He is currently working on dye uptake on the TiO<sub>2</sub> semiconductor, Band gap engineering and the study of charge transfer at TiO<sub>2</sub>/dye-molecule interfaces in these types of solar cells. Apart from the computational studies of energy materials and dye solar cells, he is working on the analysis of solar radiation and renewable energy hybrid systems for rural development. Eric is currently supervising 3 PhD students and 4 Masters students.