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ISSUE No.2: OCTOBER2024

# CAMPUS CONNECT

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### Dean applauds LSU's schools support initiative / 4

The Dean for the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Mlamuleli Mhlanga has applauded the university's schools support programme saying it goes a long in improving the performances of students across the province.



### 'LSU key in Mat North development'

Lupane State University (LSU) is a key institution that could help develop and industrialise Matabeleland North Province, owing to its thrust in research and innovation, Deputy Chairperson of the PSC Dr. Nomathemba Ndiweni has said.

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# Miss Pullen scoops PRESTIGIOUS research award

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University Acting Innovation Lead Miss Jessica Pullen has been honoured after winning the best university student research award at the recently held 13th edition of the International Zimbabwe Research Symposium, hosted by the Research Council of Zimbabwe.

The event was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa and was

attended by delegates from Zambia, Russia, Ghana, Uganda, China, Rwanda, South Africa and Ghana.

The three-day convention, running under the theme; embracing research and innovation for sustainable industrialisation, took place at the Harare International Conference Centre (HICC) and saw Miss Pullen walking away with the award after outperforming other student-researchers from various tertiary institutions.

The award recognises quality

research in critical areas such as agriculture and engineering. Miss Pullen appreciated the support by the Research Council of Zimbabwe as well as LSU and Lupane communities.

"I feel honoured and grateful to have been able to win this award. It is a special recognition to all the hard work I put in this research and my academic journey. It is not all about me, but also the support from my mentors, colleagues and the community. It would not have

been possible if I had done this alone. I also appreciate the president's commitment to research, innovation and growth because it motivates us to come up with new ideas that can drive industrialisation," she said.

The research piece that got Miss Pullen the award was her Master's Degree in Animal Breeding and Biotechnology project titled: "Artificial Insemination as a reproductive Technique to Improve Productivity in Chickens".

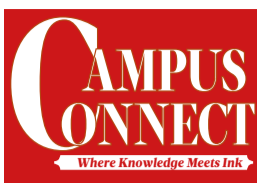


Miss Pullen poses for a picture with His Excellency President Emerson Mnangagwa during the research convention in HICC, Harare.

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## 2024 LSU Graduation Notice

- The graduation ceremony will be held on 8 November 2024.
- Graduands and invited guests are expected to be seated by 08:00hrs. Graduands who will come late will not be allowed into the venue.
  - All guests should bring their national IDs.
- Invitation cards are available for collection at the Admissions and Student Records Office.
- Graduands are encouraged to be smartly dressed and in possession of correct academic regalia (gown, appropriate hood and cap).
- Everyone is encouraged to exercise good health and hygiene.



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*From Page 1*  
**Miss Jessica Pullen scoops prestigious research award**

In this project she refined the Avian Artificial Insemination method which is mostly used in turkey production. She shifted the focus with the objective of boosting the production of indigenous chicken breeds.

“The focus of this innovation is on indigenous chickens because they have valuable heritage-based genetic resources. They consist of traits that enable them to adapt to harsh environments. They are resilient to certain diseases and climate change,” she said. “However, the production of these chickens is low, despite the fact that most communities in Lupane and the country at large keep them. This research is efficient in boosting production for commercial purposes,” she added.

In her project, Miss Pullen worked with various communities from Lupane’s Wards 1-5. She said there is a gap as most people do not have the knowledge on how to commercialise the indigenous chicken breeds.

“The research was specifically focused on Lupane communities because three quarters of them keep indigenous chickens, but not for commercial purposes. This project is meant assist communities, especially the youth and



women to produce the chickens on a large scale,” she said.

After engaging villagers in Lupane Miss Pullen indicated that the results of the project showed improved egg production, carcass weight and meat quality.

She thanked the Departments of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (Agritex) and the Veterinary Services who helped her in identifying people who needed the knowledge. Communities have since reached out and are willing

to part of the out-grower scheme meant to commercialise the production of indigenous chickens.

Miss Pullen, who is currently studying towards obtaining a PhD, urged upcoming innovators to be persistent despite a lot of setbacks that come along with research. Those challenges should be treated as a learning curve where ideas must be continuously refined. Researchers and innovators should associate themselves with people with same vision and experts so that their

ideas come to life.

She revealed that her wish is to establish a “sustainable heritage-driven poultry sector because the project is not only about meat and eggs, but conserving heritage-based genetics and expanding the use of biotechnology in livestock production and crops.”

However, this is not her first and only innovation. She previously came up with the production of Cost-Effective Semen Extenders tailored made to preserve poultry sperms. She is still refining that and it got the Presidential Award for the most promising innovation research during her graduation.

She also leveraged bioinformatics tools used to analyse genes associated with drought resistance in indigenous plants. The goat artificial insemination speculum tool that she came up with is understood as a critical instrument meant to help farmers improve the quality of their goat breeds.

The latest Zimbabwe International Research Symposium event was supposed to be held in 2022, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was postponed.

The Research Council has been organising such conventions since 1986. It has a mandate to promote, direct, coordinate and supervise research in academic institutions.

In this global community where there is information overload, owing to massive transformation of technologies and Internet penetration, being information literate is key.

Information literacy is the ability to find, evaluate, and use information effectively. It involves seeking data, critical thinking, analysis, presentation and using information responsibly.

However, people who are not aware of the above issues are at risk of acquiring irrelevant information and making uninformed decisions.

The Internet itself has led to a myriad of threats to information literacy.

Chief among them is misinformation and disinformation. Citizens are at risk of sharing fake news and misrepresented facts because it is now easy to distribute data via virtual spaces. Users have a tendency of sharing before they verify the facts.

Based on this background, it is critical for people to be information literate so that they are not found wanting.

Information literacy has various advantages and enable citizens to make informed decisions, solve problems effectively, learn continuously and participate meaningfully in cultural, economic and socio-political spheres.

Without information literacy, citizens are at risk of breaking the law by invading each other’s privacy, sharing fake news, graphic material and making poor decisions.

Following such observations, Lupane State University has made it a point that staff members and students are aware of information literacy issues, especially in this digital era.

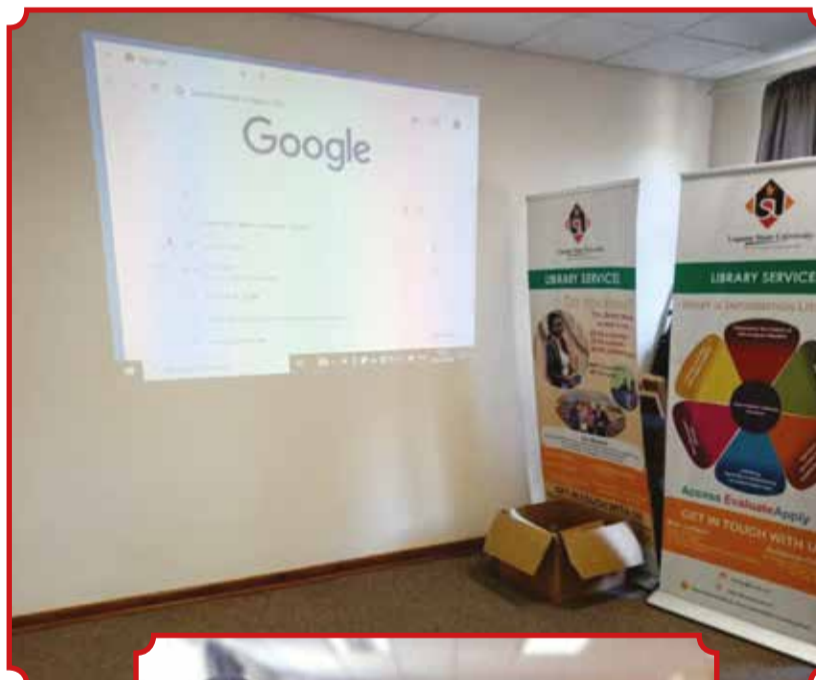
The university’s library staff always organise information literacy skills training sessions with either students or staff members.

“During skills training we equip students with abilities to know how research, evaluate and access information within ethical and legal grounds. We also train them how to reference and cite their assignments,” said Assistant Librarian

# Reasons why Information Literacy Matters

*LSU Library conducts skills training sessions to promote information literacy*

**“During skills training we equip students with abilities to know how research, evaluate and access information within ethical and legal grounds. We also train them how to reference and cite their assignments”.**



Mr. Partrick Nkiwane.

“We also train them how to research using our e-resources which the University is subscribing to them, such as Taylor and

Francis, Research4life, Wiley online library, just to mention a few,” he added.

E-resources are electronic sources of information such as e-books

and e-journals, e-newsletters, e-theses, and e-reports. They are electronically accessed on online platforms in various formats such as power point, word and pdfs.

They are crucial in that they are accessible on low budgets across the globe and provide information in multimedia formats such as text, images, video and audio.



# OPEN CHAT

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Learners from various schools inside LSU labs during their learning sessions. Inset: The Dean for the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Mlamuleli Mhlanga

# Dean applauds LSU's schools support initiative

By Thembelani Moyo

The Dean for the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Mlamuleli Mhlanga has applauded the university's schools support programme saying it goes a long in improving the performances of students across the province.

The initiative was spearheaded by the university in 2021 with the aim of assisting students from schools without basic equipment to visit LSU and conduct practical lessons in the laboratories.

Dr. Mhlanga, who also doubles as the Acting Dean for the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences, said it is the responsibility of LSU to engage with various schools so that they improve their pass-rate and enhance their chances of enrolling at LSU.

"It is our role as LSU to assist these schools. In as much as we meet with them during outreach and career guidance programmes, it is important that we also attend to their learning needs. The aim is to impart practical knowledge on science subjects. As we engage with the schools, we boost the visibility of LSU and improve our enrolment," he said.

He added that the initiative is

critical in improving schools' pass rate in public examinations. This has been a cause for concern for both education ministries and academic institutions with reports that some schools sometimes record zero pass rates in public examinations.

"This is a brilliant relationship that we have with schools in dealing with low pass rates. We understand that schools have practical subjects and it is difficult for students to pass without the knowledge of using laboratory equipment. This initiative will effectively contribute to improving performance in STEM subjects," he said.

More to improving the pass rate, the schools programme resonates well with the current heritage-based education 5.0 setup which emphasises more on innovation and industrialisation.

Dr. Mhlanga said the programme focuses on student learning and acquisition of concepts in the medium-term but the University will monitor and assess how this contributes to their ability to innovate in the long-term.

"This is a positive step towards producing students who are able to participate in all the pillars of education 5.0. We are laying the foun-

dation for the students to know the science concepts that are critical in catalysing innovation and industrialisation in the long-term. We hope that this will pay dividends later," he said.

The programme focuses on primary, secondary, and high schools. Dr. Mhlanga said the faculty focuses on lab practicals in Biology, Chemistry and Combined Science. Primary schools do not do lab practicals but are given tours of various facilities around the university including the laboratories, computer rooms and the farm to know more about LSU and possible careers they can pursue.

Lupane District schools that have embraced the programme for both 'O' and 'A' level include Mabhikwa High, Msewele Secondary, St Paul's Amandlethu High, Fatima High and Mtshibini Adventist High School. From Victoria Falls there is City College and Dedani Senior School.

However, Dr. Mhlanga lamented the low uptake of the programme in Lupane District with only six out of 35 schools coming forth. He said they are targeting all needy schools from Matabeleland North Province and possibly spill out to other provinces even though it would make sense for schools to utilise

nearby higher learning academic institutions.

"We are concerned with the low uptake of the initiative but hope that other schools will ultimately take part in the programme. We understand some schools may have financial and mobility challenges to come to our campus and call upon various stakeholders to also assist the schools either by equipping the laboratories or assisting them to access the laboratories at LSU. The knowledge that they acquire during the sessions will definitely increase their chances of passing O' and A' levels," Dr. Mhlanga said.

"We also appeal to schools with resources to assist those without. As LSU we will do an assessment of schools and cluster them according to needs and distance for visiting and coordinating purposes. We need to assess their needs and meet them at their level. Stakeholders are invited to support the initiative so that we reach out to many schools" he added.

Dr Mhlanga appreciated other efforts by the university to address issues of low pass rate in Matabeleland North.

He said this initiative complements what the Department of Educational Foundations has done

in coming up with remedial strategies for both teachers and learners to improve the pass rate.

The department did a preliminary study to establish the root causes of zero pass rates. The findings showed that there was lack of a reading culture which it strongly encouraged.

"The intervention strategies which were instituted for a period of four years were based on results obtained from tests initially administered to randomly sampled pupils. It was inferred that 70 percent of the pupils were reading below their level and have very low chances of succeeding in the public exams," Acting Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr Mbulisi Ndlovu, was quoted by the Chronicle in June this year.

He said as a way of addressing the predicament, a total of 65 teachers were trained to produce relevant reading books. This in turn helped to improve the pass rate in various schools.

"Through working on key reading challenges identified, schools that were in the zero bracket before the university's intervention gradually improved starting with recording 10 percent in 2019 to 20 percent in 2022," he concluded.

# A picture is worth a thousand words: Henrik Ibsen

Find more about the Public Service Commission Public Lecture held at the Lupane State University main Campus



Deputy Chairperson of the Public Service Commission (PSC) Dr. Nomathemba Ndiweni



Acting Chairperson of the Languages, Media and Communications Studies Ms Saneliswe Sibanda



LSU Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Thulani Dube



PSC Communications, Advocacy and Content Development general manager Dr. Amos Wutawunashe



PSC Matabeleland North Provincial Coordinator Dr. Isaac Muzondiwa Ndebele



Acting Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr Mbulisi Ndlovu



Acting Librarian Mrs Hlomphang Pangeti (standing)



From left to right: PSC's Dr. Amos Wutawunashe, Dr. Isaac Muzondiwa Ndebele, Dr. Nomathemba Ndiweni, LSU Pro VC Dr. Thulani Dube, LSU Acting Registrar Mr. Thamsanqa Donga and Acting Bursar Mr. Tjidzani Ngwenya



# ‘LSU key in Mat North development’

**“LSU will be leading the national discourse in research, innovation and implementation of agro-economic new methods and tools. We are glad that this institution has fully-embraced education 5.0 with innovation being key”.**

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University (LSU) is a key institution that could help develop and industrialise Matabeleland North Province, owing to its thrust in research and innovation, Deputy Chairperson of the Public Service Commission (PSC) Dr. Nomathemba Ndiweni has said.

Dr. Ndiweni who happens to be LSU’s former pro-vice chancellor was speaking at a public lecture organised by PSC and held at the university’s Lupane campus.

Centered on the topic titled agriculture, research and innovation as a catalyst for growth, the public lecture aimed at unpacking how agriculture can be understood as a public service.

Coming up with ways on how higher and tertiary institutions can be configured such that research and innovation contribute to agricultural development was also part of the lecture’s objectives.

Dr. Ndiweni applauded LSU for its agricultural innovations such as the manufacturing of fertilizer from plastic bottles as well as the artificial insemination project and emphasised that these are critical in the development of the province.

“As PSC we have been to various universities and LSU is proving to be doing good in research and innovation. It has an interesting motto which is about building communities through knowledge. This is also coincident with PSC values which are citizen-centric,” she said.

“LSU is well-situated within heritage-based education 5.0. I understand that it was doing this even before the pronouncement of this kind of system. It has always turned ideas into things that help citizens,” she added.

This was enabled by the niches that accompanied the university’s establishment which include the semi-arid agricultural conditions, tourism, value addition to raw materials and performing arts.

Dr. Ndiweni emphasised that for the full realisation of the benefits of these innovations, they must be part of industrial projects done across the province.

“These innovations must be taken to communities so that they are utilised for agriculture and economic growth. The university must partner with various ministries for sharing knowledge, innovations and opportunities,” she said.

“In that way LSU will be leading the national discourse in research, innovation and implementation of agro-economic new methods and tools. We are glad that this institution has fully-embraced education 5.0 with innovation being key,” she added.

Following the revelation by acting vice chancellor Dr Thulani Dube that LSU has recently introduced the Faculty of Built Environment and that of Veterinary Sciences, Dr. Ndiweni said these will come in handy especially at the moment when Lupane is developing to be a town.

During the lecture agriculture was defined not only as an economic cornerstone, but a public service for the reason that it involves everyone through job creation, rural development and food security.

There was emphasis on the partnership between LSU and the PSC as well as various government ministries. The acting VC Dr. Dube acknowledged the commission saying it is the biggest employer and a vital stakeholder of the university.

“The government is one of the biggest stakeholders because it is the biggest employer. We are currently doing a study to establish where our students go after they graduate. We understand that PSC absorbs most of our graduates in various government ministries,” he said.

Dr. Ndiweni also added that despite this existing relationship there is a need for more partnerships between LSU and PSC.

“There is a need for LSU and PSC to work together for development. There should be more consultations, for example before new programmes are introduced so that everything is aligned with education 5.0 and the ever-changing industry needs,” she said.

The PSC already recognises strides that LSU has made as a leading institution in practically training students in new agricultural technologies. These are critical in providing solutions to problems faced by farmers.

The PSC remains resolute in fishing out a workforce that is innovative enough to drive industrialisation.

The commission is part of the APEX council which consists of the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) and the Ministry of Finance.

It is responsible for recruiting and managing human capital in government ministries. It also formulates structures that enable the ministries to offer services to the public and appointing people with requisite skills and abilities to deliver these services.

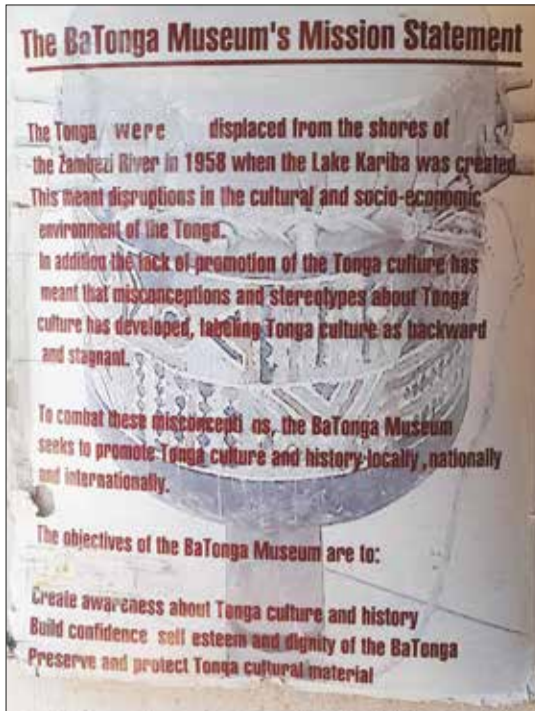
Some of its core values include high performance, servant leadership, professionalism, innovation and inclusiveness, among others.

The recent public lecture held at LSU was part of a series of countrywide engagements that aim at sensitising people about PSC.

It was attended by LSU students and staff, the PSC district coordinators for Matabeleland North, PSC Communications, Advocacy and Content Development general manager Dr. Amos Wutawunashe and Matabeleland North Provincial Coordinator Dr. Isaac Muzondiwa Ndebele.

The ministries and stakeholders that were present include the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology, Zimbabwe Statistics Agency and the Civil Registry.

Deputy Chairperson of the Public Service Commission (PSC) Dr. Nomathemba Ndiweni



## Enhancing the BaTonga Museum in Binga: Digital Innovation and Community Engagement in the Cultural Sector

By Linda Susan Mukuli

On September 26th, a team from the Department of Languages, Media and Communication Studies and students from the BA Honours Degree in Tonga Language and Culture Studies attended the BaTonga Cultural Festival, running under the theme: "Celebrating Heritage and Unlocking Value Chains through Opportunities for Communities."

The festival featured a variety of activities, including music, dance and theatrical play performances.

The team also had the invaluable opportunity to take an educational tour of the BaTonga Museum.

This experience allowed the students to apply what they learned in their module, "Museum Communication and Audience Engagement," and reinforced our commitment to enhancing cultural engagements across the country.

Following the tour, the team engaged in discussions with representatives from the BaTonga Museum.

Our primary aim was to understand how the museum operates, learn about the BaTonga people, and appreciate their cultural significance as we joined in celebrating their heritage.

Our discussions focused on several key objectives. Among

them exploring the identity and cultural significance of the BaTonga people.

Additionally, we aimed to establish a collaborative relationship between Lupane State University and the Ministry of Home Affairs to support initiatives that would enhance the museum's digital presence.

A critical aspect of our strategy is to ensure that the museum becomes more inclusive and accessible for disabled visitors and other underrepresented groups through the use of technology.

We proposed a comprehensive digital strategy that aligns with the goals of Vision 2030, promoting innovation and industrialisation within the cultural sector.

This strategy aims to improve the museum's accessibility, inclusivity, and overall visitor experience. By leveraging technology, we seek to foster deeper connections with diverse audiences, including historically marginalised communities.

During the meeting, we emphasised the historical context of inclusion and accessibility within museums, particularly regarding the BaTonga Museum's current practices.

We discussed the importance of creating spaces that cater to diverse audiences and the need for technological interventions to enhance visitor experiences.

To improve accessibility, we

proposed adopting various digital tools, such as immersive virtual tours for remote audiences and user-friendly mobile applications that provide information in multiple languages, including audio descriptions for visually impaired visitors.

We acknowledged the importance of mobile learning theory and serious leisure theory in understanding digital audiences, which will enable us to tailor our strategies to better meet their needs.

To implement these digital strategies effectively, we identified essential resources, including access to technology and funding from government programs such as the Zimbabwe Cultural Fund and the National Arts Council.

Additionally, we considered pursuing private sponsorships and international grants from organisations like UNESCO and the British Council. By securing these resources and forming strategic partnerships, the BaTonga Museum can strengthen its role as a cultural hub in Zimbabwe.

Lupane State University will benefit from innovative cultural engagement projects in several ways: they will provide valuable research opportunities for faculty and students, enhance practical experience through hands-on project implementation, and strengthen ties with the local community by foster-

ing partnerships with the BaTonga Museum.

These projects will also allow the university to incorporate contemporary cultural issues into its curriculum, making education more relevant.

Additionally, participation will increase the university's visibility as a leader in cultural engagement, attracting potential students, researchers, and funding opportunities. In overall, these initiatives will enable the university to promote cultural heritage while enriching its academic environment.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to our Vice Chancellor, Professor Pardon Kuipa for allowing us to participate in the Binga Cultural Festival, where we had the opportunity for an educational tour. This experience was instrumental in guiding our discussions as it aligns perfectly with the principles of Education 5.0, which emphasises innovation, community engagement, and the integration of technology in education.

The insights gained during this trip will undoubtedly contribute to our efforts in enhancing cultural engagement through digital innovation. By implementing the proposed strategies, we hope to contribute significantly to Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 while fostering inclusivity and accessibility in the museum sector.

## BaTonga Cultural Festival: BWAKALI BUZUBA NSINI

**BaTonga bati mbonena amwi  
nimbotu!**

**Mwana uuzyalwa, uzyalilwa  
muntu wonse,**

**Oobu bwakali buzuba nsini!  
Tekwalikwiitw' uumvwa kum-  
wan' aamuntu.**

**Ngwani wakezi kuti muyooba  
ziloobu mubbooma?**

**Ngwani wakezi kuti lwiiyo luyo-  
jatic' oobu?**

**Mumweezi waIvwiiwi, Kaani  
kakalibanda mbuuli mbukabede.**

**Lyakali gulumunkulu kumuntu  
woonse.**

**Boonse bakalibooleda, kabati  
tukalibonene ankoto zyamenso.**

**Abambi, bakati batakamwi  
ntwiintwi, aawo mpaalikubop-  
wedwa mweenzu.**

**Wakatwel' aatambala zileng-  
walengwa zyakwe, mwana wa-  
BaTonga.**

**Aawo mpaalikulibonya muma-  
sangusangu, antilani kumwi mipa  
kiipenunwa kabotukabotu  
Liimwi siKkanyani waakuguna-  
guna aamutwe abalo bamachem-  
bele baakuvobela.**

**Eeyi njiinsawu yakwe mwana  
waBaTonga,**

**Oobu bwakali buunsi bwaku-  
leeya nkwakazwa.**

**Eeyi njenjiyo Nsiku yaBaTonga  
Ziyanza ezilengwalengwa zyan-  
deene mpuzyakalikulibonya  
mubbooma.**

**Nchobeni bwakali buzuba nsini  
buuns' oobo!**

**Mbituyakilene kukkala bakali-  
bonena ankoto zyamenso.**

**Bakaamba, kabati nkuko luzutu  
nkozibonwa alimwi nkuzijanwa  
eezi basa!**

**Tekwalikwitwa uumvwa kuBa-  
Tonga buuns' oobo,**

**Aawo ntembawuzyo Arts Pro-  
duction, chilimba, budima, an-  
sawu zyachilya boongo**

**Nibakali kutambula mwana  
mupya**

**Sunu akaba meebeba kuzizya-  
no, nsawu, tupeto, twaambyo,**

**tusimpi azimwi ziliboobo  
Oobu bwakali buzuba nsini cho-  
beni basa!**

Poem Written

By Charton Siantumbu



# Sino Hydro reaches out to LSU students



By Buhlebenkosi Makhalisa and Thembelani Moyo

Ant, Sino Hydro Corp has joined hands with the Lupane State University to award scholarships to underprivileged and well-excelling students within the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The move is expected to assist the students pay their fees for the completion of their studies. It is part of the China-Zimbabwe relations framework which is rooted in politics, economy and trade, security, culture, and international coordination.

Speaking at an event unveiling the students who got the scholarship, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Thulani Dube, who represented the Vice Chancellor Prof Pardon Kuipa, said it is the first time for LSU to have such a collaboration.

He expressed gratitude to Sino Hydro representatives saying their commitment in developing education under the energy sector has come in handy given the power challenges that the country is facing.

“We are proud to partner with Sino Hydro because their expertise aligns very well with our education goals. This collaboration amplifies our vision of empowering students to excel, in particular in the energy sector. We appreciate their generous commitment for the next generation,” he said.

Sino Hydro General Manager Mr. Lee applauded LSU for its abilities in producing talented graduates with a strong understanding of the importance of education in economic growth.

“LSU has cultivated talents since its inception. We are proud to offer our assistance

to this school and we want you continue training so that there is development in Zimbabwe. We are committed in building a professional team for maintenance and operation of the Hwange project. We want these local talents to join the team,” he said.

The beneficiaries of the scholarships were selected among a pool of engineering students studying, information technology, production engineering, mechatronics, fuels and energy as well as business computing.

They could not hide their enthusiasm, sharing similar sentiments which applauded Sino Hydro for its desire to partner with LSU not only in terms of financial assistance, but offering learning and job opportunities as well.

“I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Sino Hydro. I’m absolutely thrilled and honoured to receive this prestigious scholarship. It’s a dream come true. I’m still in disbelief, to be honest. This scholarship is a game-changer for me. It’s not just financial support; it’s a validation of my hard work and dedication. It will enable me to focus on my studies without worrying about financial burdens. I’m grateful to Sino Hydro for investing in my future. I plan to excel academically, engage in meaningful research, and contribute positively to my community,” said one of the beneficiaries Rutendo J Makeyi, who is studying Mechatronics Engineering.

“This scholarship will also allow me to explore international perspectives and network with fellow scholars. I also would like to encourage my peers to be resilient, persevere and have clear visions. They should stay focused, work hard, believe in themselves, seek guidance, build relationships,



and seize opportunities. Thank you, Sino Hydro, again for this life-changing opportunity. I’m eager to make the most of it and make a positive impact,” he added.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Dube urged the students to embrace this opportunity with determination so that more students can be sponsored.

The Acting Dean for the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Dr. Mlamuleli Mhlanga, appealed to Sino Hydro to consider offering industrial attachment positions to LSU learners so that the gap between the academia and industry is bridged.

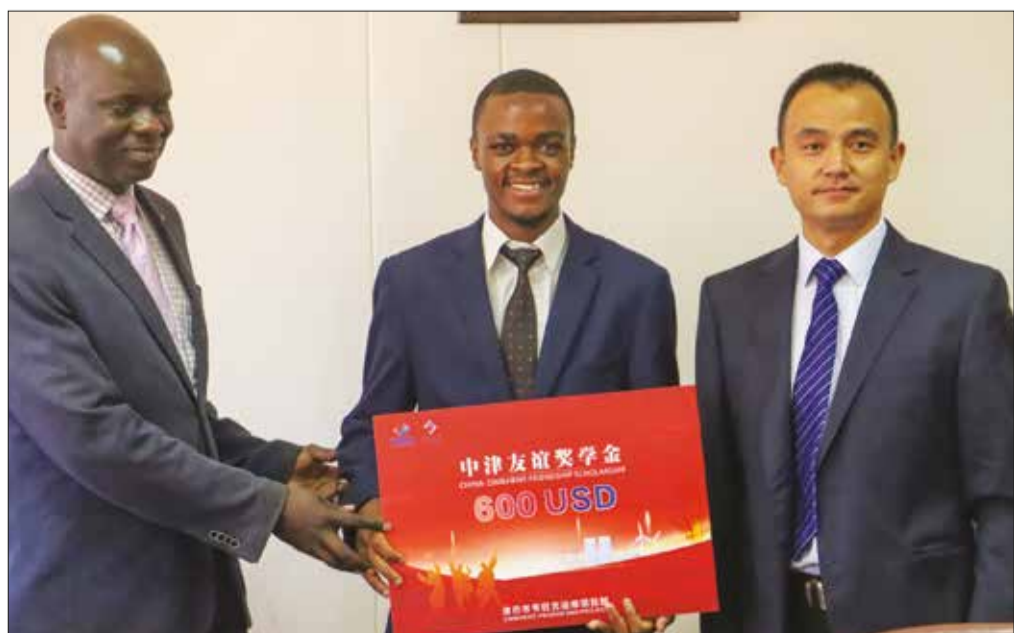
These sentiments were also expressed by the Assistant to the VC, Dr. Julius Tapera who said it is the hope of LSU that this partnership with Sino Hydro will yield

more results in the future, considering that this institution is planning on establishing a solar energy production plant.

Sino Hydro was contracted in 2014 after the Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC) won a \$1,1 billion deal with it for the expansion of the Hwange Thermal Power Station.

The deal aimed at increasing the power station’s capacity in generating electricity. In 2017 Sino Hydro was given 36% stake of the project and in 2023 the company started adding 300 megawatts to the national grid.

However, the country is still grappling with power shortages and Sino Hydro hopes that with its current 450 employees, 278 being local, it will be able to put an end to this predicament.







# WHAT TO STUDY AT LUPANE STATE UNIVERSITY



## FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Horticulture and Landscaping
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Soil Science
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree In Applied Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Agricultural Economics
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Special Honours Degree in Crop Science
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Environmental Sciences
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Irrigation Engineering
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Food and Agricultural Products Processing
- Master of Science Degree in Crop Science
- Diploma in Agribusiness
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Crop Science
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Animal Science and Rangeland Management
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Wildlife Resources Management
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Special Honours Degree in Animal Science
- Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Forest Resources Management



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Bachelor of Education Degree in Mathematics
- Bachelor of Education Degree in English and Communication
- Bachelor of Education Degree in Agriculture
- Bachelor of Education Degree in Geography
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies
- Diploma in Development Studies
- Bachelor of Social Science Special Honours Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation
- Bachelor of Science Special Honours Degree in Urban Management Studies
- Master of Science Degree in Development Studies
- Diploma in Youth & Community Development Studies
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Urban and Regional Planning
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Anthropology
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Sociology
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Peace, Conflict and Security Studies
- Master of Social Science Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation
- Master of Science in Public Policy and Development Management
- Master of Science Degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Language and Communication Studies
- Diploma in Court Interpreting and Translation
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in IsiNdebele
- Diploma in Applied Language Studies
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Applied Language Studies
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Language and Communication Studies
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Film, Television and Media Studies
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Theatre, Performance and Media Technologies
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Tonga Language and Culture Studies
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree SeSotho Language
- Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree Kalanaga Language
- Bachelor of Social Science Honours Degree in Geography and Population Studies
- Diploma in Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Remote Sensing



## FACULTY OF COMMERCE

- Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Accounting and Finance
- Master of Science Degree in Accounting and Finance
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Real Estate Management
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Banking and Finance
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Hospitality and Tourism
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Economics
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Marketing Management
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Entrepreneurship
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Entrepreneurship
- Master of Business Leadership
- Bachelor Of Commerce Special Honours Degree In Procurement And Supply Chain Management
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree Supply Chain Management
- Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Management
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Human Resource Management



## FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Business Computing
- Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Engineering Honours Degree in Production Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering Honours Degree in Mechatronics Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering Honours Degree in Fuels and Energy Engineering

# LSU campus life conducive to students' excellence

By Michelle Moyo

Lupane State University (LSU)'s campus community provides the perfect setting for students to excel academically, socially, and personally. The university's residential students reap numerous benefits, shaping their university journey.

This initiative aims to promote the institution's vibrant campus life, showcasing student experiences and success stories, as well as the numerous benefits of living on campus.

By highlighting the university's unique community and culture, this effort seeks to inform prospective students about LSU's advantages and encourage them to consider joining the community.

Additionally, this project aims to inform current students about the array of resources and opportunities available to them, fostering a deeper engagement with campus life. Ultimately, the goal is to inspire students to make the most

of their university experience and cultivate a lasting sense of community and pride among students and alumni alike.

In a survey conducted by the Campus Newsletter, one student, Faith Ncube, revealed that her favorite aspect of campus life is being part of the Christian Union (CU).

"The CU has provided me with a sense of community and spiritual growth. Through evening prayers and mid-week and Sunday services," she said.

She also mentioned that the university's location in Lupane, Matabeleland North, has provided a unique setting for her studies, freeing her from urban distractions and enabling her to concentrate on her academic pursuits.

"When socialising with other students who partake in CU discussions, most students open about their struggles with anxiety, and we are collectively offered support and prayers. "Also, the university library has been an invaluable re-



source for me. The library's quiet atmosphere and helpful staff have enabled me to focus on research and study.

"I appreciate the extended hours during exam periods, which allows me to study without distractions", said Ncube.

Ncube explained that the institution has helped her to interact with students from various ethnic backgrounds on different customs, languages, and traditions, for example, Tonga and Shona.

Another student, Prince Ndlovu explained that his favorite aspect of campus life is definitely the vibrant community for example fitness club every single morning from 0515am to 0700am and as well in the evening from 1900 hours to 2000 hours.

"LSU's location in Lupane has given me

a unique perspective on rural Zimbabwean life.

"The scenic views and tranquil atmosphere create an ideal study environment. Plus, school engagement projects like film documentaries and other film and television projects as our learning areas have allowed me to connect with local residents", he added.

Ndlovu emphasised that the library has been useful to his academic work. The extensive collection and helpful staff have made research a breeze, which has contributed to his learning.

Mainza Mudenda, another student, emphasised that LSU's location is particularly beneficial, as it is the only university in Matabeleland North, allowing local stu-

dents to attend university without having to travel long distances to institutions like NUST and MSU.

"Library and laboratories help us to have access to strong Internet connections through ethernet and computers to type our assignments", she said.

Through its dedication to fostering academic achievement, social responsibility, and emotional intelligence, LSU has become a beacon for students seeking a transformative university experience.

By highlighting the successes and stories of its residential students, this feature showcases the university's unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders and change-makers.



**"AI "is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy".**

generative AI or genAI where there is "deep learning models that can create complex original content – such as long-form text, high-quality images, realistic video or audio and more – in response to a users' prompt or request" added Stryker and Kaylakoglu

These developments have been welcomed by many users. Some of the common AI tools include ChatGPT and GPT-4, Microsoft Copilot, BERT, Bard, Meta AI, Midjourney, Gemini, Adobe Firefly 3 and InVideo.

According to Barbara von der Osten who writes for the rockcontent blog, AI brings along a lot of advantages to its users.

"These include diminishing human errors if programmed well, saving time by making decisions faster, taking risky tasks that are dangerous to humans, processing large sets of data quickly and doing tasks 24/7."

However, AI tools are not immune to threats and criticisms, making them questionable innovations.

They have been criticised for lack of transparency and explainability which "can make it challenging to determine how AI systems arrive at certain decisions or predictions".

Osten also says these tools are a threat to human job opportunities and at the same time they promote laziness where we "use our brains less to memorise, strategise, and solve issues on our own. The effects this may have on future generations may be vast if left unacknowledged".

Other downfalls of the tools include limitations to incorporate ethics and morality, absence of human emotional range, lack of creative ability and threatening privacy and data security

In line with such observations the Public Service Commission (PSC) Communications, Advocacy and Content Development general

manager Dr, Amos Wutawunashe, indicated that he attended a conference overseas where countries argued that AI came before they could control it.

He was speaking during the recently held PSC public lecture held at LSU Lupane campus. He questioned how universities are dealing with AI.

In response, the acting vice chancellor, Dr. Thulani Dube said despite some benefits that AI brings, it has been a bit problematic as it encourages students to plagiarise.

He, however said lecturers are intelligent enough to detect work that has not acknowledged sources of information. Additionally, the university subscribes and uses platforms like Turnitin to detect plagiarism in students' work. He also said there is a need for a policy and investment to guard against harm that AI tools can potentially do to academic work.

LSU's Acting Librarian Mrs Hlomphang Pangeti said in spite of the threats that AI poses, it comes along with benefits such as saving time when doing research, summarising huge amounts of data and supplying relevant information.

The Acting Chairperson of the Languages, Media and Communications Studies Ms Saneliswe Sibanda also added that media professionals benefit a lot from using AI tools because they make it easier and quicker to create content, write, edit, analyse and publish.

Nevertheless, the question on whether AI should be regulated still remains, especially with the predictions that in the next evolution of the WWW machines will not only do human work, but tell what humans should do.

Therefore, academics and academic institutions should start thinking and tabulating policies that can help in regulating the use of AI in education.

# Taming the wild: Should AI be regulated in academic institutions?

By Jennings Joy Chibike and Thembelani Moyo

While technological advancements have always drawn enormous interests, with Internet-based applications wooing a considerable number of users, the recent penetration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being welcomed with mixed thoughts.

Discourses surrounding use of AI tools such as chat bots reflect both benefits and threats of this innovation especially in academic institutions.

This therefore calls for answers on whether AI should be tamed so

that it does not harm or compromise academic delivery and performance.

For instance, one could ask a question on whether students should use AI to do their academic work or they should use it to complement the already existing knowledge available both on offline and online sources.

AI which is inspired by the technological evolution of the World Wide Web (www) with stages web 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 concerns a phase where information communication technologies (ICT) machines do jobs that were previously being done by humans.

Writing on ibm.com Cole Stryker

and Eda Kavlakoglu say AI "is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy".

"We are now at a phase of web 3.0 where applications and devices equipped with AI can see and identify objects. They can understand and respond to human language. They can learn from new information and experience. They can make detailed recommendations to users and experts. They can act independently, replacing the need for human intelligence or intervention."

This phase is referred to as the

*Lupane State University staff members take part in the national clean up campaign. The programme was launched by his Excellency President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa in 2018 and is recognised every first Friday of a new month.*



## LSU makes strides in constructing a state-of-the-art sports facility

By Blessing Khanye

Lupane State University has taken a significant leap towards enhancing its sports infrastructure with the construction of a modern sports complex at its sporting field.

The new facility boasts of separate changing rooms for male and female athletes, a fully-equipped gym, showers, toilets, kitchen amenities, a boardroom and technicians' office.

This development underscores the university's commitment to providing a holistic educational experience, recognising the importance of physical fitness and recreation in students' overall well-being.

The upgraded sports facility is expected to boost students' morale, encourage participation in extracurricular activities, and foster a sense of community on-campus.

The structure that is being built at the sport field is rooted on the idea that students must be able to utilise on-campus space instead of travelling long distances to do their training sessions.

The provisional surface where football is played is now done while other surfaces for netball, basketball and other sporting disciplines are yet to be constructed.

Water supply has already reached the site therefore students do not have to worry to rush to the hostels to find water or change during activities, because everything will be housed in one place.

The university's Administrative Assistant within the students recreational division, Mr Jabulani Mpofo has applauded LSU for taking sports to another level saying they have been sending



recommendations and it is indeed a positive development that the facility development is taking shape.

"There was always a plan for that place and it has been adopted so things that are coming up are things that are on the plan. Therefore, it is a step towards the desired outcome and surely, we are getting somewhere," he said. One student, Desire Ngwenya, who is passionate about sports was excited that when the facility is complete LSU can manage to host national sporting events.

"I am just happy that after the structure is complete, we can manage to host events like ZUSA and I think it's time to

bring it home," he said.

This development is expected to have a profound impact on LSU students as the sporting complex will provide a hub of socialisation, recreation and relaxation, fostering a sense of community and belonging and mostly important the improved physical health and promoting overall wellbeing. Meanwhile the LSU men and women's cricket team recently participated in the ZUSA Cluster 3 games that were held at the Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences. The men's team which was the defending champions was eliminated at the group stages just like their female counterparts.

## Majazi retains the Sports Association chairmanship

Mr Bekithemba "Majazi" Ndlovu, has retained his position as the Staff Sports Association Chairperson following elections that were held this October at the Lupane campus.

Riding on previous triumphs such as successfully organising the participation of LSU in the 2024 chancellor's games, the new membership is hoping to persuade more staff members to partake in sporting activities.

Mr. Ndlovu previously said the administration declared Wednesday a sports day, where every staff member is free to participate in sporting disciplines of choice after lunch.

"Our task is to organise the participation of staff members in various competitions. The participation is low and we urge members to consider taking part especially after Wednesday was set as a sport day," he said.

The new members of the association are as follows:

1. **Chairperson** - **Bekithemba Ndlovu**
2. **Vice-Chairperson** - **Linda Mugabe**
3. **Secretary** - **Patrick Nkiwane**
4. **Vice-Secretary** - **Simakahle Mangena**
5. **Treasurer** - **Hloniphani Mlotshwa**
6. **Marketer** - **Diligent Nyathi**
7. **Committee Members** - **Mbuso Sibanda, Fourpence Mukoko, Captain Mangena and Marvelous Dlamini.**

However, because of obstacles related to finance and transport, the members have a critical role to play so that LSU successfully participates and host various national tournaments.

