



CONDOLENCES - DR OLIVER DAIRAI MTUKUDZI



Dr Oliver Dairai Mtukudzi delivering his Acceptance Speech after being conferred with the Doctor of Ethnomusicology and Choreography (HONORIS CAUSA) degree from Great Zimbabwe University on 31st October 2014.

Great Zimbabwe University, the Centre of Excellence in Arts, Culture and Heritage Studies, joins the rest of the nation in celebrating the life of a legend whose music has cut across generations, inspiring, entertaining and educating the society. The University is particularly honoured to have Dr Oliver Dairai Mtukudzi as its alumnus.

On the 31st of October 2014, Great Zimbabwe University conferred Mtukudzi with a Doctor of Ethnomusicology and Choreography (HONORIS CAUSA) degree in recognition of a man who was an icon of Africanness, African resurgence and African consciousness. Dr Mtukudzi's music was not only raw talent or business but an embodiment of the nation's culture and heritage. Dr Mtukudzi's music evolved from the exclusive use of modern electrical instruments to the use of African traditional instruments like the mbira and marimba, although his acoustic guitar and cough still carried the distinctive rhythmic force of his music. His devout use of African instruments represents the preservation and celebration of African

culture, heritage and creative arts, which constitute Great Zimbabwe University's forte. Hence, the recognition by Great Zimbabwe University Council and Senate of the legendary work produced and lived by Dr Mtukudzi.

Due to his consistency in tackling socio-economic issues through music, Dr Mtukudzi endeared himself to many who regarded him as mentor, role model and father. It also resonates with the University's mandate to create employment through the performing arts. Throughout his long career, he worked in countless collaborations with young artists nurturing and developing them into focused artists and business people.

Great Zimbabwe University shares with the Mtukudzi family this moment of grief and sends its deepest condolences to Mrs Daisy Mtukudzi, the children and entire Mtukudzi family, friends, music fraternity, and his fans during this time of bereavement.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

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