

## **GZU RESPONSES TO COVID-19**

On Monday 30 March 2020, the Minister of State for Masvingo Provincial Affairs Hon. Ezra Chadzamira commissioned Great Zimbabwe University's hand sanitizer production project.

As its response to the COVID-19 outbreak, GZU, through its Schools of Natural Sciences and Education and Culture, is producing hand sanitizers and face masks. The project aims to produce hand sanitizers and face masks that are required by the University and Masvingo community as a whole. Dr Isaac Nyambiya, from the School of Natural Sciences, is leading this project.

Speaking at the ceremony to commission the project, Professor Zvobgo said that the world was in a state of war because of COVID-19. He said that the war must be fought and won on all fronts. The Vice Chancellor said that it was the role of universities to be "hotspots for solutions" in times of crises such as now. Professor Zvobgo said that the production of the hand sanitizers and the face masks was part of GZU's contribution towards efforts to end the threat posed by COVID-19 outbreak. The Vice Chancellor thanked Tongaat Hulleths for providing GZU with ethanol which is being used in the production of hand sanitizers.

Honourable Chadzamira said the project by GZU was a welcome gesture which was in line with the call by the President, Cde E.D. Mnangagwa, to mobilise domestic resources to adequately respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. He thanked GZU for playing a significant role in civic protection by producing the sanitizers and the face masks. Honourable Chadzamira hailed the partnership that GZU has forged with Tongaat Hullett to produce the sanitizer saying that public and private partnerships are a clear solution to emerging challenges that the world is facing. Accepting the donation, the Masvingo Provincial Medical Director, Dr Amadeus Shamu said the initiative by GZU would go a long way in solving the need for hand sanitizers and face masks in the province.



**The School of Natural Sciences is producing sanitizers as its contribution to the fight against the COVID-19 scourge.**