



PRESS STATEMENT: GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

Following recent social media reports that Great Zimbabwe University has been forced to close down due to the outbreak of COVID-19 at the institution, we wish to assure all our students, members of staff and stakeholders that:

- Great Zimbabwe University has not closed down and is operating in accordance with WHO and Zimbabwean Government COVID-19 guidelines,
- On Tuesday, 29 June 2021, the University advised Level 2 students to vacate University premises, including their halls of residence, two days earlier than the end of their month-long face-to-face lectures. The face-to-face block ran from the 7th of June to the 2nd of July 2021. The group was asked to leave in order to allow the University enough time to fumigate and disinfect all teaching and learning facilities, before the scheduled arrival of Level 4 students, on Monday 5 July 2021.
- In terms of the phased approach to teaching and learning, Level 4 students were due to arrive on Campus on Sunday, 4 July 2021, for month-long face to face lectures. However, following the announcement of a two-week Level 4 Lockdown by His Excellency, President E.D. Mnangagwa on Tuesday, 29 June 2021, physical lectures have been suspended until further notice, therefore all teaching and learning will continue online.
- Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) is closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, and will continue to abide by the national directives as advised by the Ministry of Health and Child Care. The public is hereby advised that the University is open and operational and will continue to operate within the confines of Government regulations. The university is in regular contact with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, parent Ministry and other universities in Zimbabwe so that it does not act out of sync with the rest of its counterparts. The University' top priority remains the health, safety, and well-being of its community, on and off campus.
- GZU has since March 2020 been a key player in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the country by producing the much-needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and sanitisers for the public and frontline health workers, in compliance with the World Health Organisation and Government Protocols for managing the pandemic.
- Since the outbreak of the virus in March 2020, GZU has put in place the following measures to control the spread of the virus:
 - fumigation of all University facilities every Friday
 - daily fumigation of all buses in the evening
 - provision of masks and sanitisers to all employees and as a matter of policy, require all employees to wear masks all the time.
 - temperature checks at all entry points
 - reduction of numbers of members of staff reporting for duty at any particular time to allow for social distancing.
 - workers have been reporting for duty in rotations
 - implementation of a phased approach to physical lectures at any given time in order to manage student numbers on campus.
 - full implementation of blended learning.
 - implementation of working from home for most administrative work and holding meetings virtually.

In addition to these specific measures that the University is taking, the general measures announced by government equally apply to all at Great Zimbabwe University. Let us all stay safe as a University, and along with our community, keep COVID-19 at bay.

Great Zimbabwe University - Knowledge, Culture, Development

Released by the University Information and Public Relations Department

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