

IN THIS ISSUE:

Vice Chancellor's Address Caps Orientation Week

CIMMIC Conference:Advances in Statistical Modelling and AI Applications

2025 Winter School on Human Rights

The Winning Streak

Inaugural Girls' Dialogue Summit



GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY

GZU holds 5th Annual General Meeting



The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Honourable Ambassador Dr Frederick Shava, reviews the 2024 Annual Report as GZU Council member Mrs Teclah Ponde, standing in for Chairperson Professor Mandivamba Rukuni, and Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo look on.

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) recently held its 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development (MHTEISTD) boardroom in Harare. The University received commendation from government officials and stakeholders for its governance practices, financial accountability, and institutional progress in 2024.

The meeting was officiated by the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Ambassador Dr Frederick Shava, who praised the university for adhering to statutory obligations and maintaining a disciplined approach to management. He described GZU as a well-structured public entity operating in line with national policy and legislative frameworks.

The Minister said that GZU had once again received an unqualified audit opinion for the 2024 financial year, extending its record of sound financial reporting. He said this continued trend was evidence of strong fiscal oversight and accountability to stakeholders.

In his policy remarks, the Minister urged the university to proceed with the construction of its main administration block along Mutare Road and to accelerate the development of infrastructure for technical and engineering programmes. He encouraged the institution to grow its

third income stream through product and service commercialisation, and reiterated government support for ongoing capital projects, including the university hospital and the Innovation Centre for Excellence in Dryland Agriculture.

He also reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting GZU's collaboration with government in converting Masvingo Provincial Hospital into a teaching facility for its medical programme.

Presenting the Chairman's Report on behalf of Council Chair Professor Mandivamba Rukuni, Mrs Teclah Ponde stated that the university remains aligned with national development goals under Vision 2030 and the Heritage-Based Education 5.0 model.

Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo presented the 2024 Operational Report, which covered progress under the university's three strategic pillars: Policy and Governance, Skills Development, and Science, Technology and

Innovation for Industrialisation.

Registrar Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo confirmed that the university was in full compliance with corporate governance requirements.

Delivering the vote of thanks on behalf of the Deputy Chairperson of Council, Mrs Patronella Musarurwa, Dr Perpetua Gumbo assured the Ministry that the university would act on the policy guidance received and continue implementing priority programmes.

Stakeholders at the AGM expressed strong approval of the university's performance. Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE) Chief Executive Officer, Professor Kuzvinetsa Dzvimbo, said GZU had demonstrated consistent progress across its core mandates. He cited the Chivi Agro-Innovation Project as an effective model for community-based development.

Senior officials in the Ministry acknowledged the university's efforts in advancing research, innovation, and alternative income generation.

Vice Chancellor's Address Caps Orientation Week

Great Zimbabwe University welcomed its new crop of students for the August 2025 semester recently. The orientation programme which took a whole week from 4-8 August 2025 featured a series of informative presentations from key university departments and several stakeholders who also partnered with the university to enrich the orientation experience. The programme ended with a vibrant Vice Chancellors address held at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education.

The event brought together newly enrolled students, members of the university management, staff, and



Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor David Chikodzi giving the Vice Chancellor's Address



...continued on page 2

GZU takes stock of 2025 progress at Strategic Review Workshop



The three-day Mid-Year Strategic Review Workshop at Great Zimbabwe University brought together members of the University Council, Executive leadership, Management team, and officials from the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development.

Great Zimbabwe University hosted its Mid-Year Strategic Review Workshop at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education from 9 to 11 July 2025. The three-day workshop brought together representatives from the University Council, the Executive, Management, and officials from the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development. With guidance from the Public Service

Commission, the participants undertook a thorough assessment of GZU's progress during the first half of 2025. The programme centred on evaluating how well GZU had advanced toward its strategic goals, considering performance under the Performance-Based Management and Programme-Based Budgeting

frameworks, as well as assessing academic and administrative outcomes. The meeting also identified obstacles affecting delivery and developed concrete proposals to guide operations through the remainder of the year. Throughout the workshop, emphasis was placed on using empirical data to inform decisions and maintain alignment with Zimbabwe's national ambitions, especially Vision 2030 and National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1). In his address, Vice-Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo stressed the need to step back, examine the institution's trajectory, and make deliberate course corrections where necessary. He reaffirmed the university's commitment to becoming "a Pan-African university championing heritage-based scholarship and modernisation or industrialisation," noting that this vision must remain fully integrated with national development priorities. Actionable outcomes from the workshop deliberations will feed directly into the University's operational planning for the second half of 2025 and beyond.

Vice Chancellor's Address Caps Orientation Week

...continued from page from page 1

invited guests in a packed auditorium filled with excitement and anticipation for the academic journey ahead. Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo, in his speech read by Pro Vice Chancellor Professor David Chikodzi, extended a warm welcome to the new group of students, acknowledging that their admission to the University of Choice marks the start of a transformative chapter in their lives. In his address, he reminded students that university is a rare privilege which should not be taken for granted. "You have come here to be moulded and nurtured into responsible and productive citizens," he said. He urged them to value the opportunities presented to them, noting that while joining GZU represents newfound independence, it also comes with significant responsibilities. "The decisions you make today will form the foundation of your future," he emphasised. Professor Chikodzi described the orientation programme as a vital bridge into university life, designed to equip students with the skills and confidence needed to meet both academic and social challenges. He encouraged students to seek support whenever needed, assuring them that the university is committed to helping each individual realise their full potential. The Vice Chancellor's Address was met with enthusiastic applause, reflecting the optimism and determination among the new students. The day closed on a high note, with students expressing readiness to embrace the learning, growth, and opportunities that lie ahead. Welcome to Great Zimbabwe University – the University of Choice.



New students following proceedings



Performance from the GZU traditional dance group

Professor Tagwira tours GZU facilities

Great Zimbabwe University hosted the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Professor Fanuel Tagwira, for an inspection tour ahead of the institution's 2025 Graduation Ceremony.

During the visit, Professor Tagwira assessed progress on key strategic projects, starting with the state-of-the-art Mashava Specialist Hospital. Designed to serve as both a training facility for GZU's medical students and a health resource for the Masvingo Province, the hospital is nearing readiness for commissioning. The initiative signals GZU's growing role in delivering practical solutions to national healthcare needs.

Professor Tagwira also toured the Innovation Centre of Excellence in Dryland Agriculture (ICEDA), a flagship development that is fast taking shape. Once operational, the centre is expected to lead cutting-edge research and sustainable farming solutions tailored to Zimbabwe's dryland regions.

In a key announcement during the visit, Professor Tagwira revealed that the Ministry now possesses its own construction equipment and it is available for use by public institutions. He noted that the development accelerates infrastructure projects at universities and colleges while significantly cutting construction costs.



From left; Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo and Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Professor Fanuel Tagwira touring the Mashava Specialist Hospital

CIMMIC Conference: Advances in Statistical Modelling and AI Applications

The Second International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Mathematical Modelling for Industry and Commerce (CIMMIC), was hosted by Great Zimbabwe University in Victoria Falls recently. The conference attracted researchers, academics and industry experts from across the region and beyond, highlighting the University's growing role in promoting cutting edge research, innovations and academic programmes tailored to support sustainable farming practices

Presentations focused on advances in statistical modelling, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies relevant to both industry and the public sector. The programme featured parallel sessions in three thematic groups: mathematical modelling and AI, finance and cybersecurity, and ICT and big data.

Research topics included machine learning applications in Industry 4.0, the use of AI in medical physics, augmented reality in consumer engagement, and cybersecurity strategies in sectors such as telecommunications, hospitality, and higher education. Other presentations addressed data analytics for strategic decision-making, AI adoption in corporate settings, and the use of deep learning in land use monitoring.

Additional sessions explored predictive modelling in agriculture, simulation techniques for resource processing, and tools for forecasting tobacco yield. Several papers examine the resilience of Zimbabwe's digital financial platforms to cyber threats and evaluate institutional readiness for AI integration.

Leadership and education were also under discussion, with presentations covering digital transformation in tertiary institutions, complexity leadership for academic administrators, and strategies for incorporating technology in legal education.

The conference ended with a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing collaboration between academia, government, and industry, and promoting innovation aligned with national development goals.



The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation Science and Technology Development, Ambassador Frederick Shava adressesses delegate at the CIMMIC conference



Touring of exhibitions by CIMMIC delegation

2025 Winter School on Human Rights



The Winter School in session at the Herbert Chitepo Law School Moot Court

Great Zimbabwe University's Herbert Chitepo Law School proudly hosted the second week of the 2025 Winter School on Human Rights from Monday, 6 July to Friday, 11 July 2025.

The Winter School, which had earlier opened a week earlier at Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University continued at GZU with a week-long programme focused on legal education, critical debate, and applied learning in the field of human rights.

The programme brought together leading human rights scholars and practitioners from across Africa and beyond. Participants explored a range of thematic areas including cultural diversity and regional approaches to human rights, the rights of children, disability rights and access to justice,

minority rights, international humanitarian law in conflict situations, and the role of legal education in community outreach through Street Law initiatives.

Throughout the week, facilitators gave guidance to law students through intensive academic sessions and practical exercises. One of the central components of the programme was the Street Law Exercise, in which students designed and prepared rights-based education activities for delivery to local communities. This component encouraged the application of legal knowledge beyond the classroom in ways that directly engages and benefit the public.

The Winter School is organised in partnership with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, whose continued support makes this initiative possible.

The 2025 Winter School on Human Rights concluded, with sessions where participants deeply engaged, with the experiences and insights gained throughout the week which shaped their future contributions to justice and human rights in their respective countries.

Portfolio Committee on Information, Media, and Broadcasting Services visits GZU Campus Radio

The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Information, Media, and Broadcasting Services recently visited GZU Campus Radio to assess its operations and identify areas for improvement. The engagement formed part of broader efforts to enhance the performance of campus and community radio stations throughout the country.

The visit aimed to appreciate the role played by campus and community radios in fostering community identity, promoting local culture, supporting socio-economic development, and disseminating information. It also sought to gain insights into the operational aspects of campus radio stations, including programming, equipment, content creation, and dissemination. Furthermore, the Committee intended to understand the challenges faced by such stations and provide recommendations to strengthen their operations.

During the visit, Members of Parliament engaged in an interactive session with the GZU Campus Radio staff, discussing the station's activities and its impact on both the university and the surrounding community. The Chairperson of the Committee, Honourable Caston



Honourable C. Matewu addresses delegates at the Campus Radio Station

Matewu, said that the Committee's mission was to support and enhance the operations of campus and community radio stations so they can better serve their audiences.

"This is an excellent broadcasting media laboratory. We want students from this institution to succeed and thrive in the broadcasting industry," said Honourable Matewu.

The Winning Streak



After a two-year hiatus, Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) made a spectacular return to the Lowveld Agricultural Show, held from 31 July to 2 August 2025. The University's participation was crowned with a prestigious gold medal and a Certificate of Excellence after its exhibition was adjudged the best in the tertiary institutions category.

The 2025 edition of the show ran under the theme “Legacy of the Lowveld: Celebrating Smart Agriculture and Innovation,” offering GZU a fitting platform to showcase its academic excellence, innovation, and deep-rooted commitment to community development.

GZU's vibrant and engaging stand featured a wide range of academic programmes, on-the-spot enrolment opportunities, and interactive sessions with prospective students and visitors. The University's team was on hand to offer guidance on study options and career pathways, creating a welcoming environment for those interested in joining the GZU family.

The University's contributions to the agricultural development of the Lowveld were also highlighted, particularly its work in equipping local sugarcane farmers with technical knowledge and research-backed solutions aimed at improving productivity and sustainability.

Adding to the excitement was GZU Campus Radio, which broadcast live from the exhibition stand, engaging audiences with interviews, music, and real-time updates.

Visitors also had the opportunity to purchase traditional mealie meal produced by the University.

GZU's outstanding performance at the show affirms its place as a forward-looking, people-centred institution dedicated to excellence in education, research, and service.



Gold Medal for the 2025 Lowveld Show

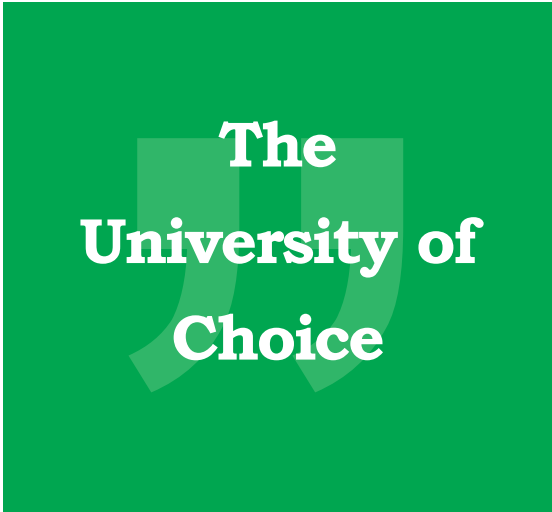


Bronze medal for Scholastica 2025



Proud GZU staff members showcase their accolades at the Scholastica 2025 exhibition

Moreover, the University was honoured with a bronze medal at the Scholastica Exhibition 2025, held at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) Grounds from 30 July to 01 August, for being the third most interactive exhibitor at the event. The university's stand distinguished itself through engaging presentations and hands-on demonstrations that effectively showcased its academic programmes and research innovations. Visitors were attracted to the stand's dynamic atmosphere, which encouraged active participation and meaningful dialogue with GZU representatives.



Law School students reimagining legal education for digital age



Jubilee Sibanda, Project Assistant AI and Robotics, leading the discussions

A quiet but powerful shift went on at Great Zimbabwe University's Herbert Chitepo Law School recently. Far from the traditional lecture halls and dusty casebooks, students are pioneering a new era in legal education—one that embraces technology, innovation, and the reimagining of justice in a digital world.

At the centre of this change is the AI and the Law Working Group, a student-led initiative. The group meets weekly to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming legal practice, governance, and access to justice. Their goal is ambitious: to not only understand the future of law but to help shape it.

That momentum surged with a landmark workshop titled “Rethinking the Future of Law: Innovation at the Core.” The event was facilitated by Jubilee Sibanda, an innovation advocate from the Great Zimbabwe University Innovation Hub, and brought fresh energy and perspective to the student movement.

Sibanda challenged participants to look beyond traditional legal roles. “Today's law students must think like entrepreneurs, tech innovators, and policy designers,” he said. “They must move beyond interpreting the law to imagining and creating new systems of justice.”

This mind set is already taking root at the Law School. The 2025 AI and the Law Working Group has grown into more than a campus project—it is a model for how legal education in Africa can be transformed. With students driving the agenda and academic mentors offering support, the initiative represents a living prototype of legal education that blends theory, innovation, and action.

Inside this initiative, students are rethinking the foundations of legal practice. They are questioning outdated systems, designing human-centred justice frameworks, and experimenting with digital tools to make legal services more accessible. And it is all happening right here in Zimbabwe.

At the helm of the 2025 Working Group is an energetic Executive Committee. Makanaka Nyabvure serves as President, with Tanaka Poshiwa as Vice President, Mavada Tanaka as Secretary, and Tinotenda Chemhuru leading public relations. Mande Blessing oversees ICT, supported by Tinashe Chigomba and Chimbura Courage in Hospitality. The Procurement and Hospitality team includes Mangisi Lillian, Sithabile Claire Tshuma, and Paula Nyatanga, while Musiwarwo Tsitsi heads Resource Mobilisation.

Behind the scenes, an Advisory Committee—comprising Muyambo Tinotenda, Thilivhali Vanessa Msipa, and Dorcas Makanganise—helps guide the group's activities. The academic direction is provided by a panel of respected legal educators: Emerge Masiya, Douglas Musebenzi, and Tapiwa Moon.

Together, these students and mentors are redefining what legal education can be. They are showing that Africa's future lawyers do not just need to adapt to change—they can lead it.

As the AI and the Law Working Group continues to grow, so too does its potential to influence legal education across the country and the region. From Masvingo to the continent and beyond, the message is clear: the future of law is here—and it is student-led.

High School students explore academic opportunities at GZU

Great Zimbabwe University recently hosted students and teachers from Marange High School and Sila Academy Group of Schools on an educational tour.

As part of their visit, the schools explored the Innovation Hub, where they drew inspiration from the various innovations and products on display. They were also briefed on the degree programmes offered at the University, including entry requirements, career opportunities, and entrepreneurial prospects available after graduation.

Great Zimbabwe University was pleased to share its vibrant academic environment and hopes to see some of these bright minds return as students in the near future.



Sila Academy Group of Schools pose for a photo after a tour of campuses



Marange High School pose for a photo at the innovation hub

Girl Child shines at POTRAZ Innovation Drive Final Ideathon 2025 Challenge



Rudo Tania Nyamarambwe receives her certificate from the Honourable Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services, Honourable Tatenda Mavetera.



In a remarkable demonstration of talent, dedication, and leadership, Rudo T. Nyamarambwe, a student in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Great Zimbabwe University, proudly represented GZU and team at the 2025 POTRAZ Innovation Drive Ideathon. Held recently at the Urban Lifestyle Hotel in Masvingo, the event brought together the brightest young minds from across Zimbabwe, competing with ground breaking ideas to address some of the nation's most pressing challenges.

Rudo, leading her team alongside Calvin Rondoza and Monica Madyembwa, showcased exceptional skill and innovation that earned them a place among the Top 6 finalists out of a highly competitive national pool, in the Public Service Sector. This achievement was not only a personal milestone but a powerful message affirming that the voices of students, particularly girls in STEM, are being heard and valued at the highest levels of innovation and governance.

Presenting before a panel of distinguished adjudicators, including environmental experts, technology entrepreneurs, academic mentors, and the Honourable Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services, Tatenda Mavetera. Rudo demonstrated not only technical brilliance but also the courage and confidence to stand tall on a national stage. Her presentation was more than a pitch; it was a declaration that young women can and should lead technological and scientific innovation in Zimbabwe.

Rudo was awarded a certificate and a medal in recognition of her outstanding participation. These accolades stand as symbols of her perseverance and growth, and they shine a light on the limitless potential of women and girls in STEM fields. This accomplishment serves as a call to action for all female students: take the bold step to engage in such challenges, embrace mentorship, and let your talents flourish.

The pivotal role of mentorship was evident throughout the ideathon, with Ms. Monica Madyembwa providing invaluable guidance and support to the team. Her encouragement helped refine their ideas and strengthen their resolve, illustrating the vital importance of experienced lecturers and innovators who nurture the next generation of leaders. We urge universities and institutions to continue fostering these mentorship relationships as essential pillars for student success.

Great Zimbabwe University and the POTRAZ Innovation Drive Ideathon have shown that with passion, determination, and support, Zimbabwean youth especially our girl child can excel on national stages and beyond. Use this inspiration as a springboard. Capitalize on the wealth of knowledge from your lecturers, learn from your peers, and step confidently into leadership roles in STEM.

Remember, greatness is built on courage, collaboration, and the conviction to dream big. Let Rudo Nyamarambwe's journey inspire you to take that next step forward.

Empowering inclusion at the 2025 National Disability Expo



Disability Resource Officer, Mrs Tatenda Moyo interacting with visitors at the stand

Great Zimbabwe University proudly participated in the 2025 National Disability Expo recently held at Chinotimba Stadium in Victoria Falls. The annual expo, which brings together various stakeholders in disability advocacy and support, was held under the theme: “Accelerating Disability Inclusion – Now a Collective Responsibility.”

As an institution committed to inclusive education, GZU took the opportunity to showcase its ongoing efforts towards promoting disability inclusion in higher and tertiary education. The University continues to uphold its policy of offering equal access, support, and services to all students, regardless of physical ability.

There were captivating and inspiring displays from students living with physical disabilities, who demonstrated not only their academic potential but also their creativity

The university offers diverse programmes, support services, and inclusive initiatives that make Great Zimbabwe University a welcoming institution for all.

Cultural exchange, UJ students explore GZU



UJ students enjoy a thrilling performance by GZU traditional dance group

On June 28, 2025, Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) welcomed 51 students and four lecturers from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) as part of UJ's Africa by Bus Initiative. This immersive programme, launched in 2017, takes students and staff on road trips across Southern Africa to promote Pan-African learning through travel, lectures, and cultural activities.

During their visit, the delegation attended a lecture on Pan-Africanism by Mr. Joweri Mukusha from GZU's Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and

Education. Mr. Mukusha emphasized that Pan-Africanism transcends education, politics, culture, and economics, urging international bodies to support Pan-African values.

The visit also included campus tours and interactive sessions, fostering academic exchange and strengthening ties between the two institutions. UJ students and staff expressed gratitude for GZU's hospitality and the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue.

Showcasing GZU's contribution to regional development



GZU exhibition stand at the SADC Joint Meeting of Ministers of Education and Training, and Science, Technology and Innovation at Rainbow Towers

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) actively participated in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Joint Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Education and Training, and Science, Technology and Innovation, held in Harare recently. The university presented its initiatives and research contributions, aligning with SADC's commitment to fostering a knowledge-based economy through inclusive education and innovation. This engagement underscores GZU's role in advancing regional development and supporting the SADC Industrialisation Strategy.



NVCCZ explores strategic collaboration with GZU



NVCCZ delegates group photo with Innovation Hub specialists.

The University recently hosted a high-level delegation from the National Venture Capital Company of Zimbabwe (NVCCZ) on a strategic visit to explore possible areas of collaboration. The visit began with a meeting at the Herbert Chitepo Law School Boardroom. It marked an important step in GZU's efforts to turn research from its Innovation Hub and Innovation Centre of Excellence in Dryland Agriculture into commercial products. Speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo, Executive Dean of the Munhumutapa School of Business Sciences, Professor Talkmore Saungweme welcomed the delegation. He outlined GZU's innovation model and its commitment to supporting Zimbabwe's industrial transformation. "We follow the national vision that sees universities

as key drivers of industrialisation and digital transformation," said Prof Saungweme. "Our aim is to turn ideas into scalable, market-ready products. But we cannot do it alone. We need strong partners like NVCCZ who bring funding and investment knowledge." He explained that GZU's model includes students, staff, and local communities in developing and testing ideas. He also highlighted ongoing projects in digital technology and agriculture that need investment to grow. The NVCCZ delegation said their role is to help move tested innovations into the market. They noted that many universities in Zimbabwe are producing good ideas, but most struggle to reach commercialisation due to limited funding and

support. NVCCZ is looking for high-impact projects that are scalable, solve real problems, and can succeed commercially. The team expressed interest in GZU's dryland agriculture projects and digital innovations. After the meeting, the delegation toured the University's Innovation Hub and the Innovation Centre of Excellence in Dryland Agriculture in Chivi. They interacted with project teams and gained a better understanding of GZU's innovation efforts. The visit ended with both parties agreeing to begin talks on forming a partnership that will help bring GZU's innovations to market and support national development.

ZNA senior officers on benchmarking visit



ZNA officers wrap up their tour with a group photo alongside Innovation Hub specialists.



Innovation Hub Director Dr Desmond Mugadza shares insights with visiting senior Zimbabwe National Army officers

Great Zimbabwe University hosted a high-level delegation from the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) on a benchmarking visit. The visit aimed to enable the ZNA to draw valuable insights from GZU's innovation ecosystem as it prepares to establish its own Innovation Hub. As part of the programme, the

delegation toured the University's Innovation Hub, the Innovation Centre of Excellence in Dryland Agriculture in Chivi, and the Campus Radio Station. These centres highlight GZU's strong commitment to applied research, sustainable development, and experiential learning.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo, commended the ZNA for embracing the national innovation and industrialisation agenda. He reaffirmed the University's dedication to fostering strategic partnerships that support the goals of Education 5.0 and contribute to meaningful national transformation.

Inaugural Girls' Dialogue Summit



Registrar, Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo addresses girls at the Girls Summit

Great Zimbabwe University made history recently with the successful launch of its first-ever University Girls' Dialogue Summit, a ground breaking initiative aimed at empowering female students and dismantling the systemic barriers they face in education and leadership.

Held at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education, the summit drew scores of students and notable guests, and long-standing partners under the theme: "Empowering Girls; Empowering Humanity."

Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo, in remarks delivered on his behalf by Professor Vongai Nyawo, Director of Postgraduate Studies and Research, set an impassioned tone for the day.

"This summit is not just a discussion; it's a declaration that the voices, dreams, and potential of girls must be at the center of

shaping a more just and equitable world," said Professor Zvobgo.

He acknowledged the myriad challenges girls continue to face globally, ranging from cultural and economic obstacles to a lack of leadership opportunities, but praised their resilience and determination.

"Despite these obstacles, girls continue to show resilience, creativity, and determination. When we invest in their education and leadership, we invest in the progress of humanity as a whole," he said.

In one of the day's most inspiring moments, University Registrar Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo shared her personal journey, from a humble rural background to becoming a leading university administrator. Her story, filled with practical wisdom and resilience, resonated strongly with the young women in the audience.

Other speakers, Professor Tsitsi Nyoni, Mr Joseph Mvarecha and Pastor Madhimba also delivered

motivational presentations, drawing from personal experiences to offer guidance and hope.

Mr Murigo, the O3+ Coordinator and a key stakeholder in the summit, described the event as "an important platform for empowering the otherwise vulnerable women and girls in universities."

Student leaders also lent their voices to the cause. The Student Representative Council vice president, Precious Mugumanya, who gave a vote of thanks underscored the importance of meaningful dialogue.

"As student leaders, we recognise the power of dialogue in sparking real change. We are here to not just listen, but to actively contribute to the solutions that will shape our future," she said.

The summit served both as a vibrant platform for dialogue and a call to action.

As participants departed, many expressed a renewed sense of purpose, eager to carry the momentum forward in their own spheres of influence.



Local leaders empowered in Environmental and Animal Law



Mashava local leaders and GZU staff pose for a photo after training

The Herbert Chitepo Law School Law Clinic launched its first Environmental and Animal Law Community Outreach Programme with a visit to Mashava. The event was held under the leadership of Chief Bere and Headman Dzimba and

brought together 35 Headmen from nearby communities. The outreach focused on raising awareness of environmental rights, animal welfare, and wildlife law. These issues are especially relevant in the

area, where communities are dealing with health risks linked to mining, human-wildlife conflict, and limited understanding of animal protection laws. Law students led the sessions, each presenting on a key topic. Tinotenda Muyambo covered environmental rights, Sithabile Tshuma spoke about animal law, and Esther Magavadera discussed wildlife law. Their presentations helped local leaders learn how the law applies to their everyday challenges and what steps they can take to protect their communities and natural surroundings. The programme is a brainchild of Ms Nancy Makuvise, an animal law lecturer, and Miss Emerge Masiya, who teaches environmental law. They were joined by the Dean, Mr Nkosana Maphosa, and lecturers Mr Douglas Musebenzi and Mrs Moon. The team worked alongside the students to encourage open discussion and practical learning. During the visit, Mr Maphosa spoke about the role of traditional values in protecting the environment and animals, noting how totems have long reminded people of their connection to the natural world. Chief Bere expressed appreciation for the outreach and said his community would welcome future visits. The outreach will continue in other communities over the coming weeks and will also serve as a pilot for a new Environmental and Animal Law unit within the Law Clinic. The initiative supports the university's aim to align legal education with real-world issues and community needs, in keeping with its strategic goals and Education 5.0.

Empowering Students through Entrepreneurship



Students present their projects

The 3rd and final adjudication for Great Zimbabwe University's Causeway projects, in partnership with Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust (ZADT), marked a significant milestone in fostering entrepreneurship and self-sustainability among students. Held recently at the Herbert Chitepo Law School, nine groups of students from the

School of Natural Sciences and Gary Magadzire School of Agriculture and Engineering pitched their project proposals in a competition to secure grants. Dr. Godfrey Mutowo, lecturer in the Gary Magadzire School of Agriculture and Engineering, who gave opening remarks on behalf of the Dean of Agriculture, Dr. Xavier Poshiwa expressed

gratitude to the development partners for their support, encouraging students to seize this opportunity. This initiative promises to have a lasting impact on students passionate about farming and entrepreneurship. By equipping them with essential skills and resources, GZU is nurturing a new generation of entrepreneurs poised to drive economic growth and development.

Management Echoes from Great Zimbabwe

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation in MDAs for Enhanced Public Sector Performance



Julius Munodawafa, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation

Introduction

In my role overseeing the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of infrastructure projects within a public sector institution, I recently accompanied a team of stakeholders to inspect one of our National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) flagship projects. Upon arrival, the Project Engineer and his team promptly provided us with helmets, explaining that the construction zone was a designated "hard hat area," necessitating the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for safety. This experience prompted me to reflect on the metaphorical "hard hat areas" within M&E: the challenging and sensitive issues that require careful attention to ensure the effective functioning of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). This article delves into strategies to strengthen M&E within MDAs, aiming to enhance public sector performance.

Hard Hat Areas in M&E

Metaphorically, "hard hat areas" in M&E refer to the challenging and sensitive issues that require careful consideration. These areas can be disruptive to the functioning of MDAs and necessitate serious management to prevent recurring challenges.

Key concerns include:

·Data Collection Challenges: Ensuring successful data collection in situations where teams or departments may lack organization.

·Sensitive and Political Issues: Navigating highly sensitive or political issues that require a balanced approach.

·Demotivated Workforce: Addressing challenges when working with a demotivated workforce and limited support from management.

·Resource Constraints: Operating with insufficient funding, which can undermine the effectiveness of M&E efforts. Addressing these "hard hat areas" is crucial for the success of M&E initiatives and the overall performance of MDAs.

Strategies to Strengthen M&E in MDAs

1.Develop Comprehensive M&E Policies and SOPs

It is imperative for organizations to operate with well-defined M&E policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These documents should align with organizational strategic plans and, for public sector institutions, with the National Vision. Validation of these policies ensures alignment and coherence across strategic documents. Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) should ensure their policies and SOPs are compliant with Results-Based Management (RBM) principles.

2.Identify and Empower M&E Champions

Organizations should identify and incorporate M&E champions who

advocate for and support effective M&E practices. Ideally, the head of an MDA should lead M&E efforts. Lack of support from leadership can lead to resistance, resource shortages, and ineffective program management.

3.Secure Management Support

Support from management is crucial for M&E to achieve meaningful results. When management prioritizes M&E, it fosters an evidence-based decision-making culture and ensures adequate allocation of resources. Management support should be complemented by the achievement of results and improved organizational performance.

4.Allocate Adequate Budgetary Resources

M&E activities require funding for human resources, data collection, analysis tools, travel, and equipment. Organizations should consider M&E functions when drawing up budgets. For instance, UNDP recommends allocating 5-10%, USAID suggests 3-5%, and the World Bank allocates around 5-7% of project budgets to M&E activities.

5.Build and Retain Strong Teams

M&E departments require team members with specialist skills, including data analysis, research design, data management, stakeholder engagement, and report writing. Building a strong team is a process that requires investment, and retaining talent is essential for achieving organizational goals.

6.Enhance M&E Visibility

M&E departments should implement initiatives that make their work visible within the organization. This can be

achieved through regular reporting, presentations, and engaging stakeholders in M&E activities. Increased visibility can lead to greater support and recognition of M&E efforts.

7.Integrate Technology into M&E Systems

Technology enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of M&E systems. Utilizing mobile data collection tools, data visualization platforms, and statistical software can improve data quality and enable real-time monitoring. Incorporating technology into M&E systems is essential for improved organizational performance.

8.Establish Clear Feedback Loops

Effective feedback systems are necessary to inform program improvement, enhance accountability, and validate assumptions. Feedback mechanisms allow M&E to refine strategies, allocate resources equitably, and demonstrate impact and effectiveness.

Conclusion

Strengthening M&E within MDAs is essential for enhancing public sector performance. By addressing the "hard hat areas" and implementing strategies such as developing comprehensive policies, empowering M&E champions, securing management support, allocating adequate resources, building strong teams, enhancing visibility, integrating technology, and establishing feedback loops, organizations can improve their M&E systems. Effective M&E contributes to better decision-making, accountability, and the achievement of organizational goals, ultimately leading to improved public sector performance.

Article by Julias Munodawafa (Director, Monitoring and Evaluation and Performance Management, Great Zimbabwe University)

Sports Buzz

Second Annual Staff Sports Gala

Great Zimbabwe University successfully held its 2nd Annual Staff Sports Gala at the university's Main Campus Sports Arena. The vibrant event brought together staff members from across departments in a spirited display of wellness, teamwork and healthy competition.

The Acting Registrar, Mrs Irene Tavengwa, officially opened the proceedings with a warm welcome to participants. In her remarks, she encouraged staff to embrace teamwork, stressing the importance of cultivating a conducive work environment and being result-oriented in all their endeavours.

The Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Marian Tukuta, delivered a keynote speech on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo, who was the guest of honour. Professor Tukuta commended the initiative, describing the sports gala as a "fruitful and special event that should not be taken for granted." She highlighted the significance of such events in fostering unity, promoting wellness and strengthening organisational culture.

Staff members were grouped into teams of four and competed in a variety of sporting disciplines, including soccer, netball, volleyball, and more. The day was marked by friendly rivalry, laughter, and team spirit as colleagues faced off in different challenges.

In addition to the sports, the gala featured lively entertainment, with music, dance, and cheer resonating throughout the day. The event was also broadcast live on GZU Campus Radio.

The university expressed its sincere gratitude to all sponsors and stakeholders whose contributions made the event a resounding success. A special thank you to the following stakeholders who were part of the event for continued support and collaboration:

BonVie Medical Aid Scheme, Kuntem Traders pvt ltd, Old Mutual Zimbabwe, GAIN Cash & Carry, Zimnat, Nyaradzo Group, CBZ Holdings, Doves Holdings, Eben hardware, Ultra Med Health Care, O' mari, Micro Plan and Health 4u



Munhumutapa house (Golden Squad)



Nyerere House (Red Champions)



Nehanda house (Royal Blues)



Chitepo house (Green Machine)

Annual Staff sports gala in pictures



ZUSA Games, GZU shines

Great Zimbabwe University made a powerful statement at the Zimbabwe University Sports Association (ZUSA) Cluster 1 and 2 Tournament at the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), after amassing an impressive 19 medals in athletics. The medals comprise of 7 gold, 5 silver, and 7 bronze, earned in track and field events, firmly placing GZU ahead in university athletics.

The University continued to establish itself as a formidable force in university sports, achieving an impressive second-place finish at the tournament.



Pool

The GZU team amassed a remarkable 22 gold, 32 silver, and 25 bronze medals across various disciplines, showcasing their versatility and excellence. The tournament brought together top athletes from universities across the country, providing a competitive yet vibrant environment for sporting excellence.

The second cluster of the ZUSA Games kicked off with a hive of activity across multiple sporting disciplines, including Rugby, Tennis, Volleyball, Handball, Netball, Basketball, and Taekwondo.

The GZU Women's Rugby team made the University proud by clinching the gold medal, showcasing skill, resilience, and true fighting spirit. The Men's team gave a commendable effort, reaching the semi-finals.

GZU secured a total of six medals: a gold in women's rugby, two silver medals in taekwondo, another silver in men's handball, and bronze medals in netball and taekwondo.

While GZU did not top the medal table, their participation highlighted the university's dedication to fostering sportsmanship and providing students with opportunities to excel beyond academics.

Dean of Students Onias Simbo commended the athletes for their discipline and determination. He said that their performances were a true reflection of the university's pursuit of excellence.

GZU Pool Club coach, Trust Asima, credited the university's management for their unwavering support, which he said played a critical role in the athletes' preparation and success. He said that the commitment to investing in sports facilities, equipment, and athlete welfare has significantly boosted morale and performance.

GZU athletes demonstrated exceptional discipline, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition. University management expressed pride in the students' achievements, reiterating their commitment to nurturing talent and promoting a balanced academic and sporting culture.

As GZU celebrates this achievement, it sets its sights on clinching the top spot in the next edition of the ZUSA games.



Women's Basketball



Women's Karate



Triple jump



Athletics team

Exceptional performance at ZITISU Games



The Pool team celebrate victory after scooping first prize at ZITISU

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) made a blistering start at the 2025 Zimbabwe Tertiary Institutions Sports Union (ZITISU) Games, asserting their dominance in athletics with an impressive medal tally on the opening day of the competition. The prestigious games bring together athletes from universities, teachers' colleges, and technical institutions across Zimbabwe, all vying for supremacy in various sporting disciplines. GZU proved why it is widely regarded as the "University of Choice", delivering standout performances in both short-distance sprints and Paralympic events.

Held at White City Stadium in Bulawayo, the opening day of the annual sporting showcase saw GZU clinch eighteen (18) medals; 9 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze in athletics and Paralympics, in a powerful display in track and field events.

As the games continued GZU gave a sterling performance at the end of the Zimbabwe Tertiary Institutions Sports Union (ZITSU) Games. The University teams amassed a total of 38 medals in the games, here is the tally;

Paralympics Team
Gold medals 15
Silver medals 7
Bronze 4

Karate
Gold medals 2
Silver medals 4
Bronze 1

Athletics:
400m Women - Gold medal
200m Men – Silver

Pool Women:
Gold
Plus 1 brand new Pool Table (valued \$2 500.00)

Women's Rugby:
Gold medal

Handball Men:
Bronze



Women's Rugby



Men's Handball

Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow



Road Safety General Tips

- Obey all traffic signals, boards and signs.
- Adhere to permitted speed limits
- Do Not Drink and Drive
- Always carry your driver's license and other important documents such as vehicle registration, insurance, road tax & P.U.C. Certificates (Pollution Under Control certificate required for vehicles, particularly those used for public transport).
- Wear seat belts always while in a moving vehicle.
- Do not use your cell phones while driving. In case of an urgency, park on the left and answer the call.
- Use the Indicator or hand signals while changing lanes.
- Irrespective of Right of Way, stay alert and considerate, especially to senior citizens, handicapped and children.
- Avoid sudden braking and harsh acceleration.
- Never use the clutch as a footrest while driving.
- Use Pay and Park islands and avoid parking on the road.
- Do not overload your vehicles with either luggage or passengers.



PUBLIC NOTICE

GRADUATION CEREMONY

1. DATE AND VENUE

- All graduands (November 2024 and June 2025 classes) are hereby advised of the following pertaining to the 2025 (19th) Graduation Ceremony:
DATE: 8 October 2025.
VENUE: Main Campus Sports Arena

2. REHEARSALS

- Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday, 7 October 2025 at 1200hrs at the graduation venue
- Rehearsals are compulsory and graduands who do not attend rehearsals will be excluded from taking part in the graduation proceedings.
- Graduands physically attending the ceremony are supposed to be seated by 0900hrs. Those who arrive late will not be allowed into the venue.

3. GRADUANDS INVITATION CARDS

- Each graduand is allowed to bring a maximum of two (2) guests.
- Graduands' invitation cards will be **collected** from respective School Administrators upon production of proof of payment of graduation fees on the morning of the 7th of October 2025.

4. COLLECTION OF CERTIFICATES

- Certificates can be collected as follows:
 - Class of November 2024 - from the 13th of August 2025 to the 6th of October 2025, and any day after the graduation ceremony.
 - Class of June 2025 - Dates will be advised. However, students are free to collect transcripts from the date of publication of results.

Please note that certificates will not be issued on rehearsal and graduation days.

5. OUTSTANDING FEES

- Only fully paid-up graduands will take part in the proceedings.

6. GRADUATION FEES

Undergraduate Programmes	- USD125
Masters' Programmes	- USD135
PhDs	- USD180

- Graduation fees can be paid at the Bursar's Department or deposited **in two separate accounts** as follows:

LOCAL GRADUANDS

Account Details	CBZ Bank, Masvingo Branch Account No: 02520620340078	CBZ Bank, Masvingo Branch Account No: 02520620340106 Ecocash *151*2*2*016870*amount #	Total
Undergraduate Programmes	USD80	USD45	USD125
Masters Programmes	USD90	USD45	USD135
PhDs	USD100	USD80	USD180

INTERNATIONAL GRADUANDS

First Capital Bank, Masvingo Branch - Account No: 3209974 Branch code: 2509 Swift code: BARCZWHXXX

Proof of payment should be emailed to gzuaccounts@gzu.ac.zw or tmkwenje@gzu.ac.zw

For payment enquiries call 0772570898 / 0781260198 / 0781604041

- The deadline for payment of graduation fees is 25 September 2025.

7. RESTRICTED ITEMS

- Please note that the following items are not allowed into the graduation venue: **lipstick and perfume containers, sharp objects, knives, ballpoint pens and cameras**

8. GRADUATION REGALIA

- Graduands are expected to be smartly dressed (preferably dark colours for suits with a white shirt and a dark tie for men, and white blouse and dark skirt/trousers or dark dress for ladies).
- Graduation Regalia is collected from the Business Development Department or the Great Zimbabwe University shop (next to the GZU Campus Radio Station) upon production of proof of payment of graduation fee.
- Those with inappropriate Academic Regalia will be excluded from the graduation proceedings.

For enquiries please contact Academic Registry on:

+263 39 2266648/49/52/54/ 0782780661/662/+263 39 2266838/ 08677004747/admissions@gzu.ac.zw

or

Information and Public Relations Office on: +263 39 2266839/information@gzu.ac.zw

For accommodation details contact Student Affairs on 08677004747 and visit our website **www.gzu.ac.zw** for full details

For enquiries please contact Academic Registry on:

+263 39 2266648/49/52/54/ 0782780661/662/+263 39 2266838/ 08677004747/admissions@gzu.ac.zw

or

Information and Public Relations Office on: +263 39 2266839/information@gzu.ac.zw

For accommodation details contact Student Affairs on 08677004747 and visit our website www.gzu.ac.zw for full details



MUTARE COHORT

(Hosted by Marymount Teacher's College)

ENROL NOW for 2025 INTAKE

Offering a wide range of Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Masters programmes – designed for working professionals, fresh graduates, and lifelong learners.

BLOCK STARTS 25- 07 SEPTEMBER. WEEKEND SCHOOLS STARTING 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

EDUCATION

- * Inclusive Education
- * Postgraduate Diploma in Education
- * Early Childhood Development
- * Physical Education
- * B.Ed Heritage Studies
- * Leadership and Management
- * B.Ed Sociology
- * Graduate Diploma in Education (Grad D.E.)
- * Music

Masters Programmes (Education):

- * M.Ed Humanities (History and Heritage Education)
- * M.Ed Humanities (Religious Studies)
- * M.Ed Shona
- * M.Ed English
- * Postgraduate Diploma in Higher & Tertiary Education

SOCIAL SCIENCES

- * BSc Psychology
- * BSc Human Resources Management
- * Special Honours in Psychology
- * Diploma in Monitoring & Evaluation

Masters Programmes (Social Sciences):

- * MSc in Counselling Psychology
- * MSc in Human Resource Management
- * MSc in Urban & Regional Planning
- * MSc in Educational Psychology
- * MSc in Policy & Public Management
- * MSc in Demography & Population Studies

- * MSc in Sociology & Social Anthropology
- * MSc in Gender & Policy Studies
- * MSc in Peace, Leadership & Governance
- * MSc in International Relations
- * BSc Rural & Urban Development

COMMERCE

- * BCom Transport & Logistics
- * BCom Accounting
- * BCom Marketing
- * BCom Tourism
- * Special Honours in Accounting

Masters Programmes (Commerce):

- * MComm Professional Accounting
- * MCom Strategic Management
- * MBA
- * Master of Science in Entrepreneurship
- * Masters in Development Finance

AGRICULTURE

- * BSc Crop Science
- * BSc Animal Science
- * BSc Soil Science

NATURAL SCIENCES

- * BSc Biotechnology
- * BSc Chemical Technology & Environmental Science
- * BSc Physics
- * BSc Information Systems
- * BSc Computer Science

HOW TO APPLY

ONLINE APPLICATION

- * Visit: www.gzu.ac.zw
- * Create an account & fill in your details
- * Select your preferred programme
- * Upload certified copies of your certificates & ID
- * Pay non-refundable application fee:
- * US\$20.00 for Undergraduate (local)
- * US\$30.00 for Postgraduate (local)
- * Foreign students: Pay in forex
- * Submit application

NB: Block Release & Weekend School applicants must attach stamped proof of employment. Non-viable classes will merge with Masvingo or defer to March 2026.

PHYSICAL APPLICATION

Collect an application form from:

Marymount Teachers College Admissions Office

Pay application fee (US\$20.00 Undergraduate | US\$30.00 Postgraduate) at:

ZB Bank – 4407-413851-200

CBZ Bank – 02520620340038

Submit with certified copies of certificates & ID to:

The Administrative Assistant, Admissions & Students Records,

Great Zimbabwe University, P.O Box 1235, Masvingo