



GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY

GZU stand draws high-level attention at ZITF 2026



Far right; The Chairman of the Great Zimbabwe University Council Professor Mandivamba Rukuni at the product sampling desk



2026 ZITF exhibition team

The Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) which ran from 20 to 25 April 2026 recorded sustained activity at the Great Zimbabwe University exhibition stand, where a steady flow of visitors engaged with student-led innovations and institutional programmes.

Traffic remained high throughout the period, with interactions involving prospective students, industry representatives and policymakers.

Among the visitors were the Chairman of the Great Zimbabwe University Council, Professor Mandivamba Rukuni; the Minister of Masvingo Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Honourable Ezra Chadzamira; and the Deputy Minister of Information Communication Technology (ICT), Postal and Courier Services, Honourable Dingumuzi Phuti.

Minister Chadzamira and Deputy Minister Phuti also took part in interviews on the University's campus radio station, which broadcasted live from the exhibition space.

The stand presented the University's model of linking academic work with production, innovation and community engagement. Live demonstrations included a campus radio studio broadcasting from the site, a retail section featuring student-developed products, a University products sampling desk, and an innovation hub displaying start-up projects. Additional sections highlighted community-facing services such as a mobile legal aid clinic and mental wellbeing initiatives, illustrating how academic programmes extend into public service delivery.

The exhibition was framed around connected economies and competitive industries, aligning University outputs with national development priorities.

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GZU holds Programme-based Strategic Planning Workshop

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) recently held a Programme-Based Strategic Planning Workshop at the Herbert Chitepo Law School Moot Court, aimed at aligning University plans with the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) and Vision 2030.

The workshop, facilitated by Mr David Sibiya and Mr Lovemore Machivenyika from the Public Service Academy, brought together the University executive, deans, chairpersons and directors.

In his remarks while officially opening the workshop, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo, said the University's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, 2026 Annual Plan, and performance contracts for Council Chairman and the Vice Chancellor provide the framework for the workshop. Participants

developed programme and sub-programme plans, departmental plans, and individual work plans in line with national priorities.

The Vice Chancellor listed operational priorities including increasing research output, generating alternative revenue streams, and adopting emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. He also stressed the role of monitoring and evaluation in tracking performance.

The workshop concluded with consolidated programme and sub-programme plans, annual targets for 2026, and individual performance frameworks aligned to NDS2 and Vision 2030.



The Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo leading the workshop

GZU research thrust takes centre stage in Parliament



Contributing to the motion, Member of Parliament for Gutu East Constituency Honourable Zvarevashe Masvingise

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU)'s research and innovation drive took centre stage in Parliament recently as lawmakers debated integrating locally developed technologies into Government procurement systems.

GZU emerged as a key reference point during debate on a motion to adopt and commercialise outputs from higher and tertiary institutions. Contributing to the motion, Member of Parliament for Gutu East Constituency Honourable Zvarevashe Masvingise said Universities are producing solutions with capacity to support economic activity, singling out GZU's work in agro-processing and dryland agriculture, areas aligned to production in semi-arid regions.

The University's research was framed as an example of efforts to move innovation beyond academic settings into community and industry use, in line with national development priorities.

Debate in the House centred on limited uptake. Lawmakers said innovation remains underutilised without structured markets, with a proposal under consideration to reserve a portion of public procurement for locally developed goods and services, including those from universities.

Within this context, GZU was positioned among leading institutions driving applied research under the Education 5.0 framework, which links teaching and research to production and service delivery.

Honourable Masvingise said the central challenge is converting research outputs into market-ready products, with procurement systems identified as a lever to create predictable demand for local technologies.

The motion also highlighted financing and coordination gaps, calling for stronger linkages between universities, industry and funding mechanisms to scale innovations.

GZU's prominence in the debate follows accolades at the Presidential Innovation Fair 2024, where it was named Best Innovating University and Best Innovator in Agriculture for its millet value chain project. The University also placed in the agriculture and agro-processing category at the subsequent edition and earned regional recognition at the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting.

Swedish Ambassador visits Great Zimbabwe University

Sweden's Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Per Lindgärde, recently visited Great Zimbabwe University for engagements with University leadership, staff and students focused on academic cooperation and student innovation.

The ambassador and his delegation met Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo and members of the university's senior management at the Herbert Chitepo Law School moot court.

Professor Zvobgo said cooperation with Swedish institutions has supported programmes in legal education, media development and agriculture-based innovation. Among the partners working with the university are the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the Fojo Media Institute, which have collaborated with the university on human rights training and media capacity development.

At the law school, the programme has supported research, teaching development and clinical legal education, including community outreach, prison programmes and court-based legal assistance. Law students have also participated in international humanitarian law moot court competitions organised with international partners.

During the visit, Ambassador Lindgärde met law school staff and toured the law school library and the university's legal clinic at Muccheke Campus, where students provide legal assistance to surrounding communities. The delegation also visited GZU Campus Radio, where the ambassador spoke about international cooperation in higher education and institutional development.

Ambassador Lindgärde also toured the university's Innovation Hub, where student-led projects are being developed under the CAUSEWAY initiative in partnership with the Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust.



Ambassador Per Lindgärde (in red tie) and his delegation

The initiative, supported by development and Dry Delights, a food processing enterprise partners including Sweden and the United Kingdom, has backed business incubation producing dried agricultural products.

Kingdom, has backed business incubation projects in hydroponics, aquaculture, poultry production, mushroom processing, fruit and vegetable preservation and drone production. Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust chief executive Godfrey Chinoera said partnerships supporting the programme have contributed to the development of student enterprises responding to agricultural and economic needs.

Innovation Hub manager Dr Claris Mudzengi and Acting Dean of the Gary Magadzire School of Agriculture Dr Charity Pisa received the delegation and introduced several ventures operating under the programme. The visit forms part of ongoing cooperation between the Swedish Embassy, development partners and the university in areas that include legal education, media development, agriculture and entrepreneurship.

Among the projects presented were Beezy Hands, an apiculture venture focused on honey production and modern beekeeping methods,

University marks International Women's Day with focus on leadership and entrepreneurship



Guest Speaker Professor Sunungurai Chingarande, Vice Chancellor of Women's University in Africa



Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Marian Tukuta gives opening remarks at the International Women's Day Event

Great Zimbabwe University commemorated this year's International Women's Day with a programme examining leadership, entrepreneurship and mental wellbeing for women.

The event held at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education drew academics, professionals and entrepreneurs to discuss issues affecting women in leadership and business. The programme followed the global observance of International Women's Day on 8 March under the theme "Give to Gain."

Opening the event, Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Marian Tukuta called on women to recognise and support one another's achievements and to maintain positive relationships in their workplaces and communities.

Guest speaker Professor Sunungurai Chingarande, Vice Chancellor of Women's University in Africa, spoke about her career path from rural Gokwe to leading a University. She said personal decisions and commitment play a decisive role in shaping individual success and pointed to the value of professional relationships in creating opportunities.

Entrepreneur Ashell Ruswa, founder and chief executive officer of Errymaple High School, addressed financial independence among women. She encouraged participants to identify gaps in the market and develop viable business ideas capable of attracting investment, even with limited starting capital.

Ward 13 councillor for Masvingo Rural District Council, Sarah Munemo, spoke about rural empowerment and the need for women to pursue independence through skills development and entrepreneurship. She said women should move beyond small-scale entrepreneurship and work towards building sustainable businesses. Referring to the theme "Give to Gain," she said the ability to uplift others begins with self-empowerment, adding that individuals must first build their own capacity before assisting others.

A presentation on Corporate Grooming and Etiquette in the Workplace and Beyond was delivered by Nanzelelo Ndhlovu, Director of Legal Services at National University of Science and Technology and Vice President of the Zimbabwe Institute for Patent and Trade Mark Agents. She spoke about the role of professional conduct and personal presentation in the workplace and in wider society.

Ndhlovu said individuals occupy several roles in life, including professionals at work, parents and caregivers at home, and leaders in community or church settings. As these roles change over time, she said, personal presentation and behaviour should reflect the responsibilities attached to those positions.

She also spoke about dressing with purpose and maintaining appropriate standards of personal grooming, noting that appearance, communication and conduct influence how individuals are perceived in professional environments. She added that workplace etiquette contributes to respectful working relationships and supports a productive environment.

Ndhlovu said the same principles of respect and dignity apply in homes and communities, where personal conduct also shapes how individuals are viewed as leaders and role models.

The final presentation was delivered by Sangana Kasinamunhu, a psychology lecturer at Great Zimbabwe University. She spoke about mental wellbeing, noting that women often manage several professional and family responsibilities, which can increase stress levels. She also cautioned against unhealthy competition among women and called for balanced lifestyles.

Students and staff attended the programme, which addressed leadership, entrepreneurship and personal development while encouraging women to build professional networks and support one another.



Nanzelelo Ndhlovu, Director of Legal Services at National University of Science and Technology and Vice President of the Zimbabwe Institute for Patent and Trade Mark Agents



Entrepreneur Ashell Ruswa founder and CEO officer of Errymaple High School



Sangana Kasinamunhu, Psychology lecturer

GZU leads traditional grains drive in Chivi North and Buhera

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo, says the University is focusing on practical solutions to food insecurity through dryland agriculture programmes, speaking at a traditional grains field day organised by GZU at Chidyamakono Schools in Chivi North, where farmers, students and industry partners gathered to review crop performance and production methods suited to low-rainfall areas.

“Great Zimbabwe University is not confined to classrooms. Our work is in communities, where we are supporting farmers with knowledge, inputs and access to markets,” said the Vice Chancellor.

The programme is being implemented through GZU's Innovation Centre of Excellence in Drylands Agriculture (ICEDA), which links farmers to production support, processing and structured markets within Chivi.

Participating organisations included K2 Company, Pote Holdings and Probrands, working alongside the university and local stakeholders.

“Farmers must be able to sell what they produce. That is why we have invested in systems that connect production to markets,” Professor Zvobgo said.

Chivi North legislator, Honourable Godfrey Mkungunugwa, urged farmers to increase production of traditional grains and consider small livestock projects such as road runner chickens.

Professor Zvobgo also addressed learners at the host school:

“Apply yourselves to your studies and prepare for opportunities ahead, including entry into institutions like GZU,” he said.

GZU distributed agricultural inputs to support school-based production units as part of the programme.

The field day forms part of the University's ongoing work with communities in dryland areas to strengthen agricultural production and household incomes.



Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo hands over farming material to local farmers



Another traditional grains field day was held in Ward 2 of Ndiripo Village under Chief Nyashanu in Buhera, bringing together farmers, extension officers and academics to review crop performance and production methods in a low-rainfall area.

The event was organised and funded by the University through its Gary Magadzire School of Agriculture and Engineering as part of its dryland agriculture programme, which focuses on small grains production, input support and market access in drought-prone regions.

Simba Ndiripo, the host farmer, was named the top performer. He received a wheelbarrow, ammonium nitrate and Compound D fertilisers, 10kg of seed and a hoe. Nyama Mupondi placed second and received a wheelbarrow, Compound D fertiliser, 10kg of seed and a shovel. Witness Zariro came third and received a shovel, a hoe, Compound D fertiliser and 10kg of seed.

Professor Bernard Chazovachii, representing the Vice

Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo, said the programme targets increased adoption of small grains in agro-ecological Region 4, where rainfall patterns constrain maize production. He said the University is working with communities to expand cultivation of drought-tolerant crops.

The programme is implemented through the University's Innovation Centre of Excellence in Drylands Agriculture, which links farmers to production support, processing and structured markets.

Local officials said the initiative is influencing cropping patterns and creating a market for traditional grains. Ward 2 Councillor Noah Chanhuwa said farmers are selling their produce to the University and receiving extension support. Richard Kandenga,

representing the Member of Parliament, said the shift to traditional grains aligns with local climatic conditions and contributes to household food supplies.

Executive Dean of the Gary Magadzire School of Agriculture and Engineering, Dr Xavier Poshiwa, said the University is assessing different small grains varieties to improve yields under dryland conditions. Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX) officers coordinated the field demonstrations.

In a message to the University, the Member of Parliament for Buhera Central, under which Ndiripo Village falls, Honourable Sam Matema, said the programme comes at a time when climate variability is affecting crops and livestock, and described traditional grains as central to agricultural production in the constituency.

Workshop links students to National Start-Up Incubation Programme

Students at Great Zimbabwe University were introduced to the national Value Creation Challenge (VCC) during a start-up workshop held at the Herbert Chitepo Law School Moot Court.

The event brought together students, lecturers and innovation practitioners to discuss entrepreneurship and business development, while providing information on how students can participate in the start-up incubation programme.

Opening the workshop, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Marian Tukuta said Universities should support the development of practical solutions to social and economic challenges. She noted that higher education institutions have a role in helping students and researchers convert ideas developed in academic settings into viable products and services.

Programme facilitator Nomazulu Mthethwa presented the Value Creation Challenge and outlined opportunities available to participating start-ups, including mentorship, training programmes, professional networks and possible grant funding. She encouraged students with business ideas to apply and participate in the incubation process.

Entrepreneurship coach Pedzi Chimbwanda led an interactive session on innovation and start-up development. He said many new businesses fail because they introduce products that do not address real market needs, adding that successful ventures begin by identifying problems that customers are willing to pay to solve.

Closing the programme, Dr Desmond Mugadza, Director of Research and Innovation at Great Zimbabwe University, thanked organisers and participants and encouraged students to continue developing business ideas through research and collaboration.

The Value Creation Challenge is a national incubation programme run by Eight2Five Innovation Hub and powered by Old Mutual. The initiative is implemented with support from partners including the British Council, British Embassy, Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation and the Embassy of Switzerland in Zimbabwe.

Now in its sixth year, the programme targets entrepreneurs and start-ups that are less than three years old and have prototypes or early-market solutions. Participants receive business development training, mentorship and access to professional networks, with selected ventures eligible for financial support.



Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Marian Tukuta giving opening remarks



Students follow proceedings at The Value Creation Challenge incubation programme

2026 student leadership inaugurated



Pro Vice Chancellor Professor David Chikodzi congratulates the newly elected SRC President, Katape Clayton



2026 Student Representative Council (SRC), the Students Executive Council, and the Student Representative Assembly group photo

Students Executive Council, and the Student Representative Assembly, marking the start of their term of office.

The ceremony was recently held at the Herbert Chitepo Law School and was attended by University officials, staff, and students. Pro Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Administration, Professor David Chikodzi presided over the event on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo.

Addressing the gathering, Professor Chikodzi congratulated the incoming student leaders and called on them to discharge their duties with integrity and accountability. He said student leadership plays a key role in representing

student interests and maintaining engagement between the student body and the University administration.

He also urged the leadership to work within the University's institutional framework and to promote orderly conduct and academic focus across the campuses.

In his acceptance remarks, SRC President Katape Clayton thanked students for their support and said his administration would focus on representation and accountability. He said the council would engage students and address their concerns during its term.

GZU Partners ZELO and Forestry Commission for Public Lecture on Environmental Law



Great Zimbabwe University's Herbert Chitepo Law School hosted a dynamic public lecture for its Level 3 Environmental Law students, in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Environmental Land Organization (ZELO) and the Forestry Commission.

In his opening remarks, the Dean of the Law School, Nkosana Maphosa expressed his delight at seeing students engage directly with industry experts. He emphasised that such interactions are crucial in producing graduates who are not only academically sound but also industry-ready.

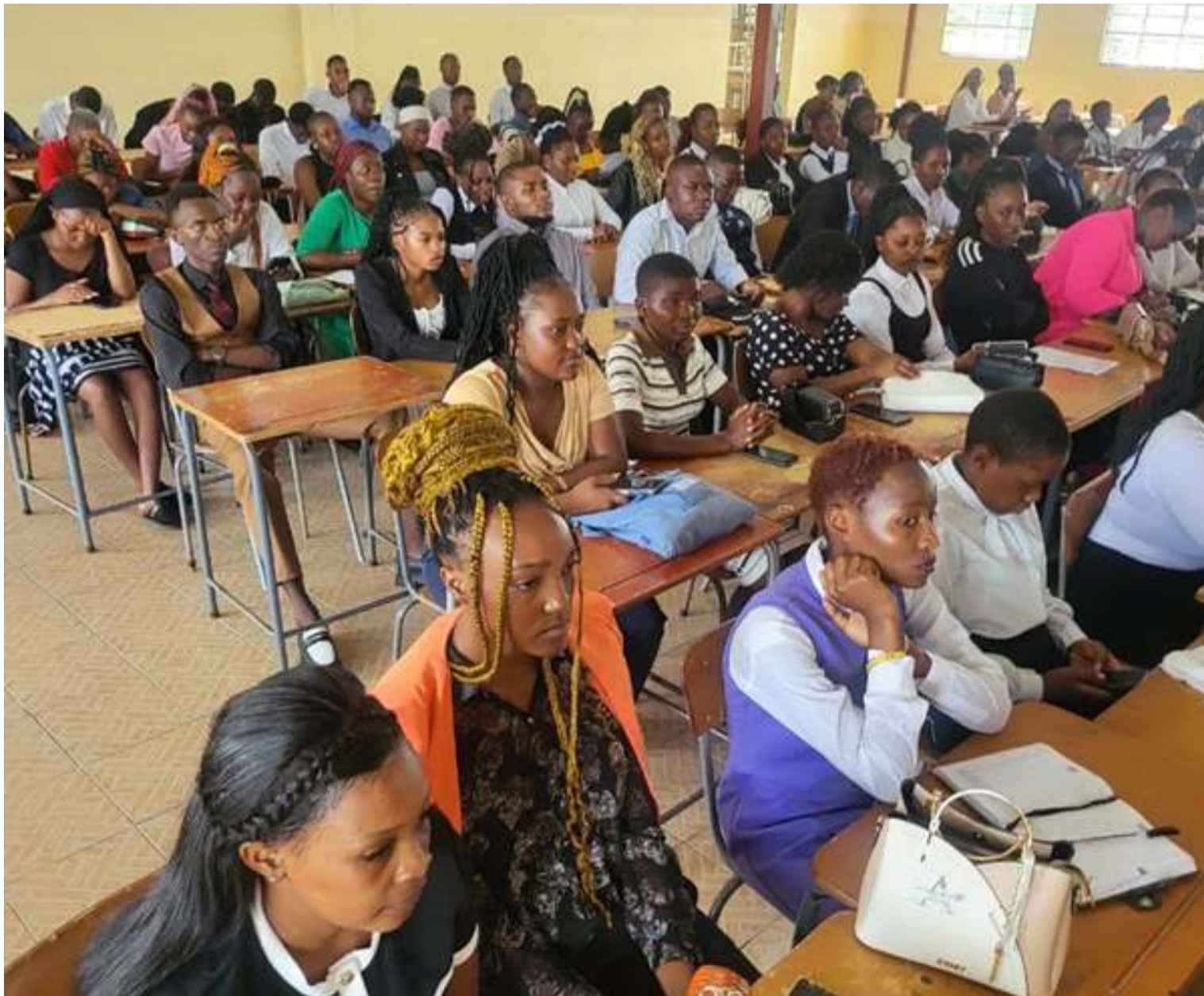
Representing the Forestry Commission, Mr. Edwon Machokoto addressed the importance of conserving trees and harmonising environmental laws. He highlighted litigation issues surrounding forestry and underscored the urgent need for sustainable practices in resource management.

From ZELO, Mr. Mtisi introduced students to community engagement strategies in the mining sector. His presentation covered litigation strategies, remedies available to affected communities, and the critical role of stakeholder management in safeguarding resources.

The lecture attracted wide interest, with representatives from the Human Rights Commission represented by Ms M. Rupiya, a former student of the Herbert Chitepo Law School who shed more light about what the Commission is all about. The Gender Commission and Environmental Management Agency were also among the distinguished attendees. Their presence reinforced the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogue in addressing environmental and social challenges.

This collaboration between GZU, ZELO, and the Forestry Commission reflects the University's commitment to bridging theory and practice, ensuring that students are exposed to real-world issues and solutions in environmental law

Uphold GZU image during Work-Related Learning, students urged



Level 2 Semester 2 students from Great Zimbabwe University's Julius Nyerere School of Social Sciences were urged to uphold the institution's image as they prepare for Work-Related Learning (WRL).

Dean of the School, Professor Herbert Zirima, told students that their conduct during industrial attachment carries implications for the University's reputation. He said students are expected to maintain professional standards in both appearance and behaviour while on placement.

He advised students to prioritise their academic objectives during the attachment period and to take personal responsibility for their safety in unfamiliar environments. Students were also encouraged to begin securing placements early, amid competition for limited opportunities.

Professor Zirima also called on students to demonstrate initiative during their placements, urging them to contribute ideas and skills that add value to host organisations.

The briefing comes as students prepare to transition from classroom learning to workplace-based training, a core component of their degree programmes.

Level 2 Semester 2 students following proceedings

Law Clinic holds lecture on Ethics and Legal Practice



University of the Witwatersrand academic Daven Dass delivering the main address on Clinical Legal Education (CLE)

The Herbert Chitepo Law School's Law Clinic at Great Zimbabwe University held a lecture on "Strengthening Professional Ethics and Excellence in Legal Practice," with University of the Witwatersrand academic Daven Dass delivering the main address on Clinical Legal Education (CLE).

Dass set the tone of the session with a focus on building ethical and effective lawyers through practical training. He said CLE should equip students with skills that endure beyond the classroom, stressing the need for a clear understanding of the communities served by law clinics.

"We need to understand the context we are working in. Clients look to you with a measure of desperation. The clinic provides a platform where theoretical subjects are applied to real problems," he said.

He told students that legal practitioners must be prepared to handle sensitive and complex cases, including those involving violence, and to manage emotionally distressed clients with care and professionalism.

Dass also addressed the growing use of artificial intelligence in legal work, warning against overreliance on such tools. He said research must meet professional standards and be properly sourced, adding that practitioners cannot replace foundational methods such as library research. He urged students to ensure that any use of AI remains practical, verifiable and ethically sound.

"Ethics is about rules that apply equally to all practitioners. The task is to turn challenges into innovation within those rules," he said.

In his remarks, the Executive Dean of the Herbert Chitepo Law School, Nkosana Maphosa said Clinical Legal Education equips students with practical skills, including communication, and contributes to producing graduates suited to professional demands. He added that the Law Clinic provides a platform for engagement with stakeholders.

Law lecturer Douglas Musebenzi said the clinic links academic study with practice. He outlined its roles as improving access to justice and providing hands-on training for students preparing for legal work.

A registrar from the Judicial Service Commission at the Masvingo High Court outlined expectations within the justice system. She said ethical conduct is central to legal practice and added that courts now operate using the Integrated Electronic Case Management System, replacing paper-based processes.

Grace Bwanya of Chihambakwe Law Firm addressed professional conduct in private practice. She said integrity underpins legal work and advised practitioners to keep accurate records of client instructions, act honestly and maintain proper conduct in court and in professional interactions.

Call to uphold quality standards at GZU

The Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Business Development and Industrialisation, Professor Marian Tukuta, called for stronger and more consistent quality assurance systems across Great Zimbabwe University, placing responsibility on academic leaders to uphold standards and institutional integrity.

Speaking at a Quality Assurance Practices in Leadership workshop held at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education recently, Professor Tukuta said quality management must be embedded at every level of the University's operations.

Delivering remarks on behalf of Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo, she said deans and programme coordinators play a central role in shaping academic outcomes and maintaining credibility in teaching and assessment.

"Academic leadership must remain anchored in clear quality systems and institutional accountability," she said, adding that consistent application of standards is key to improving student success and programme delivery.

The workshop, convened by the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Academic Planning, brought together deans, programme coordinators and senior academic administrators to review leadership practices and institutional processes.

Director of Quality Assurance and Academic Planning, Professor Martin Musengi, opened the session, saying the workshop forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen internal systems and align leadership practices with quality benchmarks.

Participants examined case studies based on



Director of Quality Assurance and Academic Planning, Professor Martin Musengi opening the session

institutional challenges, including resource constraints, inter-departmental coordination and competing academic and administrative priorities, with discussions centred on practical responses and areas requiring policy clarity.

A separate segment on examinations and academic integrity required participants to

interpret policy and respond to simulated scenarios under pressure, with a focus on fairness and compliance.

Deputy Dean for the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education, Dr Daniel Madzanire, led discussions on departmental quality assurance systems, outlining the role of structured processes and technology in managing academic programmes.

GZU, MRCZ convene workshop on Research Ethics Oversight



Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) and the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (MRCZ) members during the meeting

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) and the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (MRCZ) initiated a collaboration focused on establishing and strengthening Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) for medical research.

The partnership was implemented through a three-day workshop at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education Boardroom, bringing together academics, researchers and innovators to examine ethics review systems for health-related studies.

MRCZ Executive Secretary, Professor Tendai Kureya, said IRBs are a requirement for the approval and publication of research and are central to the conduct of medical studies. He said the council is supporting the development of an IRB at GZU, citing the university's work in traditional medicine.

"Research must be ethically approved for it to be published and to improve the wellbeing of humanity," he said.

GZU Director of Innovation and Research, Dr Desmond Mugadza, said the workshop was to inform the establishment of internal ethics review processes and standards for studies conducted at the university.

The meeting defined procedures for ethics review at GZU, including protocols for participant protection and compliance with national and international requirements

GZU advances financial literacy

Great Zimbabwe University hosted a Global Money Week event through its Munhumutapa School of Business Sciences, bringing together learners, academics and financial institutions under the theme "Smart Money Talks".

Delivering the keynote on behalf of the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Honourable Ezra Chadzamira, Mr Jambo Nyamhuri said GZU is central to expanding financial literacy and inclusion.

He said the Global Money Week programme supports the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) agenda on inclusive growth and tasked the university with closing gaps between financial systems and underserved communities.

"Economic devolution must ensure remote communities are active participants in the economy," he said. "Financial inclusion closes the gap between policy and lived realities."

Nyamhuri urged GZU to strengthen research and outreach that translates financial literacy into practical tools for households, small businesses and young people, and to produce policy-ready solutions that improve access to financial services.

In her remarks, Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Business Development and Industrialisation, Professor Marian Tukuta, representing Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo, said the programme focuses on equipping young people with financial management skills.

She said the University's role includes building practical competencies that enable students to manage and sustain resources.

A representative from CBZ Bank, Tatenda Mangoma, urged learners to adopt saving habits and explore income-generating ideas. He encouraged setting financial goals and using available tools such as bank accounts and informal savings methods.

GZU lecturer Shelter Mutembwa urged participants to identify everyday problems and turn them into business opportunities.

High schools and financial institutions took part in the programme, which included financial literacy activities and quizzes.



Mr Jambo Nyamhuri –Keynote Speaker- on behalf of the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Honourable Ezra Chadzamira, Seated; GZU Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Marian Tukuta following proceedings;



Stakeholders and GZU staff in attendance during the Global Money Week Programme

GZU showcases research, innovation and talent at Amai's Traditional Cook-Out



Nigel Nyamukapa (BSc Hospitality and Management, Part 2.2) receives his certificate

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) used the Masvingo Provincial Amai's Traditional Cook-Out competitions to present its work in hospitality training, product development and cultural performance.

The University participated in both the competitions and exhibitions categories at the event held recently at Masvingo Polytechnic, which drew participants from seven districts and several tertiary institutions.

In the Institution Category, GZU student Nigel Nyamukapa (BSc Hospitality and Management, Part 2.2) was placed second to advance to the national finals. Florence Chifamba of the University canteen secured third place in the Professional Chef Category.

GZU's Innovation Hub exhibited Wezhira wine during the event's showcase segment.

Guest of Honour, who is the Tourism and Hospitality Industry Minister, Honourable Barbara Rwdzi said products such as Wezhira wine point to the role of local innovation in tourism development.

"We continue to see products emerging from institutions that can be taken up within the tourism value chain," she said.

Masvingo Provincial Affairs and Devolution Minister, Honourable Ezra Chadzamira, said the competition provides a platform for skills development and participation across districts.

"This platform brings together communities and institutions to present their work in gastronomy and related fields," he said.

GZU also presented a traditional dance group and band as part of the programme.

The event brought together stakeholders in tourism and hospitality, training institutions and community participants.



GZU traditional dance group performing at Amai's cookout completions



GZU Band in action



GZU participants pose with their lectures at Amai's Cook Out competitions

University Expands Regional Recruitment and Community Engagement



GZU representatives exhibiting at the Lusaka Education Fair

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) continues to strengthen its footprint both regionally and locally through a series of strategic recruitment and outreach initiatives aimed at widening access to higher education and empowering prospective students.

Regionally, the University reinforced its presence at the Lusaka Education Fair held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre. The GZU stand attracted significant interest from Zambian students and parents eager to explore study opportunities in Zimbabwe. Throughout the exhibition, there was a steady flow of visitors seeking information on programmes, entry requirements, and application procedures. University staff provided on-the-spot application support for the August 2026 intake, enabling prospective students to begin their enrolment process immediately.

This engagement forms part of GZU's broader strategy to expand its regional reach and offer affordable, flexible, and career-focused education within Southern Africa. The strong interest from Zambian learners reflects a growing demand for programmes that blend academic excellence with practical skills aligned to evolving labour market needs. At the fair, GZU showcased its emphasis on

innovation, entrepreneurship, and applied training, reinforcing its position as a leading institution for cross-border higher education opportunities.

Locally, the University maintained strong visibility through its participation in the Chitungwiza Trade Fair recently held at Makoni Shopping Centre. GZU offered career guidance and on-the-spot enrolment services, assisting prospective students with programme selection, application processes, and admissions requirements. This initiative underscores the University's commitment to bringing services closer to communities, particularly for those who may face challenges accessing campus facilities.

In addition to academic support, the University also sold products from its Business Development Unit, including traditional grains such as zviyo (finger millet) and mapfunde (sorghum). This exhibition highlighted GZU's dedication to innovation,



Executive Dean, Munhumutapa School of Business Sciences Professor Talknice Saungweme attending to students

entrepreneurship, and the promotion of indigenous food systems as part of its Education 5.0 philosophy.

Further extending its outreach efforts, GZU recently participated in the Gutu District Career Guidance and Counselling Session held at Vumba Primary School and Regina Mundi High School Career Day in Gweru. Learners were guided on making informed decisions about their future studies, ensuring they align their aspirations with suitable career paths.

The events created an interactive space for learners to explore a wide range of degree programmes across faculties such as Arts, Commerce, Education, Law, Medicine, Social Sciences, Agriculture, and Natural Sciences. GZU representatives emphasized the importance of aligning career choices with personal passions and emerging economic opportunities, while highlighting the institution's commitment to producing graduates equipped for employment, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

Across all these platforms, GZU's consistent engagement reflects its dedication to nurturing talent, widening participation in higher education, and contributing meaningfully to national and regional development. Through its innovative curriculum, community outreach, and regional recruitment drive, GZU continues to position itself as a university of choice for students seeking quality, relevant, and transformative education.



Zambian students going through GZU brochures

University Expands Regional Recruitment and Community Engagement



GZU Information and Public Relations Officers engaging with students at Regina Mundi High School



University Relations and Communications Officer Farisai Matapura- Muzenda engaging with prospective students at Chitungwiza Trade Fair



Gutu District Career day

GZU Innovation Hub drives provincial robotics showcase



Professor Tanyaradzwa Chigonda, Executive Dean, School of Natural Sciences and Lecturer Monica Majembwa pose for a group picture with students

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) hosted the Masvingo provincial round of the World Robot Olympiad at its Innovation Hub, bringing together primary and secondary school teams in a two-day competition centred on robotics, programming and engineering design. Masvingo Christian High School won the Senior Category to take the provincial title, while Helen McGhie Primary School led in the Elementary and

Junior categories. Chibi High School topped the Robot Starter Category.

The competition at GZU's Innovation Hub featured project presentations and practical challenges, with learners demonstrating technical skills and collaborative problem-solving. The event was organised by the University in partnership with the Girls in STEM Trust.

Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Marian Tukuta said

GZU is expanding its role in developing innovation and technical skills through its teaching, research and outreach activities.

Director of Research and Innovation Dr Desmond Mugadza, who opened the event, said the Innovation Hub provides a platform for young people to develop and test ideas, adding that the facility is accessible to schools and communities.

Dean of the School of Natural Sciences Professor Tanyaradzwa Chigonda acknowledged the contribution of partners, teachers, students and university staff in delivering the event.

Girls in STEM Trust Chief Operating Officer Varaidzo Majada announced the results and said the competition is building a pathway for learners to progress in robotics at national level.

Organisers say the programme is intended to expose pupils to practical applications of science and technology while strengthening interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Monica Madyembwa, a lecturer in the School of Natural Sciences and a member of the organising team, said the competition allows learners to engage directly with technology and develop innovation skills. She added that plans are in place to extend robotics training to rural schools to widen participation in future competitions.

The Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, Professor Tanyaradzwa Chigonda, said the University continues to support programmes that promote technological learning among school pupils and strengthen engagement between the University and schools in the province.

Teams that perform well in the provincial contest will represent Masvingo Province at the national round of the World Robot Olympiad scheduled to take place in Bulawayo, where they will compete against provincial winners from across the country.



GZU robotics organising team



Helen McGhie robotics team

GZU wins 11 medals at ZUS Cluster 1 Games



GZU women soccer team

Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) secured 11 medals at the Zimbabwe University Sport (ZUS) Cluster 1 Games held in Bulawayo, hosted by the National University of Science and Technology (NUST).

The university competed against 15 institutions across eight disciplines: basketball, soccer, tennis, rugby, chess, table tennis, athletics and darts.

GZU won six silver and five bronze medals. Athletics accounted for four silver and all five bronze medals. Additional silver medals came from the women's rugby team and the women's darts team.

The ZUS Games bring together universities from across Zimbabwe to compete in multiple sporting codes.



Women Basketball team

GZU hosts Zimbabwe University Sport Games Cluster 2



Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Marian Tukuta receives appreciation gift from Dean in Charge Sport Sarafina Mudavanhu



GZU scooped gold in women's pool

Great Zimbabwe University hosted the Zimbabwe University Sport Games (Cluster 2) from 24 to 27 April 2026, bringing together 16 institutions from across the country.

The four-day event provided a platform for competition, interaction and talent development among students from universities and colleges. Participants, officials and supporters contributed to the coordination of the tournament over the course of the games.

Seven sporting disciplines were contested: netball, pool, handball, volleyball, karate, cricket and paralympics. Each code drew participation from the institutions represented, reflecting the scope of university sport.

Netball and volleyball fixtures attracted spectator interest, while handball and cricket matches formed part of the schedule. Pool contests focused on technical play and concentration, and karate bouts showed discipline and control among competitors.

Paralympic events were included as part of the programme, broadening participation and accommodating athletes across different categories.

During the competition period, teams engaged both on and off the field, with interaction among institutions extending beyond scheduled fixtures.

The hosting of the games adds to Great Zimbabwe University's role in facilitating national university sport and managing multi-institutional events.

The tournament concluded on 27 April 2026, marking the end of this year's Cluster 2 games.



GZU Men's Handball team scooped silver



2026 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS IN PICTURES



