Great Zimbabwe University

# NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY



# GZU expanding its intellectual and physical horizons

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Chancellor of Great Zimbabwe University and all State Universities, breaks ground at the University's permanent Main Campus, marking the start of construction works.

The story of Great Zimbabwe University's Class of 2026 is also the story of a university expanding its ambitions. At its 20th Graduation Ceremony on 23 October, 3,496 graduands received their qualifications as the institution marked a period of academic growth, new areas of specialisation and progress towards establishing its permanent Main Campus.

The graduating class comprised 2,461 undergraduates and 1,035 postgraduate students. Women accounted for 63 per cent of the cohort, while 308 graduates completed programmes in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Another 187 graduands came from five countries: Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

Among the graduates were the first cohorts in applied biosciences and biotechnology, social work, physiology, and pharmacology. Their entry into the University's alumni community represents the emergence of new professional pathways within an institution whose academic portfolio continues to widen.

Eight doctoral graduates and 71 students who obtained distinctions were recognised during the ceremony. Six graduands received Chancellor's Awards for academic performance, while Tawanda Majeza and Constance Gwamure were named the best male and female graduates, respectively. Each received the US$1000 Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa Chancellor's Cash Prize.

In his address, Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo situated the University's

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President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Chancellor of Great Zimbabwe University and all State Universities, applauds the presentation of the master plan for the University's permanent Main Campus.



At its 20th Graduation Ceremony, Great Zimbabwe University conferred qualifications on 3,496 graduands, celebrating academic growth, the expansion of specialised programmes and progress towards the development of its permanent Main Campus.

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academic expansion within the changing demands of the economy and the need for graduates equipped to contribute beyond conventional employment.

The expansion is reflected in the 23 new degree programmes approved by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education in 2026. The programmes include nursing science, agricultural engineering, data analytics, financial technology, forensic accounting and applied mathematics. Together, they extend the University's reach into fields with growing importance to industry, public services, technology and scientific research.

The ceremony also provided the setting for another milestone: the groundbreaking ceremony for GZU's permanent Main Campus, presided over by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Chancellor of the University and all State Universities.

The development is intended to provide the physical infrastructure required to support the institution's expanding academic and research activities. It is envisioned as a permanent intellectual, administrative and cultural home, with facilities for teaching, research, innovation and the University's wider academic mission.

The architectural design draws inspiration from the Great Zimbabwe Monument, bringing the country's architectural heritage into the planned campus environment. The drawings were prepared by a team from the National University of Science and Technology, reflecting collaboration within the higher education sector.

## THE CLASS OF 2026 AT A GLANCE

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **3,496** GRADUANDS | **2,461** UNDERGRADUATES | **1,035** POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS | **63%** WOMEN AMONG THE COHORT | **308** STEM GRADUATES |
| **187** GRADUANDS FROM FIVE COUNTRIES | **8** DOCTORAL GRADUATES | **71** STUDENTS WITH DISTINCTIONS | **23** NEW DEGREE PROGRAMMES APPROVED IN 2026 | |

*Graduands came from Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Zambia. First cohorts graduated in applied biosciences and biotechnology, social work, physiology and pharmacology.*

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

# GZU explore new frontiers in academic and research collaboration with Pakistan




Great Zimbabwe University and Pakistan are exploring opportunities to deepen academic, research and innovation links, innovation links, with discussions covering joint programmes, staff and student exchanges, collaborative research and the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

The discussions took place on Thursday when Pakistan's Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi, visited GZU's Herbert Chitepo Law School for talks with the University's leadership, led by Acting Vice Chancellor Professor David Chikodzi.

The meeting examined how partnerships between GZU and Pakistani higher education institutions could create opportunities for joint academic programmes, collaborative publications, scientific research and cooperation in technology.

Registrar Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo outlined the University's development and its identity as a heritage- and culture-based institution. She also discussed GZU's contribution to knowledge production, innovation and community development, placing its academic work within the broader context of Zimbabwe's development priorities.

Beyond formal academic exchanges, the discussions considered areas of practical cooperation, including entrepreneurship, virtual seminars, capacity-building, library and information-resource sharing, indigenous knowledge systems and cultural exchange.

The two sides also explored the possibility of exchanging expertise on university infrastructure and institutional development, recognising the value of learning from different approaches to higher education.

For GZU, the engagement comes as the University seeks to widen its international partnerships and strengthen the research and innovation dimensions of its Education 5.0 agenda. Collaboration with Pakistani institutions could provide a platform for scholars and students to work across borders, share research and develop responses to common challenges.

The discussions opened up prospects for a relationship that extends beyond conventional academic exchanges to include research, innovation, institutional learning and cultural understanding.

GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

# GZU sharpens focus on governance and accountability

*A university's ambitions are shaped not only by its academic programmes and research activities, but also by the quality of the decisions made in its governing structures.*




Great Zimbabwe University Council members participated in a two-day corporate governance development programme conducted by Industrial Psychology Consultants on 28 and 29 October 2026.



Governance consultant Dr Thomas Lusiyano facilitates a Council evaluation training programme.

At Great Zimbabwe University, a series of governance development programmes in October 2026 placed Council leadership, accountability and institutional oversight under close examination.

A two-day corporate governance development programme, held from 28 to 29 October and facilitated by Industrial Psychology Consultants, brought Council members into discussions on the responsibilities associated with governing a public university.

Running under the theme, "Strengthening Council Leadership, Governance Effectiveness and Institutional Accountability", the programme covered the University's legal and governance framework, Council leadership and decision-making, relations between Council and management, strategic oversight, financial sustainability, risk management and executive accountability.

Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo said an informed and effective Council was essential to implementing the University's strategic vision and fulfilling its national mandate.

The discussions were followed by Council evaluation training on 30 October, which focused on assessing the performance of the Council as a collective body, its Chairperson, individual members and committees.

Council Chairman Professor Mandivamba Rukuni encouraged members to approach the process with honesty and openness to constructive criticism. He called for candid feedback and a willingness to identify areas requiring improvement, including within a Council that may already be performing well.

Deputy Chairperson Professor Rudo Makunike-Mutasa outlined the objectives of the evaluation, including accountability, transparency and effective decision-making in accordance with the Public Entities Corporate Governance Act.

Governance consultant Dr Thomas Lusiyano facilitated the programme.

The evaluation is intended to provide a basis for identifying improvements in Council performance and strengthening its capacity to provide strategic direction.

These governance initiatives form part of a wider institutional conversation about performance and accountability.

At the University's 5th Annual General Meeting, Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Minister Ambassador Dr Frederick Shava called for a stronger connection between institutional activity and measurable results.

In remarks read at the meeting, the Minister challenged GZU to move Education 5.0 beyond implementation towards tangible economic impact, with research outputs developing into enterprises and commercially valuable products.

He also commended the University for integrating teaching, research, community service, innovation and industrialisation.

The meeting received the University's 2025 Operational Report, presented by Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo, who outlined progress in governance, skills development, science, technology and innovation.

Council Chairman Professor Rukuni said GZU had consolidated its contribution to national development through heritage-based Education 5.0, research, innovation and industrialisation.

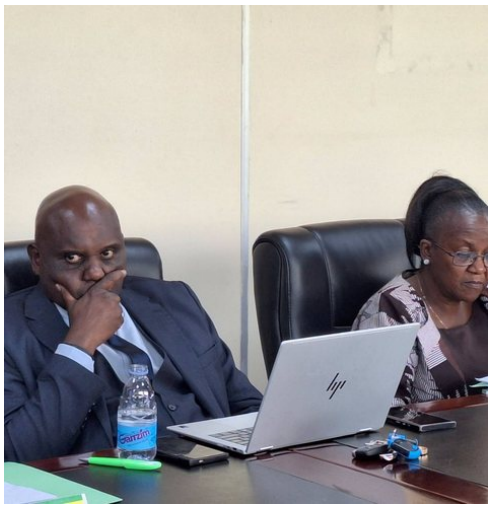
Compliance and financial reports were presented by Registrar Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo and Bursar Dr Andrias Chinyoka. The University also received an unqualified audit opinion for the year 2025.

The governance agenda has also included leadership development through a five-day ideology workshop conducted by the Herbert Chitepo School of Ideology from 13 to 17 July.

Held under the theme "Decolonising the Mind", the programme brought together Council members, the executive, senior management and Workers' Committee



Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Honourable Simelisizwe Sibanda, who represented Minister Ambassador Dr Frederick Shava, addresses delegates at Great Zimbabwe University's 5th Annual General Meeting.



Great Zimbabwe University Council Deputy Chairperson, Professor Rudo Makunike-Mutasa (right), and fellow Council member, Mr Devine Ngwenya, follow proceedings at the University's 5th Annual General Meeting.



Great Zimbabwe University Council member, Dr Polex Moyo, receives his certificate on completion of a five-day ideology workshop conducted by the Herbert Chitepo School of Ideology at the University's Herbert Chitepo Law School.

representatives for discussions on leadership, governance and national development. Participants received certificates at a ceremony held at the Herbert Chitepo Moot Court.

Beyond the University's governing structures, GZU academics have also taken up responsibilities in national constitutional institutions.

Council Chairman Professor Mandivamba Rukuni was sworn in as Deputy Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Land Commission, while Professor Cowen Dziva of the Nehanda Centre for Gender and Culture Studies became a Commissioner of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa presided over the swearing-in ceremony at State House in Harare.

The Zimbabwe Land Commission is responsible for promoting accountability and transparency in agricultural land administration and monitoring land management and use. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission promotes gender equality and monitors progress towards equality.

The appointments bring academic and professional experience into institutions with important constitutional responsibilities.

## APPOINTMENTS TO NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS




Great Zimbabwe University Council Chairperson, Professor Mandivamba Rukuni, takes the oath of office after his appointment by President Emmerson Mnangagwa as Deputy Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Land Commission.




Professor Cowen Dziva of the Nehanda Centre for Gender and Culture Studies has been appointed Commissioner of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission.

**28–29 Oct**
Corporate governance development programme

**30 Oct**
Council evaluation training

**13–17 Jul**
Five-day ideology workshop: "Decolonising the Mind"

**2025**
Unqualified audit opinion received

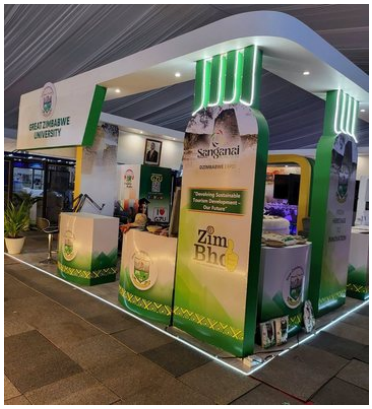
OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT

# Taking the University to the people

*… GZU dominates the 2026 Sanganai International Tourism Expo*




Great Zimbabwe University scooped the Best Overall Exhibition Stand and Best Exhibition Stand in the Training Institutions category awards at the 2026 Sanganai/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe International Tourism Expo.




The award-winning Great Zimbabwe University stand at the 2026 Sanganai/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe International Tourism Expo.




Great Zimbabwe University secured first runner-up position in the national final of the 2026 Sanganai/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe Scholastics Tourism Conference.

A university exhibition stand is often the first point of contact between an institution and someone considering where to study, what career to pursue or which organisation to approach for a partnership.

For Great Zimbabwe University, exhibitions in recent months have served a broader purpose. They have provided opportunities to present academic programmes, demonstrate research, introduce locally developed products and engage prospective students across different markets.

At the 2026 Sanganai/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe International Tourism Expo, GZU won both Best Overall Exhibition Stand and Best Exhibition Stand in the Training Institutions category.

The University's presentation brought together products and activities from different Schools, illustrating the connections between education, culture, research, community service and enterprise.

Wezhira wines, made from indigenous fruits such as mazhanje and hute, demonstrated how locally available resources can be developed into value-added products.

The Innovation Centre of Excellence in Dryland Agriculture presented its work on traditional grains and healthy eating. The Herbert Chitepo Law School showcased its Mobile Law Clinic and community legal education activities, while the School of Commerce displayed a furnished hotel room to demonstrate the professional skills required in hospitality.

Campus Radio added a broadcasting and public-information dimension to the exhibition.

GZU also finished as first runner-up in the national final of the Sanganai/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe Scholastics Tourism Conference. Representing Masvingo Province, the team received US$800 in prize money and a US$2,000 support grant towards developing its innovation.

The awards reflected the University's multidisciplinary approach to presenting its work, with tourism connected to heritage, professional training, community engagement and enterprise.

The University also took first prize in the Universities and Colleges category at the Masvingo Agricultural Show.

Displays from across the Schools presented research, innovation and practical training, while University representatives engaged visitors on academic programmes and admission opportunities.

At the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show in Harare and the Lowveld Show in Chiredzi, GZU continued to combine recruitment with product promotion and public engagement.

Traditional grain meal made from mhunga, zviyo and mapfunde featured among the products displayed and sold at the agricultural show.



Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Honourable Raj Modi, is taken through Great Zimbabwe University's exhibition display at the 2026 Sanganai/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe International Tourism Expo.



Vice President Dr Kembo Mohadi toured the Great Zimbabwe University exhibition stand during Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Week at the Urban Lifestyle Centre in Masvingo.



King Mswati III of Eswatini visited the Great Zimbabwe University exhibition at the 58th Eswatini International Trade Fair, where he was presented with the University's premium Hute and Baobab wines.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

- **Best Overall Exhibition Stand**
  Sanganai/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe Expo
- **Best Stand: Training Institutions**
  Sanganai/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe Expo
- **First runner-up**
  National Scholastics Tourism Conference
- **First prize: Universities & Colleges**
  Masvingo Agricultural Show




GZU Campus Radio conducts an interview with a University business partner during the 2026 Masvingo Provincial Agricultural Show.



Great Zimbabwe University Information Officer, Amanda Jokonya, engages members of the Chiredzi Junior Council during a career guidance session at the Lowveld Show in Chiredzi.




Great Zimbabwe University Disability Officer, Tatenda Moyo, engages stakeholders visiting the University's exhibition stand at the expo.

During the Lowveld Show, Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Kiven Mutimbanyoka visited the University's stand and spoke on GZU Campus Radio about the role of agricultural shows in networking and exchanging ideas.

Chiredzi Town Council head Jamson Charumbira and members of the Chiredzi Junior Council also visited the stand, where learners explored the University's academic programmes.

The exhibitions have also provided a route into regional markets.

At the 58th Eswatini International Trade Fair, GZU presented its degree programmes to prospective students and offered on-site application and enrolment services.

Visitors also received information about the University's research, innovations, products and services, while discussions explored opportunities for cooperation in education, research, innovation and enterprise development.

On the official opening day, King Mswati III visited the Zimbabwe Pavilion and received GZU products, including Hute and Baobab wines and traditional grain meal, Zviyo.

The participation formed part of the University's internationalisation strategy, which seeks to strengthen its visibility and recruitment beyond Zimbabwe while developing regional partnerships.

Recruitment begins much earlier than the university application process for many young people. It often starts with a school visit, a conversation about career choices or an opportunity to see what university life involves.

GZU's career guidance programme has engaged learners from Vhembe High, St Faith High, Gloag High, Masvingo Christian College, Pillar of Hope Academy, Regina Mundi High, Dewure High, Zezani High, Chikwingwizha High and St Anne's Goto High.

The sessions cover academic programmes, admission requirements, career pathways, Advanced Level subject combinations, tuition fees and student support services.

Educational tours provide another dimension. Learners have visited the Innovation Hub, Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education, Simon Mazorodze School of Medical and Health Sciences and Herbert Chitepo Law School.

At the Innovation Hub, they encounter projects developed under Education 5.0. Visits to GZU Campus Radio have also allowed some learners to experience broadcasting and participate in live programmes.

Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo has encouraged learners to work hard and choose careers that reflect their interests, talents and ambitions.

The University's public engagement has also included participation in the National Disability Expo at Mucheke Stadium Grounds.

Held under the theme, "Embracing Disability Inclusion in All Sectors: A Master Stroke for National Prosperity and Economic Development", the event brought together stakeholders to share experiences, innovations and ideas on strengthening disability inclusion.

GZU's participation focused attention on accessibility and inclusive practices across academic and social life, while creating opportunities for partnerships and the exchange of knowledge.

## CAREER GUIDANCE & CAMPUS TOURS




Regina Mundi High School Students take a tour of the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education



Vhembe High school students go through the textile factory




Chikwingwizha High School Students pose for a photo at the Herbert Chitepo School of Law



GZU Staff address students at the Chamanhanza Career Fair in Chivi



St Anne's Goto visit GZU, receive Career guidance



Career Guidance at Birivenge High School Bikita



Zezani high school visits GZU

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

# Climate change, engineering and the search for practical solutions

*… as GZU brings researchers, innovators, parliamentarians into conversation about sustainable development and industrial technology*



Conference delegates pose for a group photograph with Great Zimbabwe University Council and Executive members during the 2nd International Conference on Climate Resilient, Smart and Sustainable Futures (ICCRSSF 2026), held at Elephant Hills Resort in Victoria Falls.



Delegates follow proceedings at the 2nd International Conference on Climate Resilient, Smart and Sustainable Futures (ICCRSSF 2026), which attracted more than 300 participants from over five countries.

The questions facing Zimbabwe's development are increasingly interconnected. How can communities adapt to a changing climate? How can engineering and technology support industrial growth? And how can indigenous knowledge contribute to healthcare, scientific discovery and economic development?

At Great Zimbabwe University, these questions are being explored through research conferences, student innovation projects and the study of traditional medicinal resources. Although the initiatives span different disciplines, they share a common concern: how knowledge can be translated into solutions that improve lives and support sustainable development.

One of the platforms for this exchange was the Second International Conference on Climate Resilient, Smart and Sustainable Futures, held at Elephant Hills Resort in Victoria Falls. The conference attracted more than 300 delegates from over five countries, providing a forum for researchers and institutions to examine climate change, resilience and sustainable development.

GZU Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Jonas Zvobgo officially opened the conference, while Council Chairman Professor Mandivamba Rukuni delivered the keynote address.

The discussions reflected the growing recognition that climate-related challenges cannot be addressed in isolation. Their effects extend across agriculture, infrastructure, public health and livelihoods, requiring responses that draw on different disciplines and involve institutions, communities and researchers working together.

The relationship between technological development and industrial sustainability was also explored at GZU during the Zimbabwe Institute of Engineering's 2026 National Engineering Students Awards for Research and Innovation (NESARI).

Hosted at the Kenneth Kaunda Auditorium at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education, the national competition brought engineering students from universities and polytechnics together under the theme, "Engineering Intelligent, Efficient and Sustainable Industrial Solutions for Zimbabwe".

The projects presented addressed challenges in telecommunications, manufacturing, construction and digital technology. They included intelligent telecommunications infrastructure, wireless network optimisation, digital transformation in bus manufacturing and low-cement tile adhesive for large-format tiles.

A similar connection between academic work and industry emerged at the University's Innovation Hub, where four Computer Science student teams presented technology concepts to the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC).

Engineer Proud Mundenda, ZETDC Senior Manager for IT, Innovation, Research and Development, expressed interest in the presentations and encouraged the students to develop their concepts further. The possibility of producing working prototypes could open opportunities for mentorship and potential funding.

The pitching session was coordinated by the University's Innovation Projects Office, with Jubilee Sibanda facilitating the engagement with ZETDC. Lecturer Monica Madyembwa has been mentoring the teams as they refine their ideas.



Great Zimbabwe University hosted the Zimbabwe Institute of Engineering's 2026 National Engineering Students Awards for Research and Innovation (NESARI), bringing together engineering students to showcase research and innovative solutions to industrial and technological challenges.



Engineering students present research projects and innovative solutions to industrial and technological challenges during the 2026 National Engineering Students Awards for Research and Innovation (NESARI), hosted by Great Zimbabwe University.

**300+**
delegates at ICCRSSF 2026, Victoria Falls

**5+**
countries represented

**4**
student-team concepts pitched to ZETDC

**2nd**
International Conference on Climate Resilient, Smart and Sustainable Futures

HERITAGE & HEALTH · CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7



Members of the Parliamentary Thematic Committee on Culture and Heritage visited Great Zimbabwe University to learn about its research into traditional medicine and proposals for a national herbal gardens programme.

While engineering students explored technological solutions, another strand of GZU's research agenda focused on a resource deeply rooted in Zimbabwe's cultural and biological heritage: traditional medicine.

The Parliamentary Thematic Committee on Culture and Heritage visited the University to examine its research into traditional medicine and proposals for a national herbal-gardens programme. The initiative seeks to preserve indigenous medicinal knowledge while creating opportunities for scientific research, healthcare development and commercial production.

Led by its chairperson, Senator Chief Nechombo, the committee visited the Simon Mazorodze School of Medical and Health Sciences and the University's herbal nurseries as part of Parliament's oversight mandate.

Chief Nechombo said the visit was informed by constitutional provisions requiring the preservation of Zimbabwe's heritage and the protection and promotion of indigenous knowledge systems.

"Section 16 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe requires the state and citizens to preserve and protect our heritage," he said, adding that Section 33 requires the state to preserve, protect and promote indigenous knowledge systems.

In remarks delivered on his behalf by Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Marian Tukuta, Vice Chancellor Professor Zvobgo said traditional medicine formed part of GZU's heritage-based approach to teaching, research, community service, innovation and industrialisation.

He said the University was positioning itself to advance the discovery and development of medicines from natural sources through the Simon Mazorodze School of Medical and Health Sciences.

About 20 per cent of the University's medical curriculum is devoted to traditional and herbal medicine, he said, within the curriculum flexibility provided by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education. The intention is to produce doctors who understand both conventional and traditional approaches to healthcare.

Research at the School is also examining indigenous plants and their potential pharmaceutical applications. The University has allocated five hectares for the expansion of its herbal nursery, with plans to increase cultivation and strengthen links with rural communities.

The Parliamentary Committee's visit concluded with discussions on the policy, investment and institutional support needed to develop the proposed herbal-medicine value chain.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

# Wellbeing begins with wellness

A Zumba fitness session brought Great Zimbabwe University staff and students together in support of Breast Cancer Awareness, using physical activity to encourage conversations about prevention and early detection.

The event combined exercise with a public-health message, reminding participants of the importance of regular screening and healthy lifestyles.

Beyond the fitness activity, the gathering offered an opportunity for members of the University community to show solidarity with people affected by breast cancer and to encourage the sharing of reliable information about the disease.

The initiative formed part of the University's wider engagement with health and wellbeing.

Its central message was that awareness should extend beyond a commemorative event. Conversations about

INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

# When research leaves the laboratory



The Madzimbabwe Eagle Eye AI Quadcopter Drone System uses artificial intelligence to support precision agriculture, environmental monitoring, mapping, surveillance and real-time data collection.

**16**
INNOVATIONS INCUBATED

**17**
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY APPLICATIONS FILED

**3**
START-UPS AT THE EIGHT2FIVE SHOWCASE

A university's research record is often measured in publications, conferences and intellectual contributions. At Great Zimbabwe University, a growing part of the conversation is about what happens after an idea has been developed: whether it can become a product, a service, a business or a solution to a practical problem.

In his speech at Great Zimbabwe University 20th Graduation Ceremony, Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo said the University incubated 16 innovations and filed 17 intellectual property applications, extending its work in agriculture, digital technology, healthcare, livestock management and indigenous products.

The figures form part of a broader institutional effort to connect teaching and research with innovation and industrialisation under the Heritage-Based Education 5.0 model.

Two locally developed technologies illustrate this approach.

The Madzimbabwe Logi-Truck Digital Platform is designed to improve fleet management, transport operations and supply-chain efficiency. Its origins lie in a concept developed by Team Afrozone, which was subsequently refined through collaboration involving researchers, students and the University's Innovation Hub.

The Madzimbabwe Eagle Eye AI Quadcopter Drone System uses artificial intelligence to support precision agriculture, environmental monitoring, mapping, surveillance and real-time data collection. Developed jointly by the School of Agriculture and Engineering and the School of Natural Sciences, the project later received a research and development grant from the Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust.

Both technologies were unveiled at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education before Government officials, University leaders, industry representatives and development partners.

Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Minister Ambassador Dr Frederick Shava, whose remarks were read at the launch, challenged universities to move innovations beyond prototypes and develop commercially viable products.

Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo said the projects demonstrated the University's approach to integrating teaching, research, innovation and industrialisation. Professor Marian Tukuta, Pro Vice Chancellor for Innovation, Research, Business Development and Industrialisation, attributed their development to collaboration between students, academic staff and external partners.

Other projects in the University's innovation pipeline demonstrate the breadth of this work.

Eagle Eye Technology is designed to provide real-time monitoring and analytics, while Madzimbabwe LifeTap Smart ID seeks to offer primary healthcare diagnostic services through a self-service payment model. Psyche Me Up uses game-based learning to deliver mental-health education.

The University is also developing products that draw on indigenous knowledge and locally available resources.

At the Innovation Centre of Excellence in Dryland Agriculture (ICEDA) in Chivi, the Guyo Rokwa grain-processing plant is designed to process traditional grains into meal products. The facility provides a link between smallholder farmers, agricultural processing and commercial markets, creating opportunities to add value to crops such as sorghum, millet and rapoko.

The initiative illustrates how research can extend beyond the production of knowledge to influence agricultural value chains and local enterprise.

The University's start-ups are beginning to take these ideas into the marketplace.

Beezy Hands, an apiculture enterprise; Preserve Plus, a dried-foods business; and Wezhira Wine, which produces wines from indigenous fruits, presented their products at the second Eight2Five Startup Showcase Day in Harare on 2 September 2026.

The showcase brought the enterprises into contact with entrepreneurs, investors and business leaders, creating opportunities to explore business development and investment.

Wezhira's products, made from indigenous fruits including mazhanje and hute, have also featured in GZU's exhibition displays, demonstrating how local resources can be developed into marketable products.

At the same showcase, GZU Council Chairman Professor Mandivamba Rukuni called for stronger institutions capable of supporting successive generations of entrepreneurs. He identified partnerships, research and development investment, policy reforms and sustained resource mobilisation as important conditions for enterprise growth.

The same argument was taken to the University's Annual General Meeting, where Minister Shava challenged GZU to make the 2026–2030 strategic cycle a period in which Education 5.0 moves from implementation to measurable impact.

The Minister's message was that research outputs should increasingly develop into businesses, products and commercial value. He commended the University's integration of teaching, research, community service, innovation and industrialisation.

GZU also presented its work to Vice President Dr Kembo Mohadi during Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Week at the Urban Lifestyle Centre in Masvingo. The University showcased ICEDA's work in Chivi, where farmers are supported through small-grain production, purchasing and processing.

The model connects agricultural research with production and market access. Farmers supply their harvests, which are processed at the University's agro-processing plant into traditional grain meal for commercial markets.

HERITAGE & THE CREATIVE ARTS

# GZU, NACZ forge partnership to advance heritage and the creative arts




Great Zimbabwe University Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo (right), and National Arts Council of Zimbabwe Chief Executive Officer, Napoleon Nyanhi, pose for a photograph after signing a partnership agreement to strengthen collaboration between the University and Zimbabwe's creative sector.

The arts are often discussed in terms of performance, exhibition and entertainment. Yet behind every dance, musical composition, sculpture or stage production lies a body of knowledge, creative labour and economic potential.

Great Zimbabwe University is seeking to bring these dimensions closer together through a five-year partnership with the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ).

The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding on 20 October 2026, establishing a framework for cooperation in arts education, research, cultural exchange and skills development.

Signed by Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo and NACZ Chief Executive Officer Napoleon Nyanhi, the agreement places renewed attention on the relationship between academic institutions and Zimbabwe's creative sector.

One of its central ambitions is the revival of the Dzimbahwe Arts Festival, the University's annual cultural event which has been dormant since the COVID-19 outbreak.

The festival's proposed return would restore a platform where students, artists, academics and cultural practitioners can present their work, exchange ideas and explore opportunities within the creative economy.

Its significance extends beyond bringing performances back to the University's calendar. A sustained arts platform can create opportunities for emerging artists to develop their work, meet collaborators and engage with audiences beyond their immediate communities.

The agreement also provides for joint research, short courses, workshops, conferences, publications and community arts initiatives.

An important part of this work will involve equipping artists with practical, technical, administrative and entrepreneurial skills. Creative talent requires more than artistic ability to become a sustainable livelihood. Artists must also understand production, management, marketing and the business arrangements that support creative work.

Cultural preservation forms another major part of the partnership.

Zimbabwe's tangible and intangible heritage includes monuments, artefacts, oral traditions, traditional dances and forms of cultural expression passed from one generation to another. Some of this knowledge risks disappearing when it is not systematically documented, taught and transmitted.

By combining GZU's academic and research capacity with NACZ's experience in arts promotion, the partnership seeks to strengthen the documentation and preservation of this cultural inheritance.

**5 years**
duration of the memorandum of understanding

**20 Oct 2026**
signed by Prof. Rungano Zvobgo and NACZ CEO Napoleon Nyanhi

**4 areas**
arts education, research, cultural exchange, skills development

**Revival**
of the Dzimbahwe Arts Festival, dormant since COVID-19

LAW & ADVOCACY

# Law students take legal skills beyond the classroom



Great Zimbabwe University's mooting team receives an award at the 6th Transparency International Zimbabwe Moot Competition.




Great Zimbabwe University students Michelle Dhliwayo and Monitor Mutsaka secured third place in the Climate Justice Leadership Mooting Competition organised by the Green Law Global Institute.



The Herbert Chitepo Law School Clinic conducted a community outreach programme in Chief Marozva's area of Bikita, educating residents on environmental rights, access to information on proposed mining projects and the importance of Environmental Impact Assessments.

For law students, the transition from studying legal principles to arguing a case before a judicial panel requires a different kind of preparation. It demands research, persuasive writing, confidence and the ability to defend an argument under scrutiny.

Students at Great Zimbabwe University's Herbert Chitepo Law School have been putting those skills to the test, with national and regional competition results providing evidence of their growing experience in legal advocacy.

The University's most significant recent achievement came at the sixth Transparency International Zimbabwe Moot Competition, where its team won the national contest against teams from other law schools.

Held at the High Court in Mutare, the competition brought together participants from Great Zimbabwe University, Africa University, Midlands State University, the University of Zimbabwe and Ezekiel Guti University.

GZU's winning team comprised lead counsel Christopher Dembure and co-counsel Vanessa Thilivhali Msipa, supported by legal researchers Tanaka Poshiwa and Tinashe Tobaya.

Msipa was also named Best Orator.

The team was coached by Tonderai Mapanga and Tapiwa Moon, with Oscar Mafuta providing administrative and logistical support.

Moot competitions simulate court proceedings and require students to prepare legal arguments, develop written submissions and present cases before a judicial panel. They offer an opportunity to test classroom knowledge against the demands of legal practice.

At the closing ceremony, Justice Isaac Muzenda urged participants to develop confidence, courtroom etiquette and the ability to defend their arguments clearly while respecting the court.

Transparency International Zimbabwe Director Tafadzwa Chikumbu said the competition promoted integrity, accountability and the rule of law while providing aspiring lawyers with practical advocacy experience.

The Law School's students have also demonstrated an interest in emerging areas of legal practice.

Michelle Dhliwayo and Monitor Mutsaka secured third place in the Climate Justice Leadership Mooting Competition organised by the Green Law Global Institute.

The competition examined legal reasoning and advocacy around climate change challenges, placing the students in a field where environmental protection and legal accountability increasingly intersect.

At the awards ceremony, Professor Marian Tukuta, Pro Vice Chancellor for Innovation, Research, Business Development and Industrialisation, said the achievement demonstrated how Education 5.0 could be applied to societal problems through research, innovation and practical solutions.

Advocate Brian Hunda, who travelled from Kenya to present the awards on behalf of the institute, spoke about the importance of preparing young legal practitioners to address environmental challenges through legal advocacy and sustainable development.

The Law School's engagement with environmental justice also extends beyond competitions.

In Chief Marozva's area of Bikita, the Herbert Chitepo Law School Clinic conducted a community outreach programme focused on environmental rights and the potential effects of mining activities.

The sessions addressed residents' right to a clean, safe and healthy environment, access to information about proposed mining projects and the importance of verifying whether projects have the required Environmental Impact Assessment certificates.

Residents were encouraged to participate in decisions affecting their health, livelihoods and cultural heritage. The team also explained how suspected violations could be reported to the Environmental Management Agency, the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.

The GZU delegation was led by Executive Dean Nkosana Maphosa and included lecturers, the Law School librarian and law students. Hillary Mugota of the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association accompanied the team.

Students discussed the responsibilities of mining companies to engage affected communities and provide information about the potential benefits and risks of their operations. The protection of heritage sites threatened by development was another subject of discussion.

Lecturer Douglas Musebenzi said the Law Clinic could assist people who could not afford private legal services.

Community representatives welcomed the engagement and called for continued interaction. The Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association indicated that it would assist residents in engaging relevant organisations about the concerns raised.

**1st**
National winners, 6th Transparency International Zimbabwe Moot

**Best Orator**
Vanessa Thilivhali Msipa

**3rd**
Climate Justice Leadership Mooting Competition

**5**
law schools in the national contest

UNIVERSITY SPORT

# University sport on show as GZU hosts national games, athletes earn regional honours




Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Ambassador Dr Frederick Shava, addressed guests at the games, attended by Minister of State for Masvingo Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Ezra Chadzamira, university vice chancellors and other invited guests.



Great Zimbabwe University athletes celebrate on the podium during the games



At the Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Association (CUCSA) Games in Botswana, GZU athlete Ruvarashe Marikiti finished fourth in the women's 400 metres and won bronze as part of Zimbabwe's women's 4x400 metres relay team. Fellow athlete Ezra Phiri was a member of Zimbabwe's gold-medal-winning men's 4x100 metres relay team.

Sport at university is often described in terms of competition, fitness and recreation. Its wider value, however, can be seen in the relationships it creates between institutions and the opportunities it gives students and staff to develop beyond their academic or professional responsibilities.

Great Zimbabwe University experienced both dimensions in recent months, hosting the Chancellor of State Universities Staff Games and sending athletes to the Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Association (CUCSA) Games in Botswana.

The 2026 Chancellor of State Universities Staff Games brought together staff teams from universities across Zimbabwe for a week of sporting competition, wellness and inter-university engagement.

At the games, Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Minister Ambassador Dr Frederick Shava and Minister of State for Masvingo Provincial Affairs and Devolution Ezra Chadzamira joined Vice Chancellors and other guests.

Minister Shava said the games represented more than competition for medals. He pointed to the discipline, resilience, teamwork and unity demonstrated by participants.

The event ran under the theme, "Driving Innovation, Industrialisation and Collaboration through Sport Towards National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) and Vision 2030".

GZU Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo thanked Government, the Ministry, participating universities, sponsors, officials, volunteers and the organising committee. He said the relationships and collaboration developed among institutions were among the tournament's most important outcomes.

The University's sporting presence extended beyond the national event.

At the 2026 CUCSA Games in Gaborone, Botswana, GZU athletes contributed to Zimbabwe's second-place overall finish in a competition that attracted more than 2,500 student-athletes from universities across Southern Africa.

GZU's contributions included athletics and football, with two players representing Zimbabwe's women's football team, which finished fourth.

In athletics, Ruvarashe Marikiti placed fourth in the women's 400 metres and secured a bronze medal as part of the women's 4x400 metres relay team.

Ezra Phiri was a member of Zimbabwe's gold-medal-winning men's 4x100 metres relay team.

Zimbabwe finished the competition with 35 medals: seven gold, 14 silver and 14 bronze.

University sport also provides opportunities for student leadership and international engagement.

GZU student and Minister of Sports Sunamisai Praise Takunda was elected a Student Ambassador for the International University Sports Federation (FISU) for the 2026/27 season.

A Bachelor of Science in Computer Science student, Takunda previously served as the Zimbabwe University Sport representative before contesting the FISU Ambassador elections.

FISU is the international body responsible for university sport and organises events including the World University Games. Its student ambassadors help represent university sport and connect student communities with international opportunities.

Takunda's appointment creates a platform for contributing to student-sport advocacy and strengthening links between GZU, other universities and sporting organisations.




Great Zimbabwe University student and Minister of Sports, Sunamisai Praise Takunda, was elected a Student Ambassador for the International University Sports Federation (FISU) for the 2026/27 season.

CUCSA GAMES · GABORONE · BOTSWANA

**35 medals**

ZIMBABWE: SECOND PLACE OVERALL
2,500+ STUDENT-ATHLETES

| 7 | 14 | 14 |
|---|---|---|
| GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |

IN PICTURES

# Graduation in pictures

*The 20th Graduation Ceremony · 23 October 2026*

















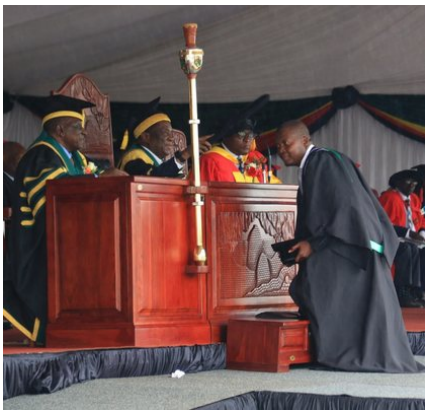




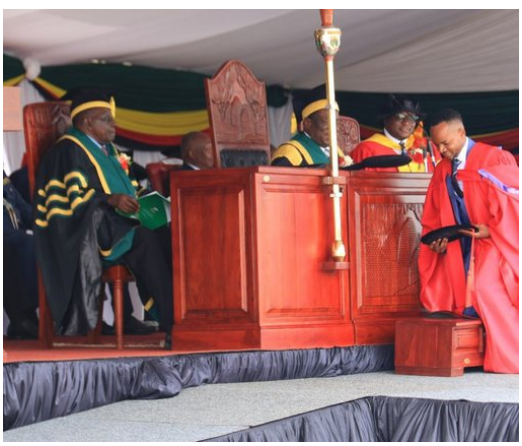











IN PICTURES

# A New Chapter Begins: Main Campus Groundbreaking in Pictures

*President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Chancellor of the University and all State Universities, presided over the groundbreaking*



IN PICTURES

# Sanganai expo in pictures














IN PICTURES

# International Conference on Climate Resilient, Smart and Sustainable Futures









