

CAMPUS CONNECT

Where Knowledge Meets Ink



A Near Miss for LSU United FC in the Munhumutapa Challenge Cup / 12



From Policy to Practice: Minister Champions Rural Industry as LSU Supported Company Shines at the Expo / 2

The recent launch of International Families Day in Lupane, which coincided with the Matabeleland North Business Expo, was more than a ceremonial affair; it was a snapshot of Zimbabwe's push for rural industrialisation, where government policy met grassroots entrepreneurship.



LSU lecturer drives rural industrialisation and women empowerment agenda / 3

Lupane State University Lecturer within the Department of Food Science, Mr Makhosi Mahlangu has proven beyond reasonable doubt that he stands to support the government initiative of promoting industrialisation in rural communities and supporting the economic empowerment of women.



LSU Joins Daluka Primary School In Celebrating Africa Day / 5

Daluka Primary School proudly commemorated Africa Day under the inspiring theme, "Our Culture, Our Unity, Our Future." The event brought together learners, teachers, parents, community members and various stakeholders in a vibrant celebration of African identity, heritage and cultural diversity.

People, Culture, Food, Diversity and Sustainability: Documenting the Indigenous flavours of Zimbabwe / Page 4



Image showing the Minister's visit to the LSU stand during the Expo.

Honourable Mutsvangwa Hails LSU

By Kimberley Ncube

The Minister commended the University for its innovative solutions, noting that they have great potential to support and transform small and medium enterprises.

The final day of the Matabeleland North Provincial Business Expo ran concurrently with the official launch of the International Day of Families at Lupane Centre Terminus, and it was a remarkable occasion that brought together innovation, unity, and community development under one roof.

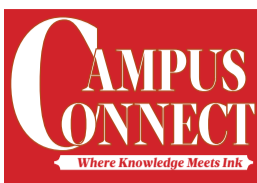
The Lupane State University (LSU) exhibition stand was privileged to receive the Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Hon. Senator Monica Mutsvangwa. During her visit, the Minister commended the University for its innovative solutions, noting that they have great potential to support and transform small and medium enterprises.

Hon Mutsvanga was accompanied by the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North, Hon Richard Moyo and other senior government officials. Among the outstanding innovations showcased were a goat-counting machine, a 3D extruder, and a variety of agricultural products, including livestock, cabbage, lettuce, and green peppers. These exhibits demonstrated the University's commitment to harnessing innovation for agriculture, entrepreneurship, and community empowerment. The expo served as more than just a platform for showcasing ideas, products, and talent. It was also a powerful reminder of the importance of family, collaboration, education, and sustainable development in building resilient and prosperous communities.

Lupane State University remains committed to driving innovation and contributing to national development through impactful research, industrialisation, and community engagement.



Image showing the Minister's visit to the LSU stand during the Expo.



Editor

Ms Sanelisiwe Sibanda
Email: sasibanda@lsu.ac.zw
Cell: +263 77 251 3254

Sub Editor

Mr Thembelani Moyo
Email: moyo@lsu.ac.zw
Cell: +263 77 644 6987

Graphic Designer

Mr Tinanshe Mutsvairo
Cell: +263 77 348 4896

Proof Reader

Mrs Linda Mukuli
Email: lmukuli@lsu.ac.zw
Cell: +263 78 322 6937

Proof Reader

Mr Jennings Joy Chibike
Email: jjchibike@lsu.ac.zw
Cell: +263 77 467 0097

LSU Hosts Matabeleland North Business Expo Conference

By Kimberley Ncube

Lupane State University recently hosted the Matabeleland North Provincial Business Expo Conference, turning the campus into a vibrant hub of entrepreneurship, innovation and economic engagement for small and medium enterprises from across the province. Businesses from different districts in Matabeleland North were showcasing a wide range of products and services in sectors such as agriculture, agro-processing and engineering solutions.

The Expo Conference attracted key institutions and stakeholders including Zimbabwe Revenue Authority , Standards Association of Zimbabwe, NSSA , Fishing Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Corporation and Praz Zimbabwe.

The participating organisations engaged and enlightened small and medium business owners on various aspects of business management, compliance, taxation, standardisation, procurement opportunities and enterprise development. The Expo Conference, which ran until 29 May 2026 , provided an important platform for networking, product exhibitions, demonstrations and business linkages aimed at stimulating economic growth and industrial development within the province. The event also reflected the growing role of universities in driving community development, innovation and economic transformation in line with Zimbabwe's Heritage-Based Education 5.0 philosophy.



LSU Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Thulani Dube addresses the attendees during the conference.



Image showing those who attended the conference.

From Policy to Practice: Minister Champions Rural Industry as LSU Supported Company Shines at the Expo

By Arbitr Munsaka

The recent launch of International Families Day in Lupane, which coincided with the Matabeleland North Business Expo, was more than a ceremonial affair; it was a snapshot of Zimbabwe's push for rural industrialisation, where government policy met grassroots entrepreneurship.

Officially opening the event, the Minister of Women's Affairs, Community Development, and SMEs, Hon. Senator Monica Mutsvangwa delivered a powerful address celebrating families as the bedrock of national development. However, her speech quickly pivoted from celebration to concrete governance.

"The government is focused on rural inclusion and infrastructure," Minister Mutsvangwa stated, highlighting commitments to improve road access and promote domestic tourism, specifically to Victoria Falls in a move to bolster community work.

Minister Mutsvangwa used the platform to send a clear message on gender equality. Addressing a crowd of local leaders and exhibitors, she encouraged young women to compete equally for leadership positions. She named specific role models including Chief Justice Elizabeth Gwaunza and legal advisor Virginia Mabiza as proof that women are ascending to the highest offices. She also praised the government, led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, for resourcing traditional chiefs and restoring their lands, acknowledging chiefs as custodians who keep communities together.

From Encouragement to Enterprise

While the Minister's address set the tone for opportunity, the true evidence of success was found at the exhibitors' stalls.

Among the local businesses was Ekude Investment, a start-up that credits its very existence to Lupane State University's (LSU) Innovation Hub. According to an exhibitor from the company, Mrs Thokozi Tshuma, the university played a pivotal role in transforming their idea into a registered, running enterprise.

"The innovation hub encouraged us to register the company," the Ekude representative explained. "Today, the business is running smoothly, exhibiting a growing range of products including pine gel, dish wash, cobra, and shampoo," she noted.

Buoyed by the support from LSU, Ekude Investment is already looking ahead. The team is currently working to expand the company, with a goal to produce "almost all detergents."

For LSU, the success of Ekude Investment is a testament to the university's role beyond the classroom. By hosting the expo and nurturing startups through its Innovation Hub, LSU is directly contributing to the national goals of rural industrialisation and job creation that the Minister championed from the podium.



LSU staff manning the institution's stand during the Expo.

SMECC2E Intra-Africa Mobility Scholarship 2026

Lupane State University in collaboration with the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University of Cape Coast (Ghana), Moi University (Kenya), University of Rwanda, University of Sierra Leone, Fourah Bay College and University of West Attica, Greece (EU Technical Partner) are implementing an Intra-Africa Mobility Scheme with a project titled

SMECC2E (Sustainable Energy & Materials, Energy Policy, Climate Change, Energy Economics and Environment) initiative.

This €1.447 million EU-funded project facilitates academic mobility across a consortium of African universities, supported by an EU technical partner, to advance climate action and sustainable development.

The project focuses on six critical thematic areas:

Sustainable Energy, Sustainable Materials, Energy Policy, Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation), Energy Economics and Financing, and Environment.

Running from January 2026 – December 2029, the project offers fully funded mobility scholarships for MSc and PhD students, trainees

and staff in: Clean Energy Transition, Climate Change, Energy Economics, Sustainable Materials and Environmental Studies across African partners.

The project is proud to announce its call for the first cohort, which will award 31 mobility scholarships that include: 7 degree-seeking Masters, 3 degree-seeking PhDs, 5 research credit-seeking

Masters, 4 research credit-seeking PhDs, 5 Trainees and 4 Staff mobility scholarships.

For more information please visit:

[LinkedIn: SMECC2E](#)
[Facebook: Smecc2e Project](#) | [Website: www.smecc2e.unn.edu.ng](http://www.smecc2e.unn.edu.ng)



SMECC2E Intra-Africa Mobility Scholarship Programme

Advancing Africa's Future in Sustainable Energy, Materials, Climate Change & Environment

Funded by the European Union



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE 1st COHORT

SMECC2E Intra-Africa Mobility Scholarships 2026

Masters | PhD | Credit-Seeking | Degree-Seeking | Traineeships | Staff Mobility



Application Deadline

16th July 2026

Scan here to apply



or visit:
<https://smecc2e.online/>

SMECC2E will award

31

Mobility Scholarships in the 1st Cohort

- ▶ 7 degree seeking Masters.
- ▶ 3 degree seeking PhDs.
- ▶ 5 Research credit seeking Masters.
- ▶ 4 Research credit seeking PhDs.
- ▶ 8 Trainees.
- ▶ 4 Staff.

Thematic Areas

- ▶ Sustainable Energy Systems Development
- ▶ Sustainable Energy Materials
- ▶ Energy Policy
- ▶ Climate Change (Mitigation & Adaptation)
- ▶ Energy Economics & Financing
- ▶ Environment

Scholarship Benefits

 Tuition fees (where applicable)	 Monthly subsistence allowance	 Travel costs (return flight ticket)	 International mobility experience
 Travel/Health insurance	 Research/training support	 Visa contribution	 Academic supervision & mentorship

Consortium Universities

 University of Nigeria - Nigeria	 University of Cape Coast - Ghana	 Moi University - Kenya	 University of Rwanda - Rwanda
 University of Sierra Leone - Sierra Leone	 Lupane State University - Zimbabwe	 University of West Attica - Greece	

Contact Us ✉ smecc2e@unn.edu.ng  [Smecc2e Project](https://www.smecc2e.unn.edu.ng)

 www.smecc2e.unn.edu.ng



Scan to join the Online Info Session - 2pm - 4pm WAT (Friday 5th June)

FOR GUIDELINES OF
HOW TO APPLY ALSO
VISIT THE LSU WEBSITE:
www.lsu.ac.zw

LSU OPEN DAY A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

By Arbiter Munsaka

Lupane State University welcomed hundreds of prospective students, parents, teachers, and industry partners to its 2026 Open Day held at the Main Campus in Lupane.

The event, which ran under the theme: "Beyond learning: LSU Shaping Future Leaders, Innovators and Entrepreneurs Through Education 5.0"; was designed to give visitors a glimpse of university life and showcase academic programmes, world-class facilities, and opportunities available at the institution.

Delivering the keynote address, the Vice Chancellor of LSU, Professor Pardon Kuipa described the Open Day as "a day of possibilities", a moment when future doctors, engineers, sociologists, and professors could begin to see their paths clearly.

"Some of you are going to be doctors. Some of you are going to be engineers like myself. Some of you are going to be sociologists, social workers, professors and lecturers", Professor Kuipa told the learners.

He added that through the day's engagements, future leaders would be inspired, future innovators discovered, and future entrepreneurs would begin to see opportunities where others see challenges.

"Some of the young people here today will one day become business leaders, presidents in waiting, policy makers, members of parliament, and community champions," the Vice Chancellor said.

"When our children succeed, the learning stage succeeds, the nation succeeds, and the programme succeeds," he added.

Several students who attended the Open Day shared positive feedback about their experience. Although their names were not recorded, many learners noted that they learnt a great deal about university life, academic programmes, and career pathways.

A number of students expressed that they were now looking forward to joining Lupane State University. Some indicated that the event had inspired them to pursue specific fields of study, while others said the campus tour had changed their perception of university education.

With positive feedback from learners and strong turnout from schools and parents, LSU's 2026 Open Day proved to be a resounding success, inspiring the next generation of leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs.



LSU OPEN DAY IN PICTURES



LSU lecturer drives rural industrialisation and women empowerment agenda



Mr Makhosi Mahlangu (left) explaining the transformative project to the presidium

By Thembelani Moyo

A Lupane State University Lecturer within the Department of Food Science, Mr Makhosi Mahlangu has proven beyond reasonable doubt that he stands to support the government initiative of promoting industrialisation in rural communities and supporting the economic empow-

erment of women.

Through his 500 Women Chilli Project in Lupane and Victoria Falls fronted by an organisation he formed with partners called African Food Revolution, he has demonstrated that what started as a community-driven initiative in Lupane is rapidly becoming a powerful symbol of rural industrialisation, women empowerment,

food sovereignty, and African innovation.

Recently he had an honour and privilege of explaining the transformative project to His Excellency, President Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa in Victoria Falls as the country joined the continent in commemorating Africa Day.

He emphasised that through indigenous knowledge systems, agroecology, value addition, and market integration, the project is creating sustainable livelihoods for rural women while building a new African food economy from the ground up.

“The 500 Women Chilli Project is a community-driven rural development initiative being implemented in Lupane District through the African Food Revolution in partnership with communities, farmers, and stakeholders including Lupane State University,” said Mr Mahlangu.

“The project focuses on empowering over 500 women through chilli production, value addition, processing, and market integration. What makes the project unique is that it goes beyond farming – it is building a complete indigenous African value chain from the village level to finished products such as the Ndiya Ndiya chilli sauce.

“We are also integrating innovation and traceability systems through GIS mapping, community-based processing, solar drying technologies, and food science research. The project is rooted in agroecology, indigenous knowledge systems, and climate resilience, especially in dry regions such as Lupane. This initiative is proving that rural communities

can become centres of innovation, production, and entrepreneurship using local resources,” he added.

Mr Mahlangu also explained how the project is positioned to industrialise rural areas saying: “it directly supports Zimbabwe’s rural industrialisation agenda by creating production and processing systems within rural communities instead of exporting raw materials without value addition.”

Him and his team are currently installing solar dryers in communities such as Dongamuzi, St Paul, and Shabulanyana to support local processing and preservation of chilli products. This means communities will be able to dry, process, package, and eventually market products from their own areas.

“Instead of rural communities being seen only as producers of raw commodities, we are transforming them into manufacturing and value-addition hubs. This creates employment opportunities, stimulates local economies, improves household incomes, and encourages youth participation in agriculture and food systems. The project is also helping establish stronger market linkages between farmers, processors, researchers, and retailers, creating a new rural economy built around indigenous African products,” he said.

Additionally, Mr Mahlangu said that women are at the centre of the initiative as the project was “designed to create economic opportunities for rural women who are often excluded from formal value chains and financial systems.”

“Through chilli production and processing, women are now participating in income generation,

entrepreneurship, and leadership within their communities. They are receiving training in production techniques, agroecology, processing, value addition, and business development.

“The project also allows women to work closer to their homes and communities while participating in commercially viable agricultural activities. This contributes to household food security, education support for children, and improved livelihoods. Beyond economics, the project is restoring dignity and visibility to rural women by recognising them as innovators, food producers, and drivers of rural transformation,” added Mr Mahlangu.

For all the efforts made by African Food Revolution and LSU, the project represents a powerful example of how universities, communities, and grassroots organisations can work together to solve real African challenges using African solutions.

“It demonstrates that research and innovation should not remain in laboratories or classrooms alone – they must improve livelihoods and create practical impact within communities,” said Mr Mahlangu.

“The project also strengthens our vision of promoting indigenous African food systems, agroecology, climate resilience, and rural innovation. It shows that African communities have the capacity to build sustainable food systems and globally competitive products from local resources. For us, this is more than a chilli project. It is an African Food Revolution – a movement focused on dignity, heritage, innovation, and economic transformation from the villages to the world,” he added.

**JOIN THE AFRICAN
FOOD REVOLUTION
AND CONTRIBUTE
TO BETTER FOOD
PRODUCTION
SYSTEMS IN AFRICA**



WWW.AFRICANFOODREVOLUTION.ORG
EMAIL: AFRICANFOODREVOLUTION@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK:
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AFRFOOD/
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

Report on the Food Innovation Conference 2026: Sustainable Food Systems for a Growing World

By Sibongubhle Ayanda Mafela

I had the privilege of attending the Food Innovation Conference 2026, held under the timely theme “Sustainable Food Systems for a Growing World.” As a Lecturer in the Department of Food Science and Technology of LSU, this gathering offered an

invaluable opportunity to engage with fellow researchers, industry professionals, and policymakers committed to transforming our food landscape.

My accepted abstract, titled “*The Nutritional, Physicochemical, Microbial and Sensory Properties of Pearl Millet and NUA 45 Bean Yogurt*,” explored an innovative plant-based

yogurt formulation designed to enhance food security and nutrition using underutilized indigenous crops found locally.

The research reflects my ongoing dedication to developing sustainable, affordable, and health-promoting food products for local communities. I am deeply honoured to share

that my poster presentation was awarded Best Poster Presentation at the conference. This recognition is a tribute not only to the rigorous work put into the study but also to the supportive research environment within the Department of Food Science and Technology. It affirms the value of exploring climate-resilient, nutrient-dense

crops like pearl millet and NUA 45 beans in addressing the dietary needs of a growing population.

I am grateful to the University’s Research Board for funding this conference.



This recognition is a tribute not only to the rigorous work put into the study but also to the supportive research environment within the Department of Food Science and Technology. It affirms the value of exploring climate-resilient, nutrient-dense crops like pearl millet and NUA 45 beans in addressing the dietary needs of a growing population.



People, Culture, Food, Diversity and Sustainability
Series No. 2

Documenting the Indigenous flavours of Zimbabwe

By Dr. Khanyisani Ngwenya and Si-sasenkosi Ndlovu

The first article introduced a forthcoming series to be published in the monthly newsletter, aimed at documenting and disseminating knowledge, skills, and belief systems associated with Zimbabwe's diverse cultural traditions, food practices, and sustainability. It emphasised the proposition that food serves as a medium for expressing cultural identity and preserving communal history. In this regard, cuisine functions not only as nourishment but also as a vehicle for communicating social identity, embodying cultural values, and conveying historical meanings. The article further highlighted the symbolic significance of staple meals such as beef stew, sadza, and vegetables, which represent signature dishes within many communities. In numerous African contexts, communal dining reflects unity, respect, and shared cultural values. Chukwurah et. al., (2025:1) asset that 'without culture regions would lack distinct identities and the rich tapestry of traditions that make them unique

Within Zimbabwean traditions, particularly among the Ndebele people, the serving of the head (inhloko) and hooves (amangqina) to elders and household heads carries deep symbolic meaning, representing responsibility, guidance, wisdom, and respect. The preparation of inhloko is a culturally significant process that requires patience and humility. It is typically prepared outside the homestead, near the site of slaughter. The head is first dehorned, where applicable, and the tongue—considered a delicacy—is removed for separate use. The head is then cleaned, placed whole into a large three-legged pot, and cooked slowly over a fire with water and seasoning. This process often requires continuous supervision, traditionally assigned to young boys, who ensure adequate water levels throughout the day to prevent burning. Nutritionally, inhloko is rich in proteins, fats, and essential micronutrients, contributing significantly to energy provision.

Similarly, amangqina (hooves) are regarded as a delicacy requiring careful preparation. The hooves are thoroughly cleaned, singed over an open flame to remove hair, and scraped before being cut into manageable portions. They are then cooked in a suitably sized pot with water and seasoning over a low, sustained heat. Prolonged simmering produces a thick, gelatinous sauce rich in collagen, protein, and gelatin, which supports joint health, skin elasticity, and overall bodily development. Additionally, the dish provides essential minerals such as iron, zinc, calcium, and phosphorus.

Serving inhloko and amangqina reinforces the social function of food as a means of fostering relationships, sharing experiences, and sustaining cultural heritage (Hills, et. al., 2025). Such meals traditionally provided a platform for resolving social differences amicably, strengthening communal bonds without formal dispute mechanisms. During these gatherings, men would eat together, often

accompanied by sadza made from small grains. The inclusion of gelatinous sauce allowed for the addition of traditional herbs, believed to enhance flavour and address health concerns, particularly those associated with male vitality.

These communal settings also served as important spaces for the transmission of indigenous knowledge. Elders would share cultural values, life lessons, and survival strategies with younger generations through storytelling and informal dialogue. Participation in such meals was traditionally gendered, with women and children often excluded, as these dishes were considered a male preserve.

Inhloko and amangqina commonly featured in cultural ceremonies such as traditional weddings, lobola (bride price) negotiations, family gatherings, and funerals. These occasions fostered social cohesion, reinforced cultural identity, and embodied the philosophy of ubuntu—"I am because we are." Beyond their symbolic value, these practices also reflect principles of sustainability, as they promote the utilisation of all parts of the slaughtered animal. Through such culinary traditions, respect for elders, cultural pride, and intergenerational knowledge transfer are preserved and sustained (Hidayatullah et. al., 2025).

Try the recipes below for the man you love.

Ox Heads (Inhloko)

Ingredients

1 Head
Water
Salt

Preparation method

- Prepare, wash and cut the head to fit in a 3 legged pot or any large saucepan.
- Add enough water to fully cover the meat.
- Season with salt and bring water to the boil.
- Leave to boil for at least 3 hours.
- After 3 hours, reduce heat, allow to simmer gently until cooked.
- Serve with white or brown pap made from different small grains.
- Vegetables are optional as an accompaniment to these dishes.

Ox Hooves (Amangqina)

Ingredients

2 Ox hooves
Water
Salt

Preparation Method

- Prepare, wash and cut hooved to reasonable pieces.
- Add to a large 3-legged pot or any large saucepan.
- Add enough water to fully cover the meat.
- Season with salt and bring water to the boil.
- Leave to boil for at 3hours, allow to simmer gently until cooked.
- Serve while hot with white or brown pap made from a variety of small grains.
- Vegetables as an accompaniment to this dish are optional.



Amangqina



Inhloko

LSU hosts Mat North 2026 Amai's Traditional Cookout Competition

Students scoop top honours prizes

By Lucia N Nkomo

Lupane State University hosted the 2026 Amai's Traditional Cookout Competition for Matabeleland North Province, bringing together culture, gastronomy, and community empowerment in a vibrant celebration of Zimbabwean heritage.

The event attracted 37 contestants from various categories including Community Members, Student Chefs, Professional Chefs, and Persons with Disabilities.

Participants showcased remarkable culinary talent through the preparation of traditional dishes that reflected Zimbabwe's rich cultural diversity and indigenous food heritage.

Amongst the contestants three students from LSU brought pride to the institution after scooping top honours in the Student Category during the Matabeleland North provincial leg of the Amai Traditional Cookout Competition, which took centre stage on the university grounds.

The students, Sylvester Tanaka Sibanda (overall winner), Marcia Dube (first runners-up), Carol Siphon Phiri (second runners-up)

from the Faculty of Commerce studying Hospitality and Tourism, confidently set up their cooking stations alongside seasoned chefs from across the province, showcasing not only culinary skill but also the practical training offered by the institution.

Their combination of technique, innovation, and respect for indigenous ingredients ultimately won over the judges, proving that the next generation of Zimbabwe's tourism and hospitality sector is already cooking.

The competition highlighted the growing importance of Gastronomy Tourism in promoting cultural preservation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Students had the opportunity to witness how traditional cuisine can contribute towards tourism growth, innovation, and national identity.

Representing the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North Province, Honourable Richard Moyo, Director Tapera Mugoriya attended the event alongside various dignitaries.

The Guest of Honour, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Hospitality

Industry Hon. Tongai Mhangagwa, spoke on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry Hon. Barbara Rwdzi and Tourism Patron Her Excellency Dr. Auxillia Mhangagwa.

In his address, he highlighted the remarkable work being carried out by Hon. Barbara Rwdzi and Her Excellency Dr. Auxillia Mhangagwa in promoting Zimbabwe's tourism and cultural sectors.

He also emphasised the significance of the cookout competition in preserving cultural heritage, empowering communities, promoting inclusivity, and advancing Gastronomy Tourism as a key contributor towards Vision 2030.

The competition continues to play a significant role in promoting Zimbabwean gastronomy while empowering communities, women, youth, and persons with disabilities through cultural and tourism-driven initiatives.

As LSU hosted this prestigious occasion, students were exposed to the importance of preserving Zimbabwean traditions while embracing innovation, cultural pride, and tourism-led development.



LSU staff showcasing some of its innovative prototypes.



Daluka Primary School learners performing during the event.

LSU Joins Daluka Primary School In Celebrating Africa Day

By Mcebisi Dewa

Daluka Primary School proudly commemorated Africa Day under the inspiring theme, "Our Culture, Our Unity, Our Future." The event brought together learners, teachers, parents, community members and various stakeholders in a vibrant celebration of African identity, heritage and cultural diversity.

The commemorations served as a powerful reminder that our rich cultural heritage is a source of unity and pride, providing a strong foundation for building a prosperous future for generations to come.

The event was made even more memorable by the participation of Lupane State University (LSU), which showcased some of its innovative prototypes and community-centred initiatives. Guided by its motto, "Building Communities Through Knowledge," LSU demonstrated its commitment to using research, innovation and technology to address local challenges and improve livelihoods.

Attendees had the opportunity to interact with and learn about several groundbreaking innovations

developed by the university, including the 3D Printer (Extruder), Goat Counting Machine System, Cow Tracking Belt, and Solar Drip Irrigation System. These innovations highlighted the critical role that science, technology and innovation play in driving sustainable community development and enhancing productivity in rural communities.

No African celebration would be complete without the rich flavours of traditional cuisine. Guests were treated to a variety of indigenous foods, including inkobe, umxhanxa, umhwabha oledobi, and other traditional delicacies. The sharing of these meals underscored the importance of preserving African traditions and passing them on to future generations.

The Africa Day celebrations at Daluka Primary School were more than just a cultural event; they were a reflection of our shared identity, collective strength and aspirations as Africans. By celebrating our culture, embracing innovation and strengthening community bonds, the event reinforced a powerful message: Our Culture, Our Unity, Our Future.



Images showing the proceedings of the competition

LSU continues its thrust in career guidance

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University has not stopped its mission to capacitate high and primary school learners with relevant knowledge that will assist them as they enroll for different programmes in higher learning and tertiary institutions across the country.

This is evidenced by a recent visit to various schools in Matabeleland North Province and beyond.

The institution staff members have been visiting these schools advising learners about career opportunities as they grow up.

Recently the staff visited the King George VI School as well as St. Columbas High School in Bulawayo.

"We're engaging with students on pathways to success and sharing opportunities for our August 2026 intake. If you're looking to build skills, advance your career, and join a university that invests in your future, LSU is where it starts," reads a report from the team.

Last month a LSU team also visited various schools including Mawaba

Primary School and Sibantubanye School an institution dedicated to supporting children with special needs as well as high schools which include Nkulumane, Sizane, Mzilikazi, and Luveve High School.

The visits were undertaken to equip both learners with detailed information about what awaits them at the institution while also showing them the many opportunities that are available and adapted to suit their varied academic strengths and individual personalities.

The response from the schools was described as positive and welcoming throughout the duration of the sessions, with both teachers and learners showing a keen interest in what LSU has to offer, particularly at institutions such as Sibantubanye where staff engaged actively with the visiting team.

LSU's Mr Machokoto expressed satisfaction with the reception received from the schools and offered specific remarks regarding the visit to Sibantubanye, stating: "Sibantubanye is a special school and most of the programmes we offer might not be adapted to



Learners from King George VI School during the career guidance session.

them, however we learnt that they would love to collaborate with the institution in terms of becoming self-sustaining, especially through agricultural projects."

The career guidance sessions ultimately served a deeper purpose by helping young people move beyond simply viewing universi-

ty programmes as a list of options and instead encouraging them to ensure that what they choose to study is something they genuinely want to pursue, allowing them to understand clearly who they are becoming as they take those different courses.

LSU has been committed in the

development of learning especially in local schools following a myriad of reports about schools recording zero pass rates.

Previously the Department of Educational Foundations has been extensively involved in supporting schools in developing learner materials to address the issue.



Images of LSU representatives during the training.

LSU Student Carries Community Vision to Young Life Africa South Training

By Reason Moyo

From the peaceful landscapes of Lupane to the vibrant energy of Harare, what began as a simple journey soon became a life-changing experience filled with leadership, faith, and purpose.

Representing Lupane State University (LSU) the Young Life Club and the broader Lupane community, had the privilege of attending the Young Life Africa South Hands-On Training (HOT).

The gathering brought together passionate Young Life leaders from across Southern Africa, creating a powerful platform for learning, networking, collaboration, and spiritual growth.

The moment I stepped into the training venue, I realized this was far more than an ordinary leadership workshop. It was a meeting of visionaries, mentors, and servant leaders united by one common mission, reaching young people with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. Over several impactful days, we participated in intensive training sessions focused on spiritual leadership, discipleship, contact work, fundraising, self-care, vision development, youth ministry strategies, and leadership multiplication. Every session challenged us to think beyond our limitations, lead with greater intentionality, and serve with deeper purpose.

Among the many lessons shared throughout the train-

ing, one message stood out above all others, true leadership begins with a personal relationship with God. Before we can effectively lead others, we must first allow Christ to lead us. That powerful truth became the foundation of everything we learned during the week. The experience was not only about gaining knowledge but it was about transformation. Through worship sessions, prayer, group discussions, and practical ministry exercises, we were encouraged to reflect deeply, sharpen our vision, and renew our commitment to serving young people wholeheartedly.

As representatives of our different communities, we were also given the opportunity to share stories from our ministry contexts. I proudly carried the story of Lupane a community rich in resilience, untapped potential, and young people eager for guidance, hope, and purpose. Every conversation became an opportunity to showcase the meaningful work being done through Young Life at LSU and within the Lupane community. One of the most inspiring aspects of the training was connecting with leaders from across Africa South. Listening to their experiences reminded me that although our cultures, backgrounds, and communities may differ, our mission remains the same; building meaningful relationships with young people and introducing them to Jesus Christ.

Beyond the training ses-

sions, lasting friendships were formed, ideas were exchanged, and new visions were born. The experience created a strong network of leaders who will continue supporting and learning from one another long after the event concluded. Returning to Lupane, I came back with far more than certificates and notebooks. I returned with renewed passion, practical ministry skills, stronger leadership abilities, and a clearer vision for impacting young people in our schools, communities, and LSU campus.

For the LSU Young Life Club, this experience represents more than personal growth, it is an investment in the future of student leadership and youth ministry. The knowledge, inspiration, and experiences gained in Harare will strengthen our mission to create spaces where students can grow spiritually, build lasting friendships, and discover their God-given purpose. Reflecting on this remarkable journey, I am reminded that leadership is not about standing above others, but about walking alongside them, inspiring hope, and serving faithfully.

From Lupane to Harare, this was more than a trip. It was a calling reaffirmed, a vision strengthened, and a powerful reminder that ordinary students can make an extraordinary impact when they answer God's call. The future of Young Life at LSU is bright and this is only the beginning.

The Illusion of Easy Money: Navigating Zimbabwe's Modern Scams

Scammers do not just steal your money; they weaponise your ambition. For university students striving to beat tuition costs and staff members working to maximize their salaries, the promise of passive income is incredibly alluring.

Yet, this exact eagerness is what modern fraudsters exploit, using sleek apps and artificial urgency to bypass your critical thinking.

Our eagerness to build financial security has turned campus group chats and staff rooms into prime hunting grounds for sophisticated scammers.

With mobile money fraud exceeding US\$30 million annually in Zimbabwe, and cybercriminals now deploying advanced tools like artificial intelligence (AI), the line between a legitimate side hustle and a total wipeout of your savings

has never been thinner. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe recently had to issue urgent warnings about deepfake AI videos showing the RBZ Governor promoting fake investment apps.

If the system can fool a digital native, it can fool anyone. To protect your hard-earned funds, look out for the three major red flags that define modern investment scams in Zimbabwe.

1. The guaranteed high return trap: In legitimate investing, risk and return are inseparable partners. If an opportunity promises 30% to 50% returns in 24 hours or a month especially with zero risk, it is a mathematical impossibility. These are classic Ponzi or pyramid schemes. They do not invest in gold, cryptocurrency, or global markets; they simply use cash from new recruits to pay older ones until the entire

structure inevitably collapses.

2. The Pressure to Recruit: If an investment relies heavily on you adding your colleagues, roommates, or students to a WhatsApp group to unlock a higher tier of earnings, you are not investing. You are participating in a pyramid scheme. Real investments like stocks, real estate, or money market funds pay dividends based on economic performance, not on how many friends you drag into the room.

3. Masked or Unverified Credentials: Scammers love to use vague terms like algorithmic trading, automated crypto mining, or shell investment applications. If someone approaches you with an offer, ask for their Financial Services Provider registration number. Legitimate platforms in Zimbabwe are registered with the Securities and

The Financial Literacy Column
With Sekai JC Gochera



Exchange Commission (SECZIM) or regulated by the RBZ. If they cannot produce verifiable proof of registration, keep your money in your pocket.

The Golden Rule: Never let the urgency of a limited-time opportunity bypass your critical thinking. Scammers rely on creating fear of missing out to force you into making rushed decisions before your logical mind takes over. If you are looking to invest, start small with regulated, transparent local channels like asset management firms, unit trusts, or micro-businesses where you can physically track the

supply chain. Building wealth on campus is entirely possible, but the best investment you can make this month is protecting the capital you already have.

If an investment sounds too good to be true, it always is. In a digital world filled with AI deepfakes and phantom apps, skepticism is your best financial defence. Build your extra income through regulated, transparent local channels, and leave the overnight millions to the fraudsters. Wealth-building is a marathon, not a sprint, do not let a scammer trip you at the starting line.

Cash Squeeze?

Convenient and Quick USD loans

Loan Products

- ✓ Salary based loans
- ✓ SME Loans
- ✓ Group Loans

LupFin
Financial Services

Get in touch now:
lupfin@lsu.ac.zw
0782 889 322
Office 2, block 2,
LSU Main Campus

A wholly owned subsidiary of the Lupane State University



Our eagerness to build financial security has turned campus group chats and staff rooms into prime hunting grounds for sophisticated scammers.

LSU Joins National Culture Month Commemorations in Bulawayo

By Buhlebenkosi Makalisa

Lupane State University was part of the successful 2026 National Culture Month commemorations held at Barbourfields Stadium in Bulawayo, joining thousands of Zimbabweans in celebrating the country's cultural diversity and heritage.

The national event, held under the theme: "Creativity and Diversity: Advancing Vision 2030 through Cultural Expressions", transformed Barbourfields Stadium into a living mosaic of Zimbabwe's languages, music, dance, cuisine and traditional knowledge.

People from all 10 provinces attended, with many dressed in dazzling traditional regalia and national colours.

The stadium was filled with primary and secondary schools from Bulawayo, Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South, alongside tertiary institutions and community cultural groups.

LSU participated alongside these institutions, creating a platform where learners and students could showcase and learn from one another.

The day featured a wide range of cultural dances performed by different cultural groups. Traditional dances from these groups reflected the rich diversity of Matabeleland North and the nation at large.

The performances were complemented by different artists including musicians, poets and traditional instrumentalists whose acts kept the crowd engaged throughout the day.

His Excellency President Dr Emerson Mnangagwa officiated the launch and commended Bulawayo

for hosting a colourful and unifying celebration.

He described the city as a fitting venue given its rich historical and cultural identity and praised the collaborative efforts between government and local leadership that made the event possible.

The event was also attended by the Minister of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, provincial governors and senior officials from the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development. Traditional leadership was strongly represented with many Traditional leaders. Councillors were also present, engaging with exhibitors on how cultural programs can support local development.

LSU took part alongside primary and secondary schools, tertiary institutions, cultural groups and artists from across the country.

The university's presence highlighted its ongoing role in documenting, preserving and promoting indigenous knowledge and cultural practices from Matabeleland North and beyond.

Students and staff engaged visitors at the university's exhibition stand, showcasing work on indigenous languages, oral histories, and community-based cultural preservation projects.

The stand drew interest from traditional leaders, educators and members of the public who interacted with students on the link between culture and development.

University representatives also participated in discussions on the role of higher education in advancing cultural diversity and creativity as outlined in the National Development Strategy 2.



LSU Representatives During The Commemorations Of The Culture Month

The commemorations featured performances by local artistes, traditional dance groups, poets and musicians reflecting the diversity of Zimbabwe's 16 official languages and ethnic communities. The vibrant atmosphere underscored the message that cultural diversity is a source of unity, peaceful coexistence and national development.

His Excellency President Mnangagwa used the platform to announce measures to support the cultural and creative industries, including directives to reduce registration fees and renewal levies for artistes, promoters and creative organisations. He also reaffirmed government's commitment to investing in cultural infrastructure and urged the media to promote Zimbabwean content beyond

commemorative events.

LSU's participation reaffirmed its commitment to positioning culture at the centre of teaching, research and community engagement. The university continues to work with rural communities and schools to preserve endangered dialects, support cultural cooperatives and integrate traditional knowledge into academic programs.

The Culture Month is commemorated annually in May to coincide with the World Day for Cultural

Diversity for Dialogue and Development. Activities including exhibitions, performances and cultural exchanges continue across the country throughout the month.

For LSU, the event was another opportunity to demonstrate that heritage and education can move forward together in building a stronger, more united and prosperous Zimbabwe which aligns with its motto of Building Communities through Knowledge.



LSU's participation reaffirmed its commitment to positioning culture at the centre of teaching, research and community engagement. The university continues to work with rural communities and schools to preserve endangered dialects, support cultural cooperatives and integrate traditional knowledge into academic programs.



LSU Representatives During The Commemorations Of The Culture Month

Imparting Knowledge Through



AND CREATIVITY

☀ Memories of the Sunny Weather ☀

*It's funny how warm moments can make you smile, Out of the blue,
when the experience has been gone for a while;*

*You look back on sunny days during a cold, cold day, And the mem-
ory gets you through cloudy winter days.*

*I hope the sun in your mind does not cease to shine, And that when
you look back in time, it's sunny and bright.*

*May the warmth of yesterday carry you through this winter, And may
it always carve a smile, even when bright petals wither.*

©Agrippa Ncube

BIZZIETOONS BY GERALD BIZAI.

BALANCING ACT



BIZZIETOONS@GMAIL.COM
0777185104

Boost your visibility and reach a diverse audience with LSU Campus Radio. We have affordable advertising and sponsorship packages to showcase your brand. Contact 0775943843 / 0714889173 / 0773484896 for more information.

#LSUCampusRadio

#QueenoftheNorth



LSU RADIO
97.8 FM



WHAT TO STUDY AT LUPANE STATE UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Horticulture and Landscaping
 Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Soil Science
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree In Applied Biotechnology
 Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Agricultural Economics
 Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Special Honours Degree in Crop Science
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Environmental Sciences
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Irrigation Engineering
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Food and Agricultural Products Processing
 Master of Science Degree in Crop Science
 Diploma in Agribusiness
 Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Crop Science
 Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Animal Science and Rangeland Management
 Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Wildlife Resources Management
 Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Special Honours Degree in Animal Science
 Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Forest Resources Management
 Master of Science in Animal Breeding and Biotechnology
 Master of Science in Plant Breeding
 Master of Science in Agronomy
 Master of Science in Tropical Resources Ecology
 Master of Science in One Health
 Master of Science in Food Safety and Port Health
 Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science
 Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science
 Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Economics
 Doctor of Philosophy in Ecological Resources Management



FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Wildlife Resources Management
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Forest Resources Management
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Environmental Science
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Food Science and Agricultural Processing
 Master of Science in Tropical Resources Ecology
 Master of Science in One Health
 Master of Science in Food Safety and Port Health

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Accounting and Finance
 Master of Science Degree in Accounting and Finance
 Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Real Estate Management
 Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Banking and Finance
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Hospitality and Tourism
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Economics
 Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Marketing Management
 Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Entrepreneurship
 Master of Business Leadership
 Bachelor Of Commerce Special Honours Degree In Procurement And Supply Chain Management
 Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree Supply Chain Management
 Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Management
 Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Human Resource Management
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Industrial Psychology
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Supply Chain Management
 Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Human Resource Management
 Bachelor of Commerce Special Honours Degree in Digital Marketing (B Com SP Hons DM)
 Master of Science Degree in Supply Chain Management
 Master of Science Degree In Hospitality and Tourism
 Doctor of Philosophy in Hospitality and Tourism
 Doctor of Philosophy in Management and Leadership
 Doctor of Philosophy in Business Management
 Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting and Finance
 Doctor of Philosophy in Human Resource Management



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Education Degree in Mathematics
 Bachelor of Education Degree in English and Communication
 Bachelor of Education Degree in Agriculture
 Bachelor of Education Honours Degree in Language and Communication (IsiNdebele)
 Bachelor of Education Degree in Geography
 Bachelor of Education Degree in Accounting
 Postgraduate Diploma in Education
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies
 Diploma in Development Studies
 Bachelor of Social Science Special Honours Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation
 Bachelor of Science Special Honours Degree in Urban Management Studies
 Master of Science Degree in Development Studies
 Diploma in Youth & Community Development Studies
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Urban and Regional Planning
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Anthropology
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Sociology
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Peace, Conflict and Security Studies
 Master of Social Science Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation
 Master of Science in Public Policy and Development Management
 Master of Science Degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development
 Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Language and Communication Studies
 Diploma in Court Interpreting and Translation
 Postgraduate Diploma in Media and Public Relations
 Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in IsiNdebele
 Diploma in Applied Language Studies
 Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Applied Language Studies
 Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Language and Communication Studies
 Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Film, Television and Media Studies
 Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Theatre, Performance and Media Technologies
 Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Tonga/Nambya/Sesotho/Kalanga Language and Culture Studies
 Bachelor of Social Science Honours Degree in Geography and Population Studies
 Diploma in Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Remote Sensing
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Natural Resources Management
 Postgraduate Diploma in Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing
 Master of Science Degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development
 Master of Science Degree in Development Studies
 Master of Social Science in Monitoring and Evaluation
 Doctor of Philosophy in African Languages and Culture
 Doctor of Philosophy in Media Studies
 Doctor of Philosophy in Performance Studies
 Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies
 Doctor of Philosophy in Monitoring and Evaluation

FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Urban and Regional Planning
 Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Real Estate Management



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Business Computing
 Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Information Technology
 Bachelor of Engineering Honours Degree in Production Engineering
 Bachelor of Engineering Honours Degree in Mechatronics Engineering
 Bachelor of Engineering Honours Degree in Fuels and Energy Engineering



LSU female students who attended the commemorations at NUST

LSU Women Leading the Future in ICT

By Mcebisi Dewa

Female students from LSU’s Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences joined the 2026 International Girls in ICT Day commemoration held recently at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST).

Schools and universities across the province sent students to the event, which was officiated by the Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services, Honourable Tatenda Mavetera.

International Girls in ICT Day was established by the International Tele-

communication Union in 2011 to inspire young women and girls to pursue studies and careers in ICT and STEM fields.

It addresses the gender gap in the digital sector, where women remain underrepresented in the ICT workforce, AI, and data-related roles.

The event also showcased student projects, including PICTURE ME—an online fitting room for virtually trying on clothes before purchase. The project was led by Nokuthaba Mandikutse, a Part 1 LSU student in the Department of Information Technology.

Strengthening Cybersecurity Awareness at LSU: Building a Secure Digital Culture

By Engineer Marvelous Sibanda

A. Introduction

In today’s digital world, universities are increasingly dependent on information and communication technologies for teaching, learning, research, administration, finance, communication, and student services. At LSU, systems such as e-learning platforms, admissions systems, finance systems, email services, library systems, and online communication tools are essential to daily operations. However, the increasing use of digital technologies also exposes the institution to serious cybersecurity threats. Cyber security is no longer only a technical responsibility for the ICTS department. Every staff member, student, contractor, and stakeholder plays a critical role in protecting the university’s information systems and data. A single careless action by one user can compromise the entire institution. Creating cybersecurity awareness at LSU therefore requires a strong focus on user behavior, thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Users must understand the implications and consequences of cyber negligence, cyber crime, and violations of data protection laws such as Zimbabwe’s Cyber and Data Protection Act (CDPA) and Cyber and Data Protection Regulations (CDPR).

B. Understanding Cybersecurity Awareness

Cyber security awareness refers to the knowledge, attitudes, and practices that enable individuals to recognize cyber threats, protect digital systems, and behave responsibly online.

Cyber security awareness is not merely about technology. It is about:

- How people think
- How they behave online
- The decisions they make
- Their sense of responsibility
- Their understanding of risks and consequences

A cyber security-aware culture ensures that every user becomes a “human firewall” against cyber threats.

C. Why Cybersecurity Awareness Matters at LSU

Universities are among the most

targeted institutions globally because they hold:

- Personal student records
- Financial information
- Examination data
- Research information
- Intellectual property
- Staff records
- Login credentials
- Institutional strategic information

Cyber criminals target universities because users often have varying levels of digital literacy, making them vulnerable to attacks such as phishing, hacking, ransomware, identity theft, and data breaches.

At LSU, cyber security awareness is important because it helps to:

- Protect institutional data and systems
- Prevent financial losses
- Maintain institutional reputation
- Ensure continuity of teaching and learning
- Protect privacy rights
- Ensure compliance with the CDPA and CDPR
- Reduce cyber incidents caused by human error.

D. The Human Factor in Cyber security

Research consistently shows that human behavior is one of the biggest cybersecurity risks. Technology alone cannot protect LSU if users behave carelessly.

(i) Common Risky Behaviors

1. Weak Password Practices

Many users:

- Use simple passwords
- reuse passwords across multiple systems
- Share passwords with colleagues or friends
- Write passwords on paper

These behaviors make systems vulnerable to unauthorized access.

2. Clicking Suspicious Links

Users often click links in:

- Fake emails
- WhatsApp messages
- Social media posts
- SMS messages

This can lead to:

- Malware infections
- Account compromise
- Ransomware attacks
- Theft of personal data

3. Ignoring Security Policies

Some users:

- Bypass ICT policies
- Install unauthorized soft-

ware

- Use personal devices insecurely
- Share institutional information carelessly

Such actions expose LSU to cyber risks.

4. Oversharing on Social Media

Staff and students may unknowingly expose:

- Personal information
- Institutional activities
- System details
- Locations
- Password hints

Cyber criminals use such information for social engineering attacks.

5. Carelessness with Devices

Leaving laptops unlocked, losing USB drives, or using public Wi-Fi carelessly can expose sensitive information.

E. The Psychology Behind Cyber security Behavior

Understanding how people think is essential in improving cybersecurity awareness:

(i) False Sense of Security

Many users believe:

- “It will never happen to me.”
- “ICT will handle everything.”
- “Hackers only target banks.”

This mindset increases vulnerability.

(ii) Convenience Over Security

Users often prioritize convenience instead of security by:

- Disabling security controls
- Sharing credentials
- Avoiding updates
- Using insecure shortcuts

(iii) Curiosity and Emotional Manipulation

Cybercriminals exploit:

- Fear
- Curiosity
- Urgency
- Greed
- Sympathy

For example:

- “Your account will be closed immediately.”
- “You have won a prize.”
- “Urgent payment required.”
- “Exam results leaked.”

These emotional triggers cause users to act impulsively.

F. Common Cyber Threats Affecting Universities

(i) Phishing Attacks

Phishing involves fake communications intended to steal:

- Passwords
- Banking details
- Personal information

Phishing emails may pretend to come from:

- LSU management
- Banks
- Government agencies
- Online service providers

(ii) Ransomware

Ransomware encrypts institutional data and demands payment for recovery. Universities worldwide have suffered major operational disruptions due to ransomware attacks.

(iii) Identity Theft

Cybercriminals may steal identities to:

- Access systems
- Commit fraud
- Open fake accounts
- Conduct financial crimes

(iv) Social Engineering

Attackers manipulate people psychologically to reveal confidential information.

(v) Malware and Viruses

Malicious software can:

- Damage systems
- Spy on users
- Steal information
- Spread across networks

(vi) Online Harassment and Cyberbullying

Students and staff may become victims or perpetrators of:

- Harassment
- Defamation
- Threats
- Non-consensual sharing of information

G. Cyber crimes Relevant to LSU Zimbabwe’s Cyber and Data Protection Act criminalizes various cyber-related offense.

(i) Unauthorized Access

Accessing systems without permission is illegal.

Examples:

- Using another user’s account
- Hacking university systems
- Accessing confidential records unlawfully

(ii) Data Interference

Destroying, altering, or deleting institutional data unlawfully is a cybercrime.

(iii) Cyber Fraud

Using ICT systems to deceive

others for financial or personal gain.

Examples:

- Fake payment requests
- Fake procurement transactions

(iv) Cyberbullying and Harassment

Using digital platforms to intimidate or harass others may constitute criminal conduct.

(v) Distribution of Malware

Knowingly spreading malicious software is a serious offense.

(vi) Identity Theft and Impersonation

Pretending to be another person online for malicious purposes is illegal.

(vii) Child Online Protection Violations

Sharing inappropriate content involving minors is a serious criminal offense.

H. Violations of the CDPA and CDPR

The Cyber and Data Protection Act and Cyber and Data Protection Regulations impose obligations on institutions and individuals regarding personal data protection.

(i) Key Principles of Data Protection

LSU users must ensure:

Lawful processing of personal data

- Confidentiality
- Accuracy of information
- Secure storage
- Limited access
- Proper disposal of data

I. Common Violations at Institutional Level

(i) Unauthorized Disclosure of Personal Data

Examples include:

- Sharing student records publicly
- Exposing examination results improperly
- Sending confidential information to wrong recipients

(ii) Poor Data Handling Practices

Examples:

- Storing sensitive data insecurely
- Using unsecured flash drives
- Sharing databases without authorization

Engineer Marvelous Sibanda is the LSU Director of Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS)

(iii) Excessive Data Collection
Collecting unnecessary personal information violates data minimization principles.

(iv) Failure to Report Data Breaches
Institutions are expected to respond appropriately to breaches.

(v) Lack of Consent
Processing personal data without lawful basis or consent may violate the law.

J. Consequences of Cyber security Negligence

Cyber security incidents can have severe consequences for individuals and LSU as an institution.

(i) Institutional Consequences

Financial Losses

- Cyber attacks may lead to:
- Loss of funds
- Recovery costs
- Legal expenses
- Downtime losses
- Reputational Damage

Loss of trust can affect:

- Student enrolment
 - Partnerships
 - Research collaborations
 - Public confidence
 - Operational Disruption
- Cyber incidents can disrupt:
- Examinations
 - E-learning
 - Payroll systems
 - Admissions processes
 - Legal and Regulatory Penalties
- Failure to comply with CDPA and CDPR may attract:
- Investigations
 - Penalties
 - Lawsuits
 - Regulatory sanctions

(ii) Individual Consequences

Users may face:

- Disciplinary action
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Termination of employment
- Criminal prosecution
- Financial loss
- Identity theft

Cybersecurity negligence can

also permanently damage a person's professional reputation.

K. Role of Students in Cybersecurity

Students must:

- Protect login credentials
- Avoid academic dishonesty using cyber means
- Respect privacy rights
- Report cyber incidents
- Avoid cyberbullying
- Use university systems responsibly

Students should understand that online misconduct can have academic, legal, and criminal consequences.

L. Role of Staff in Cybersecurity
Staff members are custodians of institutional information.

They should:

- Protect confidential data
- Follow institutional policies
- Verify email authenticity
- Secure devices
- Avoid unauthorized software
- Use secure communication methods

Lecturers must also promote responsible digital citizenship among students.

M. The Future of Cybersecurity Awareness at LSU

As LSU continues digital transformation initiatives such as:

- E-learning systems
- Cloud services
- Digital records
- Smart campus technologies
- Online collaboration tools

Cyber security awareness will become even more important. Future awareness programs shall incorporate:

- Artificial intelligence risks
- Deepfakes
- Emerging cyber threats
- Digital ethics
- Responsible use of technology

N. Conclusion

Cyber security is everyone's responsibility at LSU. Technology alone cannot secure the institu-

tion without responsible human behavior. Users' thoughts, attitudes, and actions directly affect the security of institutional systems and data.

LSU community must therefore focus on changing behavior, improving digital responsibility, and promoting a culture of accountability. Staff, students, and stakeholders must understand the serious implications and consequences of cyber negligence, cyber crime, and violations of the Cyber and Data Protection Act and Regulations.

By building a strong cyber security culture, LSU can protect its people, systems, reputation, and future in an increasingly digital world.

Engineer Marvelous Sibanda is the LSU Director of Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS)





AI, Indigenous Knowledge, and Africa's Digital Future: Who Owns the Next Layer of Intelligence?

By Jennings Joy Chibike

As artificial intelligence reshapes global economies, the question for Africa is no longer whether AI will arrive but whether African languages, knowledge systems, and worldviews will meaningfully participate in the intelligence economy being built.

AI, Indigenous Knowledge, and Africa's Digital Future: Who Owns the Next Layer of Intelligence?

As artificial intelligence increasingly reshapes economies, communication systems, and knowledge production globally, Africa faces a deeper question beyond technological adoption:

Who owns the intelligence informing the next digital economy?

For many African communities, the rise of AI initially generated uncertainty and concern. The fear was not simply about automation or technological disruption, but about the possibility of further marginalisation of African knowledge systems, languages, and cultural identity within digital spaces dominated by Eurocentric world-

views.

These concerns were not unfounded.

Most AI systems are largely trained on datasets, languages, and cultural frameworks originating outside Africa. As a result, African languages, indigenous knowledge systems, and local realities often remain underrepresented, misunderstood, or entirely excluded from emerging digital infrastructures.

In many cases, AI systems struggle to accurately interpret African linguistic contexts, social experiences, and indigenous forms of knowledge. This creates the risk of a future digital economy where African societies participate primarily as consumers rather than contributors to intelligence production itself.

However, the emergence of AI does not have to signal epistemic erasure for Africa.

Instead, it presents an opportunity for African institutions, entrepreneurs, governments, and academic communities to actively shape how intelligence is developed, interpreted, and commer-

cialised within the continent.

The real challenge is not whether AI exists, but whether Africa positions itself within its development.

Encouragingly, some institutions are already moving in this direction. At the University of Cape Town in South Africa, researchers have developed AI language models trained using indigenous South African languages. Such initiatives demonstrate that African knowledge systems can be integrated into technological innovation rather than excluded from it.

This matters not only culturally, but economically.

As AI increasingly influences education, finance, communication, commerce, and public systems, African languages and indigenous knowledge may become valuable forms of digital infrastructure. The ability to localise AI systems, build culturally relevant datasets, and develop African-centred digital tools creates significant opportunities for entrepreneurship and innovation across the continent.

This is where industry and academia must converge.

Universities cannot remain iso-

lated from technological transformation, and businesses cannot treat AI merely as imported software. Both sectors must collaborate to ensure that African realities help shape the systems increasingly influencing society and commerce.

Governments also have a critical role to play.

Across the continent, stronger AI policies are needed – not only to regulate usage, but to define how African societies participate in the evolving intelligence economy. Such policies should encourage Afrocentric innovation, support local AI development, and promote the preservation and digitisation of indigenous knowledge systems.

At the same time, educational institutions must strengthen AI literacy within African contexts. Curricula should move beyond passive consumption of technology and instead encourage students, researchers, and entrepreneurs to explore how AI can address African developmental challenges while preserving cultural identity.

Africa must move from technological dependence toward intel-

lectual contribution.

This requires recognising that indigenous knowledge itself carries value within the digital age. African societies possess histories, languages, philosophies, agricultural systems, healing practices, and social frameworks that can inform future technological development if properly documented, digitised, and integrated into AI ecosystems.

In this sense, Africa should not view itself merely as a market for artificial intelligence, but as a source of intelligence capable of shaping it.

For African entrepreneurs, this opens a new frontier.

The next generation of innovation may not emerge solely from importing global technologies, but from building systems rooted in African realities, languages, and knowledge structures.

Artificial intelligence will influence the future global economy.

The question is whether African intelligence will meaningfully shape that future – or simply adapt to systems designed elsewhere.



LSU staff who were part of the training.

CAF D Finally Comes to Matabeleland North

By Sibanda Njabulo | Sports Reporter

The long-awaited CAF D Coaching Development Course has finally reached Matabeleland North Province, with Hwange hosting the prestigious programme.

The course attracted 33 participants and was facilitated by FIFA educators Dr Joseph Sibindi and Technical Director Dominic from Burundi.

Among the participants were two representatives from Lupane State Univer-

sity Mr Njabulo Sibanda, who currently serves as the LSU Football Board Administrator, and Mr Peter Ndlovu, the head coach of LSU United FC.

Their participation marks an important milestone in the growth and development of sport at LSU, particularly in football coaching and administration.

The hosting of the CAF D course in Matabeleland North is expected to contribute significantly to grassroots football development in the province by equipping local coaches with modern coaching knowledge and skills.

A Near Miss for LSU United FC in the Munhumutapa Challenge Cup

By Sibanda Njabulo | Sports Reporter

LSU United FC made a triumphant entry into the prestigious Munhumutapa Challenge Cup tournament with an impressive display of determination and teamwork.

The Cup was eventually won by Gwai Crane which beat Nkayi Academy 5-4 on penalties following a nil nil draw.

The LSU team showcased great potential throughout the competition, with their talented captain Jabulani Dhliwayo and defensive stalwart Bonus Dimbi-

ra standing tall as the team played throughout the tournament.

Jabulani Dhliwayo netting a brace in a 3-0 win against Elitsheni FC and 1-0 win against a strongly assembled and tournament's favourites United Forces FC.

The team produced a spirited performance against strong opposition and earned praises from supporters and football enthusiasts alike.

Despite their promising campaign, LSU United FC narrowly missed out on advancing further in the tournament after a hard-fought contest.

The players, however, demonstrated resilience, discipline, and commitment, qualities that continue to strengthen the club's growing reputation in regional football.

The tournament provided valuable exposure and competitive experience for the squad, while also highlighting the steady progress of football development at LSU.

Coaches and supporters remain optimistic that the lessons gained from the competition will inspire stronger performances in future tournaments.



Images of the LSU soccer team