



BaTonga Festival Champions Culture and Conservation /6

The vibrant culture of the BaTonga people was celebrated in a powerful display of tradition and forward-thinking development during the annual BaTonga Cultural Festival, held from September 25th to 27th and running under the theme 'Fostering Education and Environmental Conservation for Development Through Cultural Norms'.

CAMPUS CONNECT

ISSUE No.12: SEPTEMBER 2025

Where Knowledge Meets Ink



LSU Hosts Successful Golf Tournament / 12

LSU spearheads the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Matabeleland region / Page 7

Lupane State University: Anchoring innovation and industrialisation / Page 11

A shot in the arm for Mtshibini Secondary School, as LSU installs a drip irrigation system / Page 8



Climate symposium ends on a high note

**LSU hailed for being the best
research and innovation
institution in Mat North**

LSU Vice-Chancellor, Prof Pardon Kuipa addresses delegates during the seminar

By Thembelani Moyo

In a world where every country is battling the acute effects of climate change, Lupane State University has proved to be an important research institution in Matabeleland North and beyond, as evidenced by the suggestions that emerged from the recently-held Climate Communication and Carbon Credits Seminar which was organised by the Public Policy and Research Institute of Zimbabwe (PPRIZ).

The symposium was attended by high-profile delegates and researchers who included the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North Province, Honourable Richard Moyo, who was represented by Honourable Member of Parliament Alice Dube, PPRIZ Director Dr. Gordon Moyo and officials as well as LSU academics and climate change researchers.

Concerned with the problem of

the ever-rising temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns, the seminar's main objective was to share ideas on the climate change crisis and create mitigation plans for the future.

In his speech read on his behalf, the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North Province, Honourable Richard Moyo highlighted the importance of sharing ideas and pointed out that this was a great chance to take action against climate change effects.

"Climate change is no longer something far away. It's already affecting us here through longer droughts, changing rainfall, food shortages and the loss of nature. These problems hit our way of life, our economy and even our culture. When farmers, youth, women and other community members truly understand climate change, they can make better decisions, protect their land and speak up for their needs," he said.

"We also have a great opportunity through carbon credits with our land, forests and farming potential. Let's also remember climate change is not just about the environment. It's about justice, livelihoods and survival. Our solutions must put people and communities at the centre," he added.

Most speakers during the symposium agreed that climate change has brought problems ranging from droughts to starvation and lack of hope.

They also pointed out that carbon dioxide matters big time because it is at the core of climate foreseeing. They argued that climate change is a result of massive human activity which emits carbon and also damages the ecosystems that consume it.

"What we are noticing is that there is an exponential increase in the concentration of atmospheric carbon, and is being largely driven by, the human activities. A lot of emissions are happening from the

use of fossil fuels as well as land cover and transitions. So, the observed changes in temperature are closely coupled to atmospheric carbon concentration," noted Dr. Onalema Gwate from LSU.

In explaining what carbon credits relate to, Dr. Gwate said that stakeholders who engage in environmentally friendly activities which do not promote deforestation, land degradation and carbon emissions are given certificates of recognition.

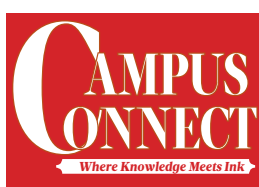
"So, the carbon credit is basically a system that is available where we are saying it's analogous to a certificate that is issued to someone who has avoided emissions or who has managed to keep carbon dioxide instead of emitting it. So, these are the certificates that are given for one judicious management, environmental management in terms of ensuring that we either avoid, you know, carbon or we reduce carbon use. So, in essence, that's the concept of the

carbon credit," said Dr. Gwate.

It was also noted that Matabeleland North is facing a problem of emissions due to a high frequency of veld fires. The speakers appealed to stakeholders and communities to avoid burning the forests because the vegetation is very efficient in consuming the carbon. They were also encouraged to invest in renewable energy which is friendly to the environment.

"But there are a lot of challenges related to the world carbon credit politics that relate to awareness issues. Awareness issues, capacity issues again in terms of really providing a requisite baseline data and also awareness and capacity in terms of communities who could be doing very well in terms of environmental management but they don't know the opportunity that is available out there that they can use that to leverage for carbon credits to get climate finance," said Dr. Gwate.

... Continues on Page 2

**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 Thomas Ndemera
Cell: +263 77 630 8277

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 is ready to provide thought leadership, expertise, skills and capabilities that are required to advance the climate change agenda, and to build resilience within the province and beyond.”

From Page 1

Climate Communication and Carbon Credits Seminar ends on a high note

The seminar was also very much concerned about how issues of climate change are communicated. The realisation was that there is so much misinformation and wrongful use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) as well as a range of other miscarriages.

“There are also conspiracy narratives. These have always been shared, greenwashed by other companies. And so, we need to ensure that misinformation

and disinformation is dealt with. And then the sources or channels of how this information can go out, include social media, interest groups, political actors, and even poor reporting on climate change issues. So, there are always arguments of delaying climate action,” noted Dr. Wayne Malinga from LSU.

Speakers and researchers agreed that climate change communication in Matabeleland North needs to be

locally grounded, culturally sensitive and accessible.

There should also be language diversity to ensure effective communication. Marginalised groups such as the youth and women’s involvement should be highly considered as it increases the chances of spreading public awareness on climate change. Additionally, there is a need to integrate indigenous knowledge systems for resilient solutions for climate change.

Climate change researchers also need to adopt relevant ICTs and use more visual communication tools so that there is less misrepresentation and no one is left behind.

As the attendees continue to digest on various suggestions made during the seminar, LSU is basking in the glory of being recognised by its stakeholders as the best “thinking” institution in Matabeleland North.

It was hailed for creating

an enabling environment for deliberations, research and innovations that are critical in shaping and influencing public policy.

In his heartfelt gratitude, LSU Vice-Chancellor Prof Pardon Kuipa reiterated that LSU is ready to “provide thought leadership, expertise, skills and capabilities that are required to advance the climate change agenda, and to build resilience within the province and beyond.”



Images showing proceedings during the seminar. Pictures Credit: PPRIZ

Lupane State University Explores New Frontiers in Higher Education Internationalisation and Development



Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor Dr Julius Tapera during the Internationalisation Week at the University of Venda, South Africa

By Michelle Moyo

In the heart of Matabeleland North in Zimbabwe, Lupane State University (LSU) is cultivating a culture of global interconnectedness, positioning itself as a beacon of international collaboration in higher education. As part of a growing movement among African institutions to strengthen South-South partnership, LSU is embracing the ethos of “Building Global Bridges, Creating Shared Futures” a theme that resonated deeply at the University of Venda’s recent Internationalisation Week.

Through strategic alliances with universities across Africa and beyond, LSU is not only expanding academic horizons for its students and faculties but also contributing to solutions for pressing regional and global challenges.

By championing trust-based partnerships, interdisciplinary innovation, and a commitment to global citizenship, LSU exemplifies how higher education can transcend borders to foster socio-economic development, drive industrial growth and nurture leaders equipped for an intercon-

nected world.

Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor Dr Julius Tapera who represented the university in South Africa, explored on a blueprint for the construction project and the architectural designing of sustainable futures through higher education. He added that the global trends are shaping their landscape, the materials needed for sustainable partnerships, the foundational role they play in development, the innovative tools at disposal and the powerful new dynamics of South-South cooperation.

“The landscape of global higher education is evolving rapidly. We are witnessing a shift towards more inclusive and accessible education, driven by technological advancements and changing demographics. Online learning has transformed the way we deliver and consume education, breaking down geographical barriers and providing opportunities for those who were previously marginalised. The demand for interdisciplinary learning is on the rise. As global challenges such as climate change, social inequality and health crises become more complex, universities

must equip students with the skills to think critically and collaborate across disciplines and we must also prioritise global citizenship. Educating students not just in their chosen fields but as informed, responsible global citizens will be essential in creating a shared future,” said Dr Tapera.

Dr Tapera also said the universities must focus on building sustainable international partnerships.

“Universities cannot operate in isolation. They must engage with institutions across borders to share knowledge, resources and best practices. Sustainable partnerships are built on mutual respect, trust and shared goals. They must be designed to endure beyond individual projects or funding cycles. This means investing in long-term relationships and ensuring that all partners benefit equitably from the collaboration.

“We must also embrace inclusivity, ensuring that partnerships reflect diverse voices and perspectives. By doing so, we can create a rich tapestry of ideas and solutions that truly address global challenges,” he said.



Lupane State University

Building Communities through Knowledge

NOTICE OF THE 2025 GRADUATION CEREMONY

DATE AND VENUE

- The University is pleased to inform all graduands, their families and stakeholders that the 16th Graduation Ceremony shall be held on Friday, October 24, 2025 at the Main Campus in Lupane.
- All Graduands, their parents/guardians, and guests are required to be seated by 0800 hours.

OUTSTANDING FEES

- Kindly note that attendance at the graduation ceremony is strictly limited to graduands who have fully settled their fees.
- Those with outstanding tuition fees are urged to clear their balances by the 21st of October 2025.

GRADUATION FEES

Graduation fees (inclusive of regalia) are as follows: -

- Undergraduate: USD140 or ZWG equivalent.
- Postgraduate: USD155 or ZWG equivalent.

BANKING DETAILS

All fees to be deposited into the following bank accounts:

CBZ Bank	FBC Bank	CABS
Acc Name: Lupane State University	Acc Name: Lupane State University	Acc Name: Lupane State University
Acc No: 01222477650039 (USD)	Acc No: 1120153300112 (USD)	Acc No: 1152662880 (USD)
Acc No: 01222477650019 (ZWG)	Acc No: 1120153300111 (ZWG)	Acc No: 1152662872 (ZWG)

- For your convenience, swipe and Ecocash payment facilities are also available at the Bursar's Office, 4th Floor, CBZ Campus, Cnr Fife Street/10th Avenue, Bulawayo.

GRADUATION DRESS AND REGALIA

- On graduation day, all graduands are required to wear Academic Regalia with formal attire in dark colors underneath.
- No additional adornments, logos, or scarves are allowed on the official Lupane State University gown.
- Starting from the 21st of October 2025, graduands who have paid their graduation fees and can provide proof of payment may collect their regalia from the following locations: -
- LSU Main Campus in Lupane as well as the Admissions & Students Records Office, 2nd Floor, CBZ Campus, Cnr Fife Street/10th Avenue, Bulawayo.

GRADUANDS AND GUESTS INVITATION CARDS

- Admission to the graduation venue will be strictly by invitation card.
- Only two guests per graduand with valid invitation cards will be allowed into the graduation venue.
- Upon proof of payment, invitation cards will be available for collection at the LSU Main Campus in Lupane as well as at the Admissions & Students Records Office, 2nd Floor, CBZ Campus, Cnr Fife Street/10th Avenue, Bulawayo from the 21st of October 2025.
- Graduands and invited guests must bring their national identity cards. No invitation cards will be issued on graduation day.

GRADUATION REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are compulsory and will be conducted on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 1400 hours, at the Main Campus in Lupane. All graduands must attend in order to be eligible to take part in the ceremony.

ACCOMMODATION

Overnight shared hostel accommodation will be available at the Main Campus in Lupane for graduands on the night before the graduation ceremony. The cost is USD10 per person without linen, or USD20 per person with linen. Payment can be made upon arrival via cash or swipe.

ENQUIRIES/COMMUNICATION

For further details please contact: Admissions & Student Records Office: +263 292 279147 Ext 163-5, e-mail: studentadmissions@lsu.ac.zw or reach out to the Marketing and Public Relations Office, Telephone: +263 (81) 2856558/2856271/2856390 Ext: 2105/ +263 77 397 3652 or email: mpr@lsu.ac.zw. You can also visit our website: www.lsu.ac.zw or official Facebook page for updates on the graduation ceremony.

‘IKS key for sustainable tourism’

By Thembelani Moyo

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and biodiversity are the keys for sustainable tourism in Zimbabwe, the African Food Revolution organisation has said.

This was revealed by one of the organisation's co-founders and LSU lecturer Mr. Makhosi Mahlangu, during the recently held Zimbabwe Climate Change Sustainability Week and Green Business Expo in Bulawayo.

Mr. Mahlangu's presentation which laid bare the importance of IKS in tourism was titled: "Leveraging Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Tourism and Biodiversity Stewardship in Zimbabwe."

He argued that for sustainable tourism to be realised there is a need to be aware of the contribution that IKS are making to the industry, which has long proved to be a critical driver of the country's economic growth.

"Tourism is the major economic driver needing regenerative practices," he said.

These practices should rope in various areas where there is a dominance of IKS.

Such areas include Eco-Cultural Tourism where we talk of food trails, festivals, heritage and museums; Conservation Practices which include traditional forest and water stewardship; as well as Community Ownership which ensures benefits flow to locals.

Mr. Mahlangu called for action where the government and relevant stakeholders recognise indigenous knowledge as the future of sustainability. They should also thrive to mainstream IKS in tourism and biodiversity.

"Indigenous knowledge matters because it has a rich history of living in harmony with nature; offers practical and culturally grounded solutions to climate change and threats to biodiversity and sustainable tourism," he said.

"There are traditional practices suitable for sustainable farming, seed saving, herbal medicine and sacred forests," he added.

The African Food Revolution has been championing for the recognition of indigenous knowledge with an approach that embeds indigenous knowledge in agroecology and community livelihoods.

It also seeks to empower the youth, women as well as integrating rural communities into tourism value chains.

To it: "Our biodiversity is our identity, our indigenous knowledge is our compass, and together they guide us towards sustainable futures."

The organisation has demonstrated its commitment through a number of initiatives which include the LOVE Project and the HIVOS Urban Futures Project.

The LOVE Project promotes knowledge sharing between communities and tourism operators; eco-tourism ventures with indigenous foods and crafts and the expansion of indigenous products into tourism markets.

The HIVOS Urban Futures Project supports youth-led green enterprises; advocates for urban spaces that celebrate biodiversity and food heritage.

The African Food Revolution has also supported policies integrating indigenous knowledge into tourism and biodiversity.

It has also made partnerships with tourism boards, universities, councils and the private sector.

Call for Applications: Second Group of African Food Revolution Youth Food Champions Under the HIVOS Urban Futures Project

Are you a passionate young innovator ready to transform Africa's food systems?

The African Food Revolution (AFR) is excited to announce open applications for the second group of Youth Food Champions under our HIVOS Urban Futures Project. This dynamic program seeks young people (18–35 years) who are creative, entrepreneurial, and committed to indigenous foods, agroecology, and sustainable urban food solutions. Successful candidates will join the first group of Food Champions, who have already developed thriving commercial products—from innovative flours to traditional snacks and climate-smart beverages.

What You'll Gain

Hands-on training and mentorship from leading food scientists, agroecologists, and entrepreneurs.

Business development support to turn your food ideas into viable commercial products.

Networking opportunities with national and international partners.

A chance to showcase and scale your innovations at AFR events, markets, and festivals.

Who We Are Looking For

Youth aged 18–35 with a passion for indigenous foods, food justice, and sustainability.

Individuals with creative food business ideas or existing small-scale products ready to scale.

Change-makers willing to work in teams and champion green, climate-resilient food systems in cities and rural-urban linkages.

How to Apply

Send a brief expression of interest (max. 2 pages) including: Your name, age, and contact details; A short profile of your food-related skills or business idea

Why you want to become an AFR Youth Food Champion

Deadline for applications: 31 October 2025

Email applications to: info@africanfoodrevolution.org





Stakeholders LSU hail at the Vic Falls Agricultural Show

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University has been recognised as a leading higher learning institution in Matabeleland North, during the Victoria Falls International Agricultural Show recently held at Chinotimba Stadium in the resort town.

The institution’s bid was to exhibit its numerous programmes across various faculties which include Agricultural Sciences, Commerce, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Built Environment, and Environmental and Life Sciences.

The greatest objective was to lure more prospective students so that they join the institution.

During the exhibition a number of stakeholders hailed LSU, for its thrust in research, innovation and industrialisation, especially within the agricultural sector in dryland areas.

"We were verbally honoured and appreciated by other exhibitors, the guest of honour, Chiftess Mvuthu and the coordinators. The local radio station, Breeze FM also mentioned us and appreciated the efforts we have made in community building in the region," said Samkeliso Moyo, LSU's Acting Marketing and Public Relations

Assistant.

This recognition has positioned LSU at the forefront of academic excellence in the Matabeleland North region and beyond.

The institution's exposure at the show has helped market the brand LSU across regions.

The show was well planned and its theme: Aligning our skills and natural resources with our national social and economic growth trajectory; resonated very well with LSU's motto of building communities through knowledge.

The Victoria Falls International Agricultural Show drew participants across various sectors of the economy who ought to improve

their efforts in maximising their client base.

"We were verbally honoured and appreciated by other exhibitors, the guest of honour, Chiftess Mvuthu and the coordinators. The local radio station, Breeze FM also mentioned us and appreciated the efforts we have made in community building in the region."

Cash Squeeze?



Convenient and Quick USD loans

Loan Products

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



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



1st
ANNIVERSARY

As we celebrate the first anniversary of the Campus Connect newsletter, the Editorial team revisits some of the stories that were leading during the past 11 months.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

LSU's exhibition strategy lives to its billing

...Presents celebration of progressive students at the 2023 ZUSA Games

...Innovative products and services unveiled

LSU's exhibition strategy lives to its billing. The 2023 ZUSA Games, held in Durban, South Africa, provided a platform for LSU to showcase its innovative products and services. The exhibition, which ran from December 15 to 17, 2023, was a success, with many visitors expressing interest in the university's offerings. The exhibition was held at the Durban Convention Centre, which was packed with visitors. The LSU team, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Nkomo, was well-represented at the exhibition. The exhibition was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many visitors. The exhibition was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many visitors. The exhibition was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many visitors.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

LSU shines at ZNCC Awards

...Takes Home Top Honour

LSU shines at ZNCC Awards. The ZNCC Awards, held in Durban, South Africa, provided a platform for LSU to showcase its innovative products and services. The exhibition, which ran from December 15 to 17, 2023, was a success, with many visitors expressing interest in the university's offerings. The exhibition was held at the Durban Convention Centre, which was packed with visitors. The LSU team, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Nkomo, was well-represented at the exhibition. The exhibition was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many visitors. The exhibition was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many visitors.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

Minister tours LSU

...Praises US\$120 000 for the university's infrastructure development

Minister tours LSU. The Minister of Education, Dr. Nkomo, visited LSU to inspect the university's infrastructure. The Minister was accompanied by a delegation of officials. The Minister was impressed by the university's infrastructure and praised the university's efforts to improve its facilities. The Minister was accompanied by a delegation of officials. The Minister was impressed by the university's infrastructure and praised the university's efforts to improve its facilities. The Minister was accompanied by a delegation of officials. The Minister was impressed by the university's infrastructure and praised the university's efforts to improve its facilities.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

LSU basks in two decades of glorified success

...acknowledges progress in its programme

LSU basks in two decades of glorified success. The university celebrated its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of glorified success. The university has made significant progress in its programme, and it is proud to acknowledge this progress. The university has made significant progress in its programme, and it is proud to acknowledge this progress. The university has made significant progress in its programme, and it is proud to acknowledge this progress.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

Miss Pullen scoops PRESTIGIOUS research award

Miss Pullen scoops PRESTIGIOUS research award. Miss Pullen, a research fellow at LSU, has won a prestigious research award. The award is given to researchers who have made significant contributions to their field. Miss Pullen's research has been recognized by the award, and she is proud to have won it. Miss Pullen's research has been recognized by the award, and she is proud to have won it. Miss Pullen's research has been recognized by the award, and she is proud to have won it.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

LSU hosts World Tourism Day symposium

LSU hosts World Tourism Day symposium. LSU hosted a World Tourism Day symposium, which was a great success. The symposium was held at the university's main hall, and it was attended by many guests. The symposium was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many guests. The symposium was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many guests.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

Cultural Spotlight: LSU's Culture Month initiatives

Cultural Spotlight: LSU's Culture Month initiatives. LSU's Culture Month initiatives were a great success. The university celebrated its Culture Month with a series of events, including a cultural festival, a cultural conference, and a cultural exhibition. The university's Culture Month initiatives were a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many guests. The university's Culture Month initiatives were a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many guests.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

LSU holds inaugural education conference

LSU holds inaugural education conference. LSU held its inaugural education conference, which was a great success. The conference was held at the university's main hall, and it was attended by many guests. The conference was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many guests. The conference was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many guests.

CAMPUS CONNECT
Where Knowledge Meets Ink

LSU's exhibition bid lives to its billing

LSU's exhibition bid lives to its billing. LSU's exhibition bid was a great success. The university's exhibition bid was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many guests. The university's exhibition bid was a great success, and it was a pleasure to have so many guests.



A: Image showing proceedings during the festival

B&C: LSU lecturers from the Department of languages share insights with community members during the festival

BaTonga Festival Champions Culture and Conservation

By Sanelisiwe Sibanda

The vibrant culture of the BaTonga people was celebrated in a powerful display of tradition and forward-thinking development during the annual BaTonga Cultural Festival, held from September 25th to 27th. Running under the theme 'Fostering Education and Environmental Conservation for Development Through Cultural Norms,' the event successfully merged youth engagement, and ancient performance arts, culminating in the highly anticipated Kasambabezi Binga Marathon which drew an international field of athletes.

The festival underscored the critical link between preserving indigenous knowledge and addressing modern challenges like climate change and educational deficits. A delegation from Lupane State University (LSU) Department of Languages, Media and Communication Studies including the Chairperson Ms Sanelisiwe Sibanda, Senior Lecturer Dr. Cletus Moyo, and Tonga Language and Culture Lecturer Mrs. Linda Mukuli, attended the event, lending academic weight to the proceedings. Their presence highlighted a growing recognition of BaTonga culture as a vital subject of study and a source of sustainable solutions.

Bridging Tradition and Academia: In her address, Mrs Linda Mukuli emphasised the university's commitment to community-engaged scholarship. "Culture is not a relic of the past; it is a dynamic, living framework for sustainable development," she stated.

"By integrating BaTonga cultural norms—which have long-promoted respect for the environment and communal learning—into our formal educational structures, we create a more holistic and effective model for progress. This festival is a testament to that powerful synergy."

The theme was brought to life through a series of compelling performances by local youth. Students from Binga Primary, Sika-jaya Andrew Muntanga Primary School and Manjolo Secondary School, Easy Learning and Siansudu Secondary School captivated audiences with poignant drama and evocative poetry. Their pieces explored critical issues such as deforestation, the importance of education for all children, and the wisdom embedded in traditional folktales. These performances demonstrated a clear understanding and internalisation of the festival's core message, showcasing a new generation of cultural custodians.

"Seeing our young people articulate complex themes of environmental conservation through our own art forms is the greatest success we could hope for," commented the guest

of honour, Mr. Samuel Mugande. "It shows that the teachings of our ancestors are not being lost; they are being adapted to fight today's battles."

Rhythmic Heritage and Athletic Prowess: The thunderous, earth-shaking rhythm of Ngoma Buntibe drums served as the festival's heartbeat. Adult cultural dance groups from across the district performed the traditional dance with an energy that enthralled onlookers. The dance, historically performed at ceremonies and communal gatherings, was a powerful reminder of the resilience and enduring spirit of the BaTonga people.

The festival's final day, September 27th, saw a shift from cultural performance to athletic prowess with the 7th edition of the Kasambabezi Binga Marathon. The event, which has grown in stature over the years, attracted hundreds of participants for its 5km, 10km, and half-marathon (21km) races and this year's theme was "Running for a Sustainable Future: Uniting for Nature Conservation and Climate Resilience".

The marathon route, which offered stunning views of Lake Kariba, drew runners from across Zimbabwe and as far afield as Kenya, adding an international flavour to the community celebration. Isaac Mpofu emerged as the ultimate winner of the half marathon,

The marathon was made possible through the support of key sponsors, including Ministry of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Binga Rural District Council, AFC Bank, Kuli-ma Mbobuumi Training Centre, Muchesu Coal and the popular Mr Sinkwa bakery, alongside several other local businesses. Their involvement highlighted a strong corporate and community partnership dedicated to promoting Binga as a destination for cultural and sports tourism.

"We see this marathon as more than just a race," said a representative from AFC Bank. "It's an investment in the health, well-being, and economic potential of this community. By supporting this event, we are supporting the entire cultural ecosystem that the festival celebrates." Echoing similar sentiments, guest of honour Chief Siansali emphasized the importance of exploring the unique culture of Binga while enjoying sports, tourism and culture.

As the sun set over the Zambezi escarpment on Saturday, the sounds of celebration faded, leaving behind a renewed sense of purpose. The 2025 BaTonga Cultural Festival successfully honoured a rich heritage while decisively looking to the future, proving that the path to sustainable development is one paved with cultural pride, educated youth, and a deep-rooted respect for the natural world.

Music That Matters–Ngoma Buntibe at the 3rd Edition of BaTonga Cultural Festival

By Linda Susan Mukuli

Amidst the vibrant, sun-drenched spectacle of the annual BaTonga Cultural Festival in Binga, the rhythmic pulse of the **Ngoma Buntibe** drum resonated with more than just celebration. This traditional music and dance, a cornerstone of BaTonga identity, operates as a powerful, non-violent form of social justice, serving as the community's ancient court where the conduct of its members is scrutinised, reprimanded, and, if necessary, rejected.

The Double-Edged Song

For an outsider, Ngoma Buntibe is mesmerising: a dynamic interplay of large drums, intricate footwork, and powerful singing. However, beneath the surface of the performance lies a serious communal function. It is a double-edged song—one side celebrates virtue and contribution, while the other administers public rebuke to those who betray the community's trust.

This crucial role was vividly demonstrated through performance by Simatelele Dance Group during the cultural festival set. While their early songs praised local elders for their wisdom and farmers for a good harvest, the mood visibly shifted with a new set of compositions. The lead vocalist, speaking through song, launched into a narrative detailing the actions of an unnamed "social misfit"—a person who had allegedly engaged in witchcraft, dishonesty, and neglecting their family duties.

The Power of Public Rebuke

"The Ngoma Buntibe isn't just about entertainment; it's our traditional law," explained a respected elder watching the performance. "When someone brings shame to the village, the ordinary village meeting might be ignored. But the song? It names no one directly, but everyone knows who the message is for. They cannot hide from the rhythm."

The Simatelele group's performance was masterful in its use of metaphor and allegory. The lyrics, rich in BaTonga metaphor, described the "social misfit" as a "tree that bears no fruit" or a "canoe with a hole," warning that a community cannot afford to carry such burdens. The dancers' movements changed, too, becoming sharper, more aggressive, representing the cutting out of a diseased part of a whole. This public exposure, although not explicitly naming the individual, carries immense weight in a tightly knit communi-

ty like the BaTonga. It is a powerful form of shaming that pressures the individual toward immediate behavioural correction. The shame of being the subject of the Ngoma Buntibe song can be a greater deterrent than any fine or physical punishment. To complete their moral narrative, the performers seamlessly transitioned from admonition to celebration, displaying a finely crafted statue that honoured the individual whose efforts successfully led to the capture of the witch. This dual demonstration highlighted Ngoma Buntibe's role in both reprimanding vice and visibly rewarding virtue.

The Threat of Outcasting

When an individual remains unrepentant or their transgressions are too severe—such as persistent theft, witchcraft, or other serious social offenses—the music moves into its final, most severe stage: outcasting. In the context of Ngoma Buntibe, outcasting is primarily a social banishment. The lyrics begin to call for a symbolic "severing" of ties. For example:

Iswe tobamwi twakutebula- some of us bought valuable things from our sweat

Iwe wakowula cheelo mpo wamana bana- but you opted to buy a goblin, and you are killing your children. *Mumutantabuke ooyu ulamumana-* be careful with this one, he is evil.

The community is effectively told, through the performance, that they should withdraw their support, their conversation, and their cooperation from the individual.

"When Ngoma Buntibe performs this final reprimand, it is very serious," noted a Simatelele drummer after the set. "It means the person must face life alone for a while. They are socially invisible until they make a sincere, visible effort to atone and re-join the communal heart."

This artistic mechanism reinforces the BaTonga belief in **Ubuntu**—humanity toward others. When using a cherished cultural art form to police behavior, the community underscores the fact that the privilege of belonging comes with the non-negotiable duty of responsibility. The drumbeat not only summons people to dance; it calls them to account. The Ngoma Buntibe, as performed by groups like Simatelele, is thus a brilliant example of how culture and art can function as a dynamic, deeply effective tool for maintaining social cohesion, demonstrating that the oldest forms of expression are often the most powerful agents of change and justice.



The Ngoma Buntibe, as performed by groups like Simatelele, is thus a brilliant example of how culture and art can function as a dynamic, deeply effective tool for maintaining social cohesion.

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

Imparting Knowledge Through poetry AND HERITAGE

✿ It's A Fight To Let Go ✿

*It's a fight to find the diamonds we are
when we've spent our lives in the ruff.
It's a fight to become
-and to undo what we've become.*

*It's a fight to let go of what holds us back
and to hold on to the roots that hold our
true selves.
It's a fight for a seed to win from under*

*and become;
for the stars we are to glow even when
noone is stargazing.
@agrippa n.*

LSU spearheads the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University together with representatives of the Ministry of Sport, Recreation Arts and Culture, recently held a week-long workshop in Bulilima District, Plumtree, in a bid to conscientise local communities about the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Intangible cultural heritage means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces that people recognise as part of their cultural heritage.

The recent workshop was also attended by five chiefs, a number of headmen, Ministry officials, Engineer Chidakwa, Local MP Hon Dingumuzi Phuthi as well as representatives of the Provincial Affairs and Devolution Minister.

The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness on the 2003 UNESCO Convention of the Safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

Facilitators were mainly breaking down the Convention bringing it closer to the communities.

They did community inventorying, which is identifying intangible heritage elements that need to be listed in terms of the 2003 Convention.

These elements include oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship.

The Convention mainly encourages the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through

formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalisation of the various aspects of such heritage.

Zimbabwe ratified the 2003 Convention in 2010. The country is actually a signatory to this convention and therefore has a mandate to implement it.

LSU's Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Mbulisi Ndlovu, who is also an expert in intangible cultural heritage, represented the institution as a facilitator of the workshop. This also followed a recommendation and engagement by the Ministry.

Dr. Ndlovu emphasised that it is critical that intangible cultural heritage is protected and the workshop went a long way in encouraging traditional leaders to oversee that communities safeguard its elements.

"The event means a revival and safeguarding of our heritage. We discussed threats to these heritage elements and safeguarding measures. Local communities will now be able to identify elements on their own and implement the 2003 Convention," he said.

Threats to intangible cultural heritage may include globalisation, urbanisation, climate change and conflict.

Additionally, Dr. Ndlovu is part of the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee which was constituted under the Ministry of Sport, Recreation Arts and Culture.

He added that LSU's participation in workshops like these positions it as a champion for community development.

"LSU is about building communities through knowledge. The participation in the event was a fulfillment of that motto. We were providing services as required by Education 5.0, which also emphasises on heritage-based education," he said.



The Ministry, university staff and other dignitaries during the workshop in Plumtree.



Image showing proceedings of the workshop in Plumtree.

A shot in the arm for Mtshibini Secondary School

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University has continued its philanthropic initiatives which are aimed at developing local schools, with Mtshibini Secondary School being the latest beneficiary of a drip irrigation project.

Known for its thrust in innovative methods, suitable for dryland agriculture, the University has been moving around Lupane District and assisting schools in setting up projects.

At Mtshibini Secondary School LSU was heavily involved in designing a 0.2-hectare drip irrigation system for the school and assisted in its installation.

Initially the school had individually planned to implement the project, but the expertise from LSU came in handy as the staff did the design and came up with the bill of quantities and then trained some of the school members.

The trained people included five school teachers, seven school development committee members, parents and nine students.

Water for the project is being pumped from a recently drilled borehole into a raised tank using a solar power submersible pump.

The school intends to grow crops such as cabbages, beetroot, onions, tomatoes, spinach, carrots, chomollier, maize and lettuce.

According to LSU Director of the Research Extension Services Office



(RESO) Mr Canisius Mpala, following the installation of the system, the University staff assisted in transplanting 2500 cabbages in the garden where Form 2s and 3s learners were actively involved.

Mr Mpala added that LSU assisted in connecting the laterals to the valve connectors and ten beds had

double laterals laid in them, since the fertility trenches that were made are one metre in width.

Additionally, more training sessions will be done once the school opens the agronomic aspects of the selected horticultural crops. Sessions will also include irrigation water management, pest and disease

management options.

Mtshibini Secondary School Head, Mr. S. Ncube expressed gratitude to LSU and said that the project is a learning, teaching and income generation initiative. Some of the vegetables will be used for the school feeding programme because currently the school outsources the re-

quired resources.

In addition, the school will establish a teaching and learning laboratory for subjects such as agriculture, environmental sciences and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Mpala reiterated that LSU is committed in living by its motto of building communities through knowledge while improving its brand visibility, and these projects directed to schools are a testament to that.

"These outreach and community engagement projects have increased the visibility of the university in the district and province. LSU has worked with Fatima High School in the design and installation of a two-hectare drip system. Schools in the district are now requesting the services of LSU. Currently two schools have written to the university requesting for technical assistance," he said.

"Currently LSU is working with five schools (four primary and one secondary) on a conservation and smart agriculture project funded by Seniors Without Borders through a local organisation Christian Youth Volunteers Association Trust (CY-VAT). The project involves the introduction of solar powered drip irrigation, conservation agriculture and introduction of small livestock in these schools for teaching and learning and income generation. The University is also planning to run some extension programmes for interested stakeholders," he added.

By Tafadzwa Mukome

In the last edition of this newsletter, we featured Stanley Waire, a Lupane State University student studying towards a Bachelor of Science Education Honours degree in Agriculture, who has transformed the horticultural landscape and nurtured a green revolution in one of the secondary schools in Mutoko.

Today Beven Chihuri in the graduating class under the same programme tells a similar story of how knowledge gained from modules on horticulture helped shape his passion in agriculture to sustainable income generating projects in cabbage and maize production at his former Nyamukosi Secondary School.

"I got inspired by the University when we did the module in horticulture and horticulture crops. We also managed to visit the school project which is at the university farm where they are doing cabbage production. I got inspired by their work and I said to myself, let me go and do such a project at my school. Then I came here and started this initiative," he said.

Using the float tray system for seedbeds and a strict irrigation technique which he picked up from the University Teaching and Learning Plot, Chihuri is able to increase crop production and yields.

"I planted 6000 plants of the fabiola medium variety type of cabbage. I am using borehole water for irrigation. At planting, I used compound C in my seed bed and on transplanting day I hardened my seedlings for two weeks. When I was sure that my seedlings are well hardened, I transplanted them into the field. Two weeks after transplanting, I came in with a compound C. The irrigation schedule was three to four days a week. After five weeks after the transplant, I came in with

LSU channelling passionate agripreneurs



ammonium nitrate and I used side dressing application. We sprayed for pesticides using monocrotophos, monocron, and lambda cyhalothrin. We identified some fungal infection and we came in with Bravo and Ridomil. Now our cabbage has matured and they are so big," said Chihuri.

The Nyamukosi Secondary School teacher in Mutoko testifies that cabbage production indeed has a good profit margin.

"So far, we have managed to sell two thousand four hundred heads, we are left with close to another two thousand heads which are sellable.

This project is so profitable. All in all, we used US\$800 as our expenditure. So far, we are selling at US\$1 for two heads. We are expecting something between US\$ 2,000 to US\$ 2 500 as our gross income. So, it is a viable project."

A similar stance on planting has also been adopted for the project on white maize production.

"On Green Mealies, we managed to plant 10 kgs of Pioneer 30G19. This is a medium variety again. Green mealies are usually for roasting. The dent type of maize is not good for roasting, so when you are venturing into green mealies production, you

use the flint type varieties. The 30G19 is a flint type variety. We managed to plant 10,000 plants which are now tasseling. We dug our planting stations, and applied our Compound D fertilizer. After applying the fertilizer, we came in with some manure which we mixed with the fertilizer. We put some soil on top of the fertilizer mixed with manure and then came in with the irrigation."

As an expert in the field Chihuri had some interesting tips for his peers in the field.

"On green mealies, you should plant one seed per hole so that you maximise on production, some-

times you can even plant two seedlings but make sure that when you are applying the fertilizer your plants have enough nutrients so that they will not be compromised on the crop size. On irrigation scheduling, cabbage is a heavy feeder which needs more water than maize. So, with maize make sure we come in with irrigation three times per week, but for cabbage one can go for five days per week because of the type of soil. Three weeks after emergence, we came in with ammonium nitrate which we applied using side dressing and added lambda for pesticides. We expect to harvest at least 8,000 cobs which we can sell at US\$1 for 4 cobs. So, we are expecting something like US\$2,000 in income while we used US\$200 as our expenditure for the maize."

The impressive work being displayed by the students is a good example of how knowledge is power and that hard work always pays off. Chihuri wishes that the programme expands and impacts various communities.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank Lupane State University lecturers and all workers who managed to groom us as future farmers. Now we are doing our projects well and with expertise. I also want to thank the government of Zimbabwe for sponsoring us on this programme whereby our fees have been paid, everything has been done by the college, and we managed to finish our degree programme without paying any cent.

"I appreciate this and I encourage the government to keep on doing such programs so that many teachers will benefit. This will benefit schools as well because when these teachers go back to their stations, they embark in such projects which are very profitable," he said.



LSU students scoop Scholastic Competition Award

By Munyaradzi Tinny Gango

Lupane State University students from the Department of Tourism went beyond the odds to win a prestigious award during the National Scholastic Tourism Innovation Competition, held in conjunction with the Sanganai/Hlanganai Tourism Expo in Mutare.

The National Scholastic Competition was organised by the Ministry of Tourism under the theme: “Eco-Resilient Destinations: Leveraging Sustainable Futures through Responsible Tourism – The Case of My Province.”

The event brought together tertiary institutions and schools nationwide to showcase innovative projects aligned with responsible tourism and sustainable practices.

LSU students represented the institution with a distinction and developed a prototype titled: “Bambara Flour: Round Bambara Nuts Gluten-Free Organic Flour.”

This innovation highlighted the potential of indigenous crops in promoting sustainable food systems, supporting eco-friendly tourism, and enhancing community livelihoods.

The LSU team attained First Runner-Up Position and received a cash prize of USD \$300 in recognition of their innovation.

Their participation in this national competition has yielded a number of benefits including lifting brand LSU high.

They elevated the profile of LSU and its Tourism Department as a hub of creativity and sustainability-driven research.

The event gave students a platform to showcase practical solutions, boosting their confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

It also strengthened relation-

ships between the university and the Ministry of Tourism, opening doors for future collaborations.

In a way of promoting indigenous knowledge, the competition showcased the value of locally available resources such as Bambara nuts, aligning with sustainable and responsible tourism practices.

The award and recognition serve as motivation for other students to engage in innovation and competitions.

The Department of Tourism’s participation in this competition was highly successful, demonstrating our commitment to advancing sustainable tourism education and community-focused innovation. The recognition of our students’ project underscores LSU’s role in shaping eco-resilient solutions for the province and the nation.

This innovation highlighted the potential of indigenous crops in promoting sustainable food systems, supporting eco-friendly tourism, and enhancing community livelihoods.





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 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 Business Leadership
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 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



Bridging Generations: The Intergenerational Transfer of Indigenous Knowledge in BaTonga Culinary Traditions

By Linda Susan Mukuli

The air in the Chibondo community was recently filled with the rich aromas of simmering indigenous vegetables and the murmur of shared stories, as BaTonga elders guided the hands of young people, teaching them the culinary secrets of their ancestors. This was more than a cooking class; it was a vital effort to preserve a culture one recipe at a time. This powerful exchange is a cornerstone of the **Chibondo Integrated Water, Environmental Protection, and Gardening Project**, a partnership between Lusumpuko Land Development Trust, Lupane State University (LSU), and Zubo Trust.

Funded by Welthaus Bielefeld, the 26-month initiative aims to bolster the livelihoods, health, and nutrition of over 2,000 people in the historically marginalised Binga district by empowering women and reviving deep-rooted cultural practices.

Preserving a Culinary Library

For the BaTonga people, indigenous knowledge is the thread that weaves together food security, nutrition, and cultural identity. Traditional practices—from cultivating resilient local crops to preparing time-honored dishes—are a living connection to their history and environment.

A recent workshop, expertly facilitated by LSU Research Extension Services Office Director Mr Canisius Mpala, Senior Irrigation Technician Mr. Tinashe Mbira, and Language and Culture Specialist Mrs Linda Susan Mukuli, brought this mission to life. The event was designed to be a bridge between

generations. Elders, whose memories hold a library of knowledge, sat with young community members eager to learn.

In age-based group discussions, elders recounted the old ways of farming and cooking, explaining the nutritional and medicinal value of local plants. The community identified a bounty of cherished indigenous crops, including:

- **Cultivated Vegetables:** Lutanga (Pumpkins), Gourds, Nyamunywa (Watermelon), Lunyangu (Cowpea), Telele (Okra), Chindambi (Rosella), and Bwengo (Sesame).
- **Wild and Weedy Vegetables:** Boowa (Pigweed), Itelele (Jute Mallow), Inkomba (False Sesame), Chinsyungwa (Spider Flower), Zakalanda (Moringa), and the leaves of the mighty Baobab (telele) and Tamarind (Busiika).

Participants didn't just talk; they got their hands dirty. The workshop included hands-on cooking sessions and discussions on agro-ecological practices, teaching sustainable farming techniques that honour both the land and BaTonga traditions.

The event culminated in a vibrant mini-fair where newly trained youths and their mentors proudly presented their dishes, celebrating the rich flavours of their heritage. This event not only celebrated traditional foods but also highlighted the significance of community involvement in preserving these practices.

Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer: The workshop underscored the significance of teaching the younger generation how to prepare and preserve traditional foods, particularly for use during lean seasons. It addresses a pressing



From Left: LSU Research Extension Services Office Director Mr Canisius Mpala, Lecturer Mrs Linda Mukuli and Senior Irrigation Technician Mr. Tinashe Mbira

ing concern voiced by many participants: the diminishing number of elders.

"This food is not just for the stomach; it is for the spirit," one elder shared. "If our children don't know how to prepare it, a part of us disappears with every elder we lose." This sentiment highlights the urgency of the initiative.

A Race Against Time

The transfer of knowledge faces modern challenges, including the allure of fast food and changing lifestyles that pull young people away from traditional practices.

However, these workshops create a powerful counter-narrative. When blending ancient wisdom with modern engagement, they spark renewed interest and provide a platform for innovation. The goal is not just to preserve the past but to adapt it for a sustainable future, ensuring these traditions can thrive.

Cultivating a Resilient Future

The intergenerational transfer of indigenous knowledge within the BaTonga community is not just about preserving the past; it is about empowering the future. In

connecting elders and the young people, LSU and Zubo Trust are helping to ensure that the culinary heritage of the BaTonga people remains vibrant and relevant.

As the community continues to engage in these vital exchanges, they are not only safeguarding their traditions but also cultivating a resilient future rooted in their rich culinary history.

This initiative exemplifies how indigenous knowledge can thrive in a modern world, bridging generations and celebrating the unique identity of the BaTonga people.



IN

THE *SPECTACLES OF* STAKEHOLDERS

Lupane State University: Anchoring innovation and industrialisation

BY PATRICIA SIBANDA – PRESS
READER

LOCATED in Lupane, Matabeleland North, Lupane State University (LSU) is a State-owned institution dedicated to promoting agriculture, tourism, wildlife management and rural development. With a strong focus on research, innovation, and industrialisation, LSU has established itself as a hub for practical learning and community engagement.

The university's strategic plan, aligned with the government's National Development Strategy 1, emphasises the production of goods and services, applied research and community outreach. LSU's six faculties, including Agricultural Sciences, Commerce, Engineering and Applied Sciences,

Humanities and Social Sciences, The Built Environment, and Environmental and Life Sciences, offer a range of programmes that cater to the needs of students and industry.

LSU's innovation parks, such as the Dryland AgroInnovation and Industrialisation Park and the Bingwa Wildlife Ecotourism Innovation and Industrial Park, provide hands-on learning opportunities for students, while generating revenue for the university. The Dryland Agro-Innovation Park features projects in cattle, goats, pigs, fish, poultry and horticulture, serving a dual purpose of practical learning and commercial production.

The university's business clinic, LSU Business Clinic, offers business consultancy, advisory, train-



ing, and development services to the business community in Matabeleland North, Bulawayo and surrounding areas. Additionally, Lupfin Financial Services, a microfinance institution, provides financial support to the local community and has expanded its operations to two branches, one in Lupane and another in Hwange.

LSU's commitment to community engagement and applied research is evident in its research

output, which includes 95 journal articles, 1 book, 15 book chapters, and 11 conference presentations. The university has 39 PhD holders among its academic staff, representing an 11,42% increase from 2023. Research projects are funded from internal resources and external grants, including US\$320 051, EUR41 843 and ZWL 135 000 000 received from 10 different organisations.

The university's campus radio station, which commenced live broadcasting in June 2024, provides students with practical learning opportunities in media programs. LSUMart, a retail outlet, offers basic commodities, toiletries and refreshments to students and staff while generating revenue for the university.

Infrastructure development is a

key focus area for LSU, with ongoing projects including the Technovation Centre, which is at foundation stage, and the sports pavilion, which is 60% complete. The Bingwa Wildlife Ecotourism Innovation and Industrial Park's conference centre, chalets and staff quarters are at 93% , with anticipated completion by October.

As LSU continues to expand its programme offerings and infrastructure, it remains committed to its vision of being an international premier university in teaching, learning, community engagement, innovation and industrialisation.

With a strong strategic focus, astute leadership and committed human capital, LSU is poised to make significant contributions to national economic growth and development.



LSU's innovation parks, such as the Dryland AgroInnovation and Industrialisation Park and the Bingwa Wildlife Ecotourism Innovation and Industrial Park, provide hands-on learning opportunities for students, while generating revenue for the university. The Dryland Agro-Innovation Park features projects in cattle, goats, pigs, fish, poultry and horticulture, serving a dual purpose of practical learning and commercial production.



Ms. E. Masara teeing off during the tournament



LSU Hosts Successful Golf Tournament at Harry Allen Golf Club

By Njabulo Sibanda

The prestigious Harry Allen Golf Club was abuzz with excitement as Lupane State University (LSU) successfully hosted its much-anticipated Golf Tournament, drawing 80 players from across Zimbabwe and various organisations.

Participants included teams from CABS, ZIB, Rananga, NUST, GZU, HP, and AFC – all long-time partners and proud “all-weather friends” of LSU.

The tournament was played under the Individual Stableford format, promoting both strategy and individual performance across the immaculate 18-hole championship course – known for its pristine greens and scenic fairways. The weather was perfect, with clear skies and a light breeze setting the

stage for a highly competitive and enjoyable day of golf.

LSU was represented on the course by Ms. E. Masara, Ms. S.A. Mutavayi, Ms. T. Ncube, and S.B. Chirisa, who flew the university's flag high with admirable performances.

Beyond sport, the tournament had a deeper purpose – fundraising for the purchase of an ambulance for the university.

Thanks to strong participation and support, the initiative was a success, with enough funds raised to meet the goal.

Participants praised LSU's excellent organisation, warm hospitality, and meaningful cause behind the event. As players and guests departed, there was unanimous anticipation for the next edition of the tournament – an event now firmly etched on Zimbabwe's corporate and academic golfing calendar.



Certificate in Sport Management : 3 Months

Sport is fast becoming the highest revenue earner worldwide through its intricate value chains. The ability to master the critical elements driving this industry will give the participant an appreciation and competitive edge in handling sport related matters.

Objectives:

- Linking management principle in sport
- Mastering sport structures and their organization world wide
- Mastering governance issues in the world of sport
- Managing finances in sport
- Managing sport events

Morning, afternoon, evening and weekend classes. (Online sessions now available)

Visit us in the Second Floor CBZ House
Our 1st Office is 10th Avenue
Bulawayo
Email: lsu@lsu.ac.zw

Tel: +263 9 78889 / +263 9 78895
Cell: +263 775 509 415 / +263 775 283 948
Website: www.lsu.ac.zw