



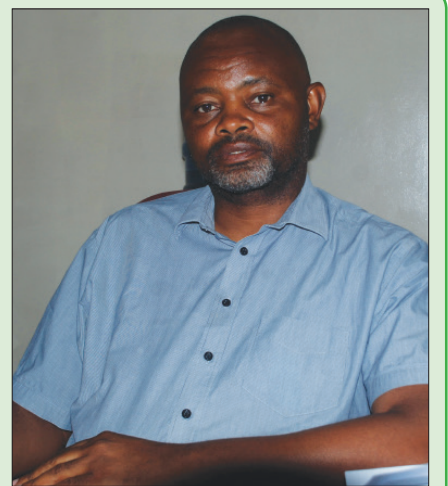
New Workers Committee promises improved staff welfare /4

The newly-appointed LSU Workers Committee members have vowed to fight for an improved welfare for the university staff members, at a time when the country is facing harsh and unpredictable economic hardships. They since pledged that they will advocate for workers' rights, promote open and efficient communication and put professional development initiatives in motion.

CAMPUS CONNECT

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Where Knowledge Meets Ink



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VC recounts LSU successes spanning over two decades

- **More faculties introduced**
- **Improved student population**
- **Infrastructure development**
- **More projects and awards**

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University (LSU) has made remarkable strides in research, innovation and infrastructure development since its inception 20 years ago, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pardon Kuipa has said.

Professor Kuipa was speaking during the institution's recent 16th graduation ceremony which was graced by His Excellency and Chancellor, Cde Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa as well as the Minister for Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Honourable Dr. Frederick Shava.

Held at the LSU Main Campus, the ceremony was special as the institution marked nine years since it officially moved from Bulawayo to Lupane.

The VC added that the ceremony was held at the moment LSU was celebrating 20 years of existence.

The university started with a cohort of 12 students in 2005, and it is now boasting for achieving an enrolment of over 4000 learners.

Professor Kuipa was happy that the university has managed to establish new faculties which are the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences and that of The Built Environment. This in addition to the already existing Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Commerce and the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

To this end, the university now has over 70 programmes under all of its faculties.

"As part of facilitating growth and enhancing ease of administration, the University Senate approved

the establishment of two new faculties. The Faculty of the Built Environment houses the urban and regional planning programme, as well as the real estate management programme. Future programmes within this faculty will include construction and economics, construction management, real estate economics and geoinformatics, as well as property evaluation and management.

"The Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences is currently housing programmes in one health, port health, plant and animal biotechnology, as well as environmental sciences. Future programmes in this faculty will be in veterinary medicine and medical laboratory sciences. We believe the programmes will contribute immensely to the human capital development needs of Zimbabwe,"

said Professor Kuipa.

The VC also took the opportunity to highlight that the institution is continuing with its commitment to develop its on-campus infrastructure to ease operations. He appreciated the assistance that it is getting from government departments, especially the allocation of funds for the Technovation Centre construction.

"We wish to thank you, Your Excellency Chancellor and the parent Ministry for availing Zimbabwe Manpower Development Fund (ZIMDEF) funds amounting to \$800,000 to the University, this is US dollars, that have allowed us to advance the Tech Innovation Centre construction project. Work on the project is on full swing and the pouring of concrete for the slab is ongoing. We appeal for continued financial support for the project so

that we relocate students and staff from Bulawayo as soon as is possible," he said.

The university has further prioritised the establishment of various projects that encourage, research, innovation and provide self-funding opportunities.

The VC indicated that they are keen in completing the Waterfront Resort and Conference Centre, located on the shores of Bubi Lupane Dam. The centre will serve as a platform for skills development in tourism and hospitality for students and also provide accommodation, conferencing and recreational facilities which are in short supply in Lupane.

The university was granted an Environmental Impact Assessment Certificate by the Environmental Management Agency, thus paving the way for the centre construction

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From Page 1

Vice-Chancellor recounts LSU successes spanning over two decades

works to commence. Additionally, LSU has engaged stakeholders to establish projects run by students who are involved in research that is used to provide solutions to community and industrial challenges.

“The university is partnering with the Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust to support 22 students to develop their agricultural business ideas into profitable businesses. The partnership aims to equip these 22 students with hands-on business management and entrepreneurial skills in order to address agricultural challenges and drive informed decision-making.

“The projects under incubation include mushroom production, fisheries, piggery, food preservation, herbal plants gardening and the use of ICTs in crop production. Another student innovation that has attracted interest from farmers is the poultry artificial insemination initiative which facilitates cross-breeding of chickens, thereby maximising the strength of various genetic charac-

teristics in certain chicken breeds such as high growth rates, high carcass weight and disease resistance,” said Professor Kuipa.

The university is also working with the Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa project (COHESA), to valorise medical waste into biogas and manure at St. Luke’s Hospital in Ward 19 of the Lupane District.

The biogas facilities will provide cooking gas to a 300-capacity ward for waiting pregnant mothers. Under the same project LSU set up waste collection centres where waste such as plastic and paper is collected and sorted for recycling, thereby creating employment opportunities for youths and women, while addressing health and environmental challenges posed by uncollected garbage.

In adhering to the Education 5.0 framework, which encourages research, innovation and industrialisation, LSU and stakeholders have exposed students to real-life experiences who now have acquired the necessary skills, knowledge and

competencies that are vital for their success in the world of work and for them to start their own businesses and create employment for their peers.

It is also committed in holding a series of important seminars that are key in influencing policy establishment and implementation. This was evidenced by the recently held seminar on climate communication and carbon credits for heads of government departments and local authorities. The seminar discussed policy interventions that are required to prepare those charged with governance to adequately communicate issues related to climate change and carbon credits.

The work by LSU in human capital development has not gone unrecognised by its stakeholders. This year it won the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) tertiary education institution of the year 2025 award at the Metropolitan Annual Business Awards that was held in Bulawayo. The university also won the Outstanding Research

Excellence Platinum Winner of the Year award at the Zimbabwe CEO’s Network Business Awards in Harare.

Professor Kuipa expressed his gratitude to the Excellency and Chancellor, the government, Lupane Community and staff for the continued support and commitment to building the institution.

This year’s ceremony had a total number of 1,558 graduates, in which 1,008 were females.

Respected business and traditional leaders, who included Chief Dakamela from Nkayi, were also among the graduates.

“The 2025 graduating class is a total of 469 graduates that are graduating with postgraduate degrees, a total of 1,011 graduates that are graduating with undergraduate degrees, of which 46 are in the first-class division. The balance of 78 graduates are graduating with various university diplomas. Pioneers of the BSc Honours Programme in Information Technology are also graduating today,” said Professor Kuipa.

Chief Dakamela
hails LSU



‘Strategic
partnerships key’

In addition to partnering with the Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust for projects sponsorships, LSU has again taken a leap further to team up with sister universities and relevant stakeholders to spearhead initiatives that are critical in improving research, innovation and industrialisation. These partnerships have gone beyond the Southern African region, so says the institution’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pardon Kuipa.

At the recent graduation ceremony, he told delegates that the university during the year 2025 joined its peers within the Association of African Universities at the 16th Quadrennial General Conference which was held in Rabat, Morocco.

The conference’s theme was on shaping the future of higher education for innovation and sustainable development in Africa, which rhymes with the country’s education 5.0 framework

“Key discussions included solutions to challenges in African higher education, promoting innovation and collaboration and fostering the inclusion of underrepresented groups. A critical takeaway was the call for inclusion of women, refugee youths and people with disabilities in higher education in order to drive true innovation,” noted the VC.

LSU also joined its sister regional universities within the Kavango Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA) during a workshop that was hosted by the University of Namibia. The main aim of the workshop was to discuss ways in which universities could collaborate better in order to undertake advanced research for development purposes. The programme brought together academics and stakeholders to review and contribute to the KAZA research framework with discussions focussing on key areas including community development, human wildlife conflicts, land use and natural resources, wildlife and livestock, tourism, climate change, infrastructure and governance.

“With millions of people living within the KAZA region, land use planning remains a major challenge, thus the need to ensure that research outputs benefit communities directly through improved livelihoods and food security,” said Professor Kuipa. “The workshop assigned thematic areas to participating universities and deliberated on the budget and fundraising action plan in order to strengthen collaborative research and implementation within the KAZA region,” he added.

Moreover, in order to improve access into the university’s programmes, LSU has partnered with the Forum for Women in Education in Zimbabwe (FAWEZE), which provides scholarships to disadvantaged young women and men to start the university’s bridging programmes in place of the normal entry requirements for degree programmes.

“The initiative will also provide our dues with the necessary academic and psychosocial support and facilitate pathways for them to pursue internships, industrial attachments and eventually to find employment or to set up their own businesses,” added the VC.

LSU continues to empower communities

Lupane State University is continuing to live by its motto of building communities through knowledge, as evidenced by the recent revelations made by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pardon Kuipa during the recent 16th graduation ceremony. The VC revealed that the institution is currently administering a number of projects that are critical in the development of various communities in the Matabeleland North region.

Speaking during the ceremony, Professor Kuipa said there are several interventions such as the establishment of LupFin and the Chibondo water project.

These projects have gone a long way in transforming local communities, including the vulnerable groups such as the youths and women.

“The university continues to transform livelihoods within the Lupane community and indeed within the Matabeleland North Province. The Financial Services and Strategic Business Unit of the University has established itself as a branch to reckon with within the Lupane market and has since expanded its operations through the opening of a second branch in Hwange which has also started on a very good footing,” said Professor shedding more light on how LupFin has penetrated the local financial market.

“We have noted that more than two-thirds of the informal traders that are accessing this facility are women and we are delighted that we are importing women as they form the core of the family structure in Zimbabwe.

“LupFin’s involvement in the community has demonstrated the important role of social innovation and social entrepreneurship in tackling the multiple challenges that modern societies face and has also demonstrated the commitment of LSU to promote an inclusive and sustainable development process in the Matabeleland North Province and beyond and thereby leaving no one and no place behind,” added the VC.

In Binga, the university continues to assist the Zubo Trust to implement the Chibondo integrated water and environmental protection and gardening projects.

“The projects are community-based and aim to protect biodiversity, prevent wetland degradation and provide clean drinking water through construction of infiltration galleries on wetlands. Wetland conservation efforts are important for communities because wetlands act as water sponges and provide water storage capacity thus protecting against flooding. In a majority of cases wetlands are located at the highest point of the watershed and their protection is vital to the health and maintenance of the catchment downstream.

“The project is benefiting the Chibondo and Lumbwe communities and Chibondo Primary School with direct access to potable water leading to an improvement in access to clean water, good sanitation and hygiene, improved food and nutrition security and household incomes,” Professor Kuipa added.

The Chibondo community consists of 268 households spread over nine villages with an estimated population of 1,340 people. All the community members are currently benefiting from the project.

Triumphant moment at LSU as graduates celebrate their achievements

By Michelle Moyo

Lupane State University (LSU) recently celebrated a momentous occasion, its 16th graduation ceremony, marking a significant milestone in the institution's history since its inception in 2004.

With a diverse range of faculties, the university has established itself as a premier institution of higher learning in Matabeleland North.

The graduation ceremony was a testament to its commitment to academic excellence and its role in shaping the next generation of leaders.

The university's emphasis on practical skills development, innovative research and community engagement has created a conducive environment for students to thrive.

The graduation ceremony was a celebration of the students' hard work and dedication, and it was clear that its efforts have paid off.

The atmosphere was electric, with proud parents, lecturers and students beaming with joy and a sense of accomplishment.

One of the students, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Peace and Security, Tendai Dube, expressed gratitude to LSU.

"I'm thrilled to be graduating from LSU. The university's supportive environment and experienced lecturers have been instrumental in my academic success.

I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had to develop my skills and knowledge in the field," she said.

Another student from the Faculty of Commerce, Pamela Ngwenya, mentioned that the graduation ceremony was an unforgettable experience.

"I'm proud to be a part of the LSU family. The university's emphasis on community engagement and social responsibility has taught me the importance of giving back to society.

"I'm excited and looking forward to make a positive impact in my community."

Simbarashe Shumba from the Faculty of Agricultural Science highlighted that LSU has been his second home for the past four years.

"The university's commitment to academic excellence and innovation has pushed me to reach my full potential.

"I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had to network with agronomists and develop my skills in the field of agriculture," said Shumba.

As the graduands embark on their next journey, they carry with them the values and knowledge instilled in them by LSU.

The university's commitment to producing well-rounded graduates who are well-equipped to make a positive impact in their communities is evident in the achievements they have made.

‘LSU students excelling in and outside class’

Lupane State University students are defying the odds by excelling both in academic and other fields such as sport, the university's Vice-Chancellor Professor Pardon Kuipa has said.

The VC hailed the students as he congratulated the recent graduating cohort, where some had the privilege to receive the Emmerson Dambudzo Mnanagwa Chancellor's Award.

Some who graduated with distinctions, first-class and merits got book prizes, the Vice-Chancellor's Award as well as other prizes sponsored by the institution's external corporate stakeholders.

The VC congratulated all the excelling students and mentioned those who got the presidential award who included the following:

Primrose Prestigious Dube, the best undergraduate female student for the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Animal Science and Rangeland Management and Dumisani Munkuli, who graduated with a first-class Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Economics. Nessisa Nyati; Arnold Keith Mavsopo; Nyasha Kodzai and Prince Ngwenya got the award for their final year projects.

The Vice-Chancellor also recognised some of the students who have raised the institution's flag high in other fields outside the classroom. He noted those who have represented LSU in exchange programmes held abroad.

Two students from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, that is Fiona Ndlovu from the Department of Languages, Media and Communication Studies and Rudo Linda Mudzingwa from the Department of Development Studies, participated in the Global Undergraduate Exchange Programme in the United States of America.

"The exchange programme lasted one semester and allowed these two students to go deeper into various subjects including film production, film performance analysis, education and culture and the intricate relationships between indigenouness and the environment," said the VC.

This year LSU students also participated in the Zimbabwe University Sports Association Cluster One and Two Games and brought home three gold medals, five silver medals and five bronze medals.

"Two of the students, Wesley Mazarura and Agreement Dube, qualified to represent Zimbabwe at the International Federation of World Investors Games that were held in Germany from 16 to 27 July 2025," Professor Kuipa added.

The VC also took the opportunity to encourage the graduating cohort to commit themselves in coming up with more answers than questions and using that information to grow and adapt to the outside world.

"You have a meaningful impact to your society and those around you. It is important that you surround yourself with a great team. Embrace diversity, take risks and dare to fail, be resilient, ask for help when necessary, and have a purpose beyond yourself by volunteering within your communities and giving back to the community by helping those in need. Whether you realise it or not, today you will walk away from Lupane State University and approach challenges with a solution-orientated mindset. You will think critically, innovate and tackle problems heads-on," he said.





THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR PK KUIPA, THE PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR T DUBE, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF LUPANE STATE UNIVERSITY,
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ATTAINMENT OF VARIOUS DEGREES DURING THE LSU'S 16TH GRADUATION
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Lindiwe Nyoni: Master of Science Degree in Accounting and Finance

Mhaka Munyaradzi: Master of Business Leadership

Mlotshwa Hloniphani: Master of Science Degree in Accounting and Finance

Hamadziripi Spencer: Master of Science Degree in Public Policy and Development Management

Musekiwa Innocent Maruza: Master of Science Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation

Chaora Chipso: Postgraduate Diploma in Geographic Information Science and Earth Observation

Marvellous Dhlamini: Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Ncube Nonsikelelo Teckler: Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Human Resource Management

Sibanda Jabulani: Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Accounting and Finance

Ndebele Sunday: Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Accounting and Finance

Thenga Guardian Nkabanyi: Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Accounting and Finance

Mguni Comfort: Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Geography and Population Studies

Chihambakwe Mufaro: Bachelor of Technology Honours Degree in Hotel, Catering and Tourism Management

Tshuma Thakazile: Bachelor of Science Special Honours Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation

Portia Ncube: Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences Honours Degree in Crop science

Sipho Sibanda: Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies

Vanessa Emmah Siziba-Dozva: Bachelor of Science Special Honours in Monitoring and Evaluation





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LSU continues to support local schools

It is on record that the university, through the Department of Educational Foundations, was involved in teacher trainings as well as thorough research to establish what was contributing to poor pass rates in the region.

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University has continued its unwavering support to schools dotted around Lupane District, from offering expertise in education and teacher training to agricultural projects.

In a recent gesture on that regard, LSU was represented by Mr. Nkululeko Mpofu, a lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, who was invited as a VVIP at the Fatima High School Speech and Prize Giving Day.

Mr. Mpofu, who is a Fatima High School Alumni, presented a speech under the event theme: Rooted in culture, empowered by our heritage, inspired for a better tomorrow.

His speech resonates very well with the university's thrust on heritage-based education 5.0 which encourages learners to dwell more on research and innovation.

Mr. Mpofu took the opportunity to encourage the students to prioritise education, for it is the key for their successes of tomorrow.

He emphasised that they have to be confident enough, that one day they will be knocking at the university doors, and eventually graduate to become professors and excellent innovators.

"It is a deep honour and privilege to stand before you today, not just as your Guest of Honour, but as one of your own – a proud former student of this great institution.

"I bring warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to all prize winners and to every learner who has worked hard throughout the year.

"I am proud to say that Fatima High has produced exceptional men and women who are excelling all over the world. Some of my former schoolmates during our time are professors at South African universities.

"Others are medical doctors in the United Kingdom, saving lives daily. Some are leaders in social work in Australia, helping families and communities thrive.

"One of my classmates is now an advisor for AfCFTA and SADC, shaping policies that connect Africa's economies.

"These are ordinary people who walked the same halls you walk, sat in these same classrooms, and faced the same challenges – yet they went on to achieve extraordinary things.

"That should remind every learner here that your dreams are valid, and your background does not define your ceiling," said Mr. Mpofu.

He added that our heritage and culture, which has been infused by the government into the curriculums, is very critical for it defines who we are and is a source of strength and inspiration for innovation.

"Being rooted in culture means understanding where we come from – our values of ubuntu, respect, community spirit, and hard work.

"Being empowered by our heritage means realising that everything around us – from our land, language, traditions, and natural resource – can inspire creativity and solutions for today's problems," he said.

The students were told that education remains the most powerful tool to transform lives and communities, but it requires discipline, consistency, and curiosity.

"As young people, be serious about your schoolwork. Treat every assignment, every test, and every lesson as an opportunity to build your future. Your teachers are not just marking your work; they are helping shape your destiny. Avoid shortcuts. Avoid distractions. The internet, social media, and peer pressure can mislead you – but focus will set you apart," said Mr. Mpofu.

His words are a reminder of the excellent work that LSU has done in Matabeleland North, especially in the fight against the zero-pass rate phenomenon.

It is on record that the university, through the Department of Educational Foundations, was involved in teacher trainings as well as thorough research to establish what was contributing to poor pass rates in the region.

As a result, books were written, some were bought and donated to underprivileged schools to encourage a reading culture among the learners.

LSU students are also applauded for pitching in and donating books through partnerships with NGOs and Churches.

Additionally, LSU has supported schools like Fatima High School and Mtshibini Secondary School, among others, by installing drip irrigation systems for gardening purposes.

These projects are critical for the schools' feeding scheme programmes as well as self-funding measures.



Pictures showing proceedings of the Fatima High School Prize Giving Day.



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Workers Committee Chairman Mkhokheli Mlauzi

New Workers Committee promises improved staff welfare

Pledge to advocate for the recognition of the workers' rights

By Thembelani Moyo

The newly-appointed LSU Workers Committee members have vowed to fight for an improved welfare for the university staff members, at a time when the country is facing harsh and unpredictable economic hardships.

The members who also include those who have held positions in the previous committee include: Mkhokheli Mlauzi (chairman); Jabulani Mpofu (vice-chairman); Thenjiwe Ncube (secretary) and Jabulani Sibanda (vice-secretary).

The departmental representatives are: Gerald Mhuri (academics); Patrick Nkiwane (administration); Dumisani Sibanda (technicians); Nonsikelelo Ncube (secretariat); Mbuso Sibanda (junior non-academics); and Ntandoyenkosi Moyo (farm).

The chairperson has since pledged that they will advocate for workers' rights, promote open and efficient communication and put professional development initiatives in motion.

He also added that the committee is not an enemy of the employer, but will strive to be supportive to the leadership because they are a bridge between management and workers.

"What we will advocate for is in-

clusiveness, fair policy activation and even resource allocation. We will encourage regular wellness programmes, foster unity among staff through meetings, feedbacks and collective decision making and of course providing support for the university mission thereby contributing to its development and sustainability," Mlauzi said.

He emphasised that they want to ensure that the workers' voices are heard; and they are committed to serving the collective good and fostering a positive environment where everyone can thrive.

Mlauzi's sentiments were expressed by the vice-secretary, Jabulani Sibanda, who once served as acting chairperson for the previous committee.

Sibanda also recounted the successes achieved by the previous committee, thereby demonstrating the effectiveness of representation in labour issues.

These key initiatives and accomplishments were pursued under both the national and local platforms.

At national level the committee managed to enhance Inter-University Collaboration where they actively partnered with Workers Committees from fellow universities to hold strategic meetings with the parent ministry.

"These efforts were directed

towards establishing a National Employment Council (NEC), with support of the Provisional Labour Officer," said Sibanda.

"We advocated for improved welfare for university staff through non-monetary incentives, including: tax-free vehicle importation rebates and tuition fee exemptions for staff and dependents," he added.

At local level, the committee initiated several welfare measures such as the staff housing programme where authorities will facilitate the allocation of residential stands for staff both in Lupane and Bulawayo.

"Discussions with the National Building Society are underway to secure financial support for purchasing of stands and houses construction," said Sibanda.

They also made a number of positive welfare proposals which include lobbying for transport allowance and for the acceleration of policy ratification and implementation.

These policies included the Non-Academic Staff Promotions Policy; Staff Development policy and LSU Code of Conduct, among others.

Sibanda said the new workers committee will take further these initiatives, so that the staff welfare is improved.



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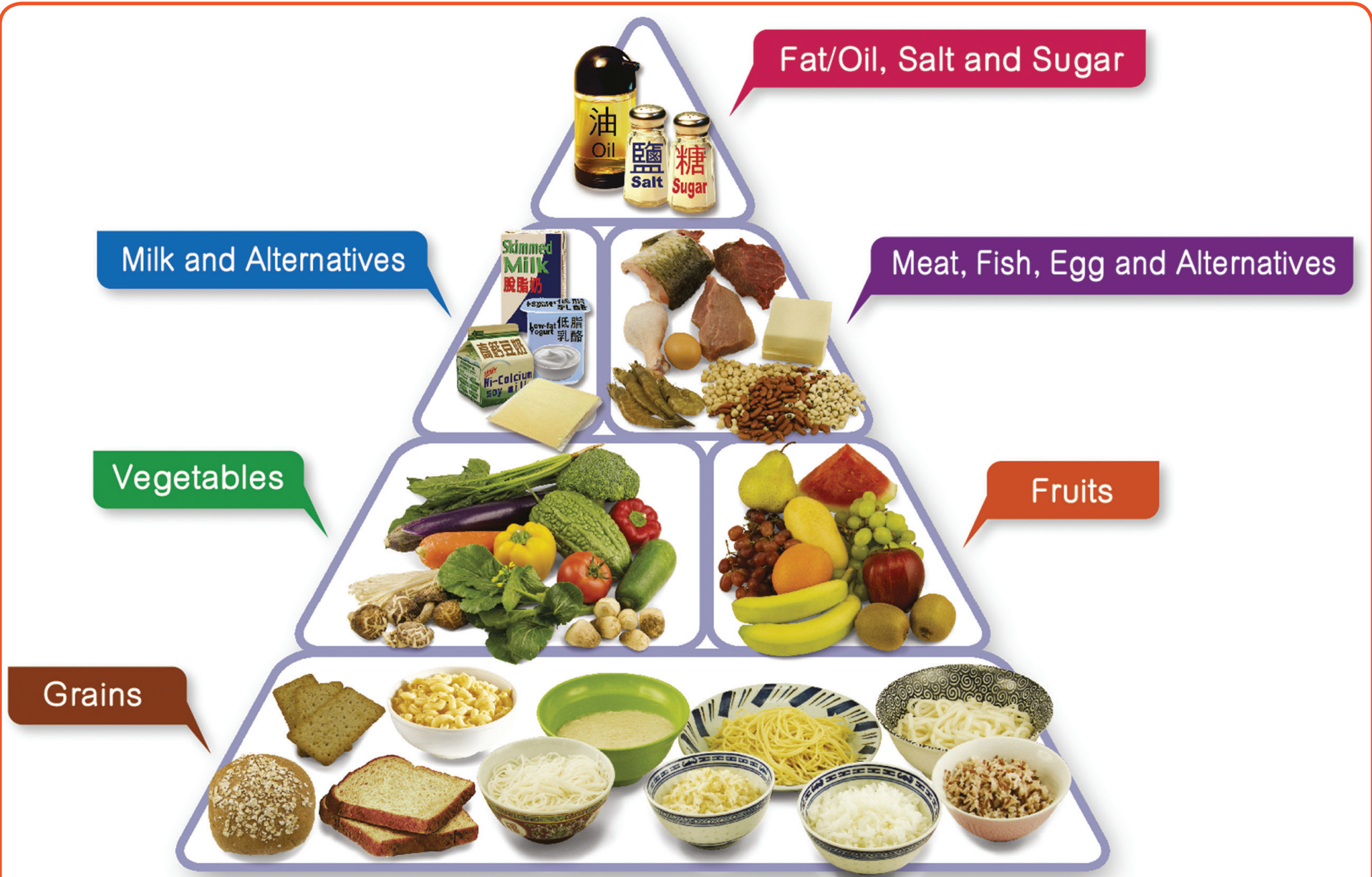
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World Food Day commemorations spark debate about what we should eat

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University joined other institutions to commemorate the World Food Day, with academics from the Department of Food Science and Technology conducting an insightful webinar focusing on food nutrition, balanced diet and ways in which food related diseases can be prevented.

The commemorations were guided by the theme: What your age says you should eat.

During the webinar Sibongubhile Ayanda Mafela made a presentation titled Nutrition through the lifespan; Tendayi Mutengwa's was titled Childhood & Adolescence – Designing Foods for Growth and Learning; while Musawenkosi Zondo focused on Hand in hand for better foods and a better future.

Mafela's presentation highlighted that in Zimbabwe, the leading nutrition problems include high levels of childhood stunted growth, micronutrient deficiencies where there is lack of Vitamin A, Iron, Zinc, and Selenium as well as obesity. This was also reiterated by Mutengwa who argued that there is a need to provide a balanced diet for young children especially those who are going to school so that they have healthy minds and bodies.

The presenters noted that one out of four Zimbabwean children are stunted and do not grow and develop to their full potential due to a number of issues associated with unbalanced diet.

"There are monotonous diets which

heavily rely on a single staple food, maize (sadza), which provides calories but is lacking in essential proteins, vitamins, and minerals needed for growth," said Mafela.

"Many children do not have regular access to nutrient-dense foods like eggs, meat, fish, dairy, fruits, and vegetables due to high poverty levels. There is also inadequate exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months," she added.

Micronutrient deficiencies in children and adults identified by the presenters include lack of Vitamin A which is essential for immunity and vision and iron for blood and concentration.

They were also concerned with the rise of overweight and obesity despite the fact that the country is facing undernutrition. This owes to a number of reasons such as the shift towards highly processed foods, sugary beverages, and diets high in fats and salt especially in urban areas.

In adults, the presenters said poor diet has led to a rise of number of diseases such as hypertension; diabetes; heart attacks; strokes and bone loss and softening.

"The main culprit is the excessive use of salt in relishes, coupled with a high consumption of processed, salty foods like stock cubes, processed meats, and salty sauces."

"Increased consumption of sugary drinks, white bread, and other high-glycemic foods; including heavy use of cheap, hydrogenated cooking oils and a higher intake of fatty meats also contribute to spread of these diseases."

With that being noted, the question that remains is: What should be done to curb malnutrition and the spread of disease?

As specialists in food and nutrition, LSU presenters proposed the adoption of a number of ways such as fortifying food, encouraging the consumption of organic foods as well as opting for a balanced diet. Mutengwa said that adding nutrients to foods, like fortifying the maize meal, is essential if the country is committed in eradicating malnutrition.

Similarly, Mafela suggested that staples should be fortified with zinc, iron vitamin A, vitamin B12, and folic acid.

Zondo also added that people should add more plant-based foods in their diets; and reduce red meat consumption.

"We should incorporate more pulses (like lentils, chickpeas, and beans), leafy greens, cereals, and grains into our diet. Red meat production accounts for a significant portion of greenhouse gas emissions, so reducing its consumption is a key step," Zondo said.

To prevent stunted growth in children and food associated diseases, presenters suggested that people should consider eating foods such as orange sweet potatoes, beans, small grains like finger millet (uphoko), pearl millet (inyawuthi) and sorghum (amazambane), fruits and vegetables.

Mutengwa also suggested that school feeding programmes should be introduced and be guided by a system of bridging science and culture where modern nutrition and traditional diets are combined.

"Many children do not have regular access to nutrient-dense foods like eggs, meat, fish, dairy, fruits, and vegetables due to high poverty levels. There is also inadequate exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months."

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ANNOLD J.M NCUBE



06:00 - 06:15 AM

FROM MONDAY - FRIDAY

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ICTS conscientises staff about the importance of cybersecurity

In this digital world where most of the work is done online, users are not always safe due to widespread crimes ranging from harassment to hacking and identity theft.

Cybercrime concerns unlawful acts where computers, phones and the Internet are used to commit or facilitate a crime for financial gain, disrupting businesses, or other malicious purposes.

This month Lupane State University joined stakeholders to recognise October which was declared the Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

The month was recognised under the theme: Secure Our Digital Future – It Starts with You.

The Director for Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) for the University, Engineer. M Sibanda took the opportunity to share insights on cybersecurity so that the LSU community is safe.

“October marks Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a global initiative dedicated to promoting safer online practices and strengthening our collective defence against cyber threats. At Lupane State University this observance is not just a calendar event, it is a call to action for every student, staff member, and faculty to play an active role in safeguarding our digital environment,” he said in a statement.

“Our university relies heavily on digital systems to support teaching, research, administration, and communication. Systems such as Edurole, KOHA, Moodle (eLearning), Mopane, Vevane and our email infrastructure handle sensitive data every day, ranging from student records and research outputs to financial and personal information,” he added.

Cybercriminals are increasingly targeting universities because of the valuable data they hold and the openness of academic environments.

Common threats users face online include the following:

Phishing emails that attempt to steal passwords or install malware; weak passwords that make unauthorised access easier; data breaches caused by accidental sharing of confidential information; unsecured personal devices connected to the university network.

Every careless click, reused password, or ignored update increases the institutional risk. This year's theme emphasises that cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility.

“While ICTS continues to implement technical controls, such as firewalls, antivirus systems, and secure authentication, human awareness remains our strongest defence. You are the first line of defence. The decisions you make every day, how you handle emails, use passwords, and protect devices directly influence LSU's cybersecurity posture,”

noted Engineer

Engineer

Sibanda.

If you suspect a breach, malware infection, or data loss, report it immediately to the ICTSHelpdesk. Swift reporting minimises damage and supports timely containment.

Engineer Sibanda revealed that the ICTS Department continues to enhance LSU's cybersecurity posture through the following measures:

Regular system monitoring and risk assessments; implementation of data protection measures in line with the Cyber and Data Protection Act [Chapter 12:07]; staff and student training sessions on safe digital practices; development of incident response and data classification frameworks; strengthening the digital platforms with improved access controls.

These initiatives aim to build a security-aware campus culture where technology supports learning and research without compromising data integrity or privacy.

“Let's use this month to renew our commitment to cybersecurity. Whether you are a lecturer managing class materials, an administrator handling student data, or a student accessing university systems, you have a role to play in protecting our digital community. As we continue to expand digital learning and research platforms, let's remain vigilant, informed, and proactive. Cybersecurity begins with awareness, and awareness begins with you.”

Five cybersecurity habits for every LSU member

1. Think Before You Click

Be cautious of unsolicited emails, attachments, and links. Always verify the sender before responding or clicking. Report suspicious messages to: ictshelpdesk@lsu.ac.zw.

2. Use Strong, Unique Passwords

Avoid using the same password across platforms. Create strong combinations using letters, numbers, and symbols. Where possible, enable multi-factor authentication (MFA).

3. Protect Sensitive Information

Do not share student, staff, or university data on public platforms or through personal email accounts. Follow LSU's Data Protection and Privacy Policy at all times, which is available on the university website.

4. Keep Systems Updated

Regularly update your computer, phone, and applications. Software updates patch known security weaknesses exploited by hackers.

5. Report Incidents Promptly.





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 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, a Behemoth of Innovative, Transformative Practical Solutions

By Sikhulekelani Moyo Zimpapers Business Hub

IN Zimbabwe's academic landscape, Lupane State University (LSU) has become a behemoth of innovative solutions, spearheading transformative projects that provide practical learning for agricultural students, community empowerment, as well as revenue generation for the institution.

The projects are done in line with Government's Heritage Based Education 5.0, which aims to produce graduates equipped to drive industrial growth and tackling real-world challenges.

Education 5.0 model represents a significant paradigm shift in the country's educational approach, addressing both societal needs and national economic priorities. This

framework is built on five critical pillars - teaching, research, community service, innovation, and industrialisation.

Responding to questions from Zimpapers Business Hub, LSU marketing and public relations officer, Mr Mncedisi Ngwenya, said the institution, through the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, is running Dryland Agro Innovation and Industrialisation Park with livestock breeding and horticulture.

He said livestock breeding includes goats, piggery, cattle, fishery, and poultry cutting across broilers, layers, and Indigenous chickens, with horticulture crops including tomatoes, cabbages, onions, butternuts, carrots, green mealies, and leaf vegetables.

"All horticulture and livestock a dual production projects have



mandate - facilitating practical learning for agricultural students on one hand and revenue generation for the university on the other end," said Mr Ngwenya.

"The main crops include cabbage, tomatoes, butternut, cucumber, and green mealies. These are key as they are in high demand in Lupane and Hwange markets. "On the piggery project, we sell live pigs of different ages to breeders and pork for those who want

meat," he added.

"In poultry, we sell broilers and also have eggs. These are very important projects that generate income for the university."

As the university increases its product footprint in the province and beyond, Mr Ngwenya said they were looking forward to expanding broiler flock size and area under horticulture production, which will be done in collaboration with the Innovation Directorate.

He said the university has a strong impact on the community, with its motto: "Building Communities Through Knowledge."

"Besides employment creation for the local communities, a gap that the university has endeavored to cover, we also enable the availability of the products to the local communities and vendors at their doorstep," he added.

"This reduces the transport costs and the hustle of sourcing vending wares in Bulawayo. In addition, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences trains local communities in modern farming techniques, inclusive of irrigation, broiler production, goat farming, and genetics improvement, as well as farm management," said Mr Ngwenya.

With these agricultural programmes, he said LSU has transformed the agricultural landscape in Matabeleland North, which has also improvement in livelihoods.

"The university has been at the forefront of teaching good agronomic practices (GAPs) to local farmers, improving yields, quality of crops and livestock breeds, significant improvement in disease and pest control, soil and water conservation," he said.

"LSU spearheaded the establish-

ment of numerous irrigation systems in schools and community irrigation schemes, contributing improved yields, reducing poverty and hunger, and positively impacting the sustainability of livelihoods."

Meanwhile, Mr Ngwenya said LSU is also spearheading other projects, which include the Binga Wildlife Ecotourism Innovation and Industrialisation Park, and Wildlife resort and conference centre with a conference centre and accommodation facilities, and a weir to retain water all year round to attract wildlife.

He said the wildlife resort and conference centre facilities are now at 93 percent level of completion. The institution is also working on the Lupane Waterfront Resort Conference Centre, another accommodation and conference facility on the banks of the Bubi-Lupane Dam, in Lupane.

"The project is in its preliminary stages and should commence towards year's end, targeting completion in 2026," said Mr Ngwenya.

LSU is also in the process of developing and registering Intellectual Property (IP), for example, a digital goat weighing scale, grafting wax, avian artificial insemination, biofertilizer, and strategy implementation enhancement models.

The projects are done in line with Government's Heritage Based Education 5.0, which aims to produce graduates equipped to drive industrial growth and tackling real-world challenges.



Zimbabwe Football Association Appoints Mpofu as Commissioner



Mr. Jabulani Mpofu

By Njabulo Sibanda – Sports Reporter

Lupane State University's very own Mr. Jabulani Mpofu, has lifted the LSU flag high after being appointed as one of the commissioners in the ongoing Sheasham FC withdrawal case by the Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA).

ZIFA has set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the withdrawal of Sheasham FC from the Central Region Division One League amid concerns over officiating and administrative irregularities.

The move follows resolutions made during the ZIFA Executive Committee meeting, acting on recommendations from the Legal and Player Status Committee.

Invoking Article 55 of the ZIFA Statutes, the commission has been tasked with establishing facts, reviewing procedural compliance, and recommending reforms to strengthen fair-

ness, integrity, and transparency in league governance.

The appointed commissioners include: Mr. Ringisai Kudzanai Hillario Mapondera, Chairperson & Legal/Governance Expert; Mr. Jabulani Mpofu – Lupane State University; Ms. Morelet S. Mathema – Vice President (Technical & Development), Zimbabwe Volleyball Association; Mr. Andrew Pamire – Former Referee

Their mandate is to:

- Investigate the circumstances surrounding Sheasham FC's withdrawal,
- Assess whether all internal remedies under ZIFA and ZCRSL statutes were exhausted,
- **Provide recommendations to prevent similar occurrences in the future.**

ZIFA emphasised that the commission's work is a corrective and reformatory measure designed to restore trust, integrity, and accountability in football administration.



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