

CAMPUS CONNECT

Where Knowledge Meets Ink



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The Dean for Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Mlamuleli Mhlanga (left) addresses farmers and stakeholders during the field day tour at the LSU farm.

LSU and the Golden Leaf: An initiative we should all applaud

By Thembelani Moyo

For the first time in Matabeleland North and probably, the whole of Matabeleland, Lupane State University has officially started a different way of nursing tobacco seedlings as part of its thrust in promoting dryland agriculture.

Known for being produced in other regions, the plant has a huge global market where people use it for smoking, health and cultural practices.

Recently LSU hosted a Tobacco Field Day where

farmers from Lupane were taught how to plant and manage the golden leaf.

The event was held under the theme: Climate Smart Tobacco Alternatives: Growing Prosperity of the Golden Leaf in Lupane, and was attended by various LSU stakeholders including the Lupane DCC, Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services, Agritex officers, Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), and local farmers from nearby villages and the Bubi Lupane Irrigation.

Representing LSU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pardon Kuipa, the Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Mbulisi Ndlovu said LSU is proud of spearheading such an initiative.

"On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pardon Kuipa, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Thulani Dube, and the entire Lupane State University community and management, I warmly welcome you all. May this field day be fruitful, enlightening and memorable. I invite you not to feel at home, but be at home," he said.

"As you may be aware, our mantra as LSU is building communities through knowledge, so this field day is one of the many activities which are testament to that. I have no doubt that you will find today's day fulfilling and fruitful.

"As we seek to embark on tobacco production as a province, district and a community, I encourage us to practice smart agriculture through opting for green energy solutions as we cure our tobacco. This will save our priceless forests," he added.

Dr. Ndlovu also emphasised that the ini-

tiative will go a long way in improving livelihoods, income and economic sovereignty.

"Today, we gather not only to showcase our collective talents, innovations and hard work, but also to celebrate the spirit of community, collaboration and excellence that defines this institution. A field day is more than just an event," he said.

The Dean for Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Mlamuleli Mhlanga added that what LSU has done presents a challenge to Lupane farmers, who must unite and start planting tobacco for it is a very profitable crop, especially under the period of climate change.

"Together we are ensuring that the golden leaf remains a symbol of prosperity. There is climate change, so let's consider plants that adapt. It's a challenge to all of us as farmers. We have seen today that there is a huge potential in this region for the golden leaf. It has been proven through this LSU initiative. I encourage all of us to organise ourselves, support each other so that when we go to the auction floors we succeed," he said.

During the event Mr. Chimedza took farmers through a practical training session of how to plant the seeds, manage the plant and harvest it.

"Farmers don't have the basic knowledge of how to manage plants. So, we have come up with a system called AgriHopper. So, what AgriHopper does is it gives information at fingertips to the farmers. Just by sending an SMS in your own language," he said.

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From page 1 LSU and the Golden Leaf: An initiative we should all applaud

Stakeholders appreciated the stunt by LSU, with the DCC saying they have been skeptical about the possibility of producing tobacco in Matabeleland North Province.

Mr Never Sibanda who was representing farmers from Shabula village also thanked LSU for giving them crucial knowledge about how to manage the golden leaf.

Similarly Rachel Mlilo from Bubi Lupane Irrigation Scheme expressed the same sentiments arguing that they gained a lot from the LSU event and said they are considering planting the golden leaf.

Martin Khumalo from Zimbabwe Farmers Union weighed in and said they used to be peasants farmers, now they are entering a commercial field because of the knowledge they have gained from LSU.

Representing AFC, Lupane Branch Manager Mr Nguquko Ndlovu urged farmers to approach the bank for loans that will enable them to fund projects meant to promote the production of the golden leaf.

The ZPCS also appreciated the effort by LSU and said even if they are involved in the production of other agricultural products, the knowledge about tobacco farming in Matabeleland North came in handy.

Meanwhile, Bulawayo has opened its first ever auction floor for the golden leaf and LSU is very optimistic that the initiative will help tobacco farmers from the Matabeleland region.



One Collection, Thousands of Kids: LSU Unveils Goat Semen Extender at ZITF



By Arbitr Munsaka

One goat ejaculation contains billions of sperms. By nature that entire batch impregnates exactly one female.

A single natural breeding uses only a tiny fraction of what a buck produces. The rest is wasted.

Now a technology on display at Lupane State University (LSU) – the goat semen extender – changes that equation entirely.

By diluting and preserving semen, farmers can stretch one collection to impregnate thou-

sands of goats instead of just one.

In an interview with LSU campus radio at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) 2026 edition, Animal Science Lecturer Mr. Sizo Moyo explained that goat semen contains billions of sperm cells and the extender exhibited at the fair allows farmers to reduce the concentration from millions per dose to as low as 100 000 – and it still works.

However, without a storage medium, goat semen dies within 72 hours. The extender changes that completely.

“We freeze the semen at minus 196 degrees Celsius and store it

for as many years as possible,” Mr. Moyo said.

“But the best result you get is at most one year,” he added.

That means a farmer can collect semen in one breeding season and use it the next year. Frozen semen can also be shipped anywhere in the world.

But there is a catch. While semen can be frozen for many years, Mr. Moyo noted that after one year, pregnancy rates may drop.

The technology also does not eliminate the need for healthy bucks – poor quality semen, even extended, will still produce

poor results.

Still, the benefits are clear. The extender takes billions of sperm that would otherwise be wasted and turns one collection into thousands of potential pregnancies.

It buys time – up to a year – and it buys distance, allowing farmers to transport genetics across borders.

For farmers, it means more kids per buck, better genetics across herds, and less waste.

For LSU, it means displaying a technology that quietly revolutionises animal reproduction.

“We freeze the semen at minus 196 degrees Celsius and store it as many years as possible. But the best result you get is at most one year.”

LSU ZITF EXHIBITION IN PICTURES





SEC President (left) and his deputy

New LSU SEC Pledges Transparency, Welfare, and ‘Making the university Great Again’

By Arbiter Munsaka

Following a formal induction workshop, the newly elected Students’ Executive Council (SEC) at Lupane State University has officially assumed office, promising a term defined by constitutional reform, accountability, and rapid service delivery.

The induction served not only to congratulate the new leaders but also to familiarise them with student representation procedures, their specific roles, and the grievance process.

The new SEC is led by President Ryan C. Ncube, Vice President Prudence Moyo, and Secretary General Irvine M. Chiwariro.

In an interview, the new SEC

president outlined several commitments. Top of the agenda is amending the old SEC constitution, ensuring continuous transparency and accountability, and prioritising student welfare across all university sectors.

The council also pledged to spearhead marketing of the university with an ambitious goal: “to make Lupane State University Great Again and restore enrolment by September 2026.”

According to the new SEC, several services have already been delivered, including improved Internet access, more comfortable accommodation, student tracksuits, and better student transportation.

The leaders admitted that they are facing a challenge of the lim-

ited time remaining in their term. However, they said they have maximised this opportunity, with ministers working daily to represent students. They noted that the constitution allows them to set a date for the next elections, enabling them to work with feasible deadlines.

The new leadership also expressed gratitude to their predecessors. They said the previous SEC laid a strong foundation for a fruitful relationship between student representatives and the administration. They added that it has allowed the new council to settle in quickly and deliver results in a short period.

LSU at Maphisa: United for Development, Committed to Vision 2030

Lupane State University proudly joined His Excellency, President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, and thousands of Zimbabweans at Maphisa to commemorate 46 years of Independence under the theme “Zimbabwe at 46: Unity and Development Towards Vision 2030.”

In the spirit of unity, LSU stood together with the nation students, staff, and communities celebrating

the freedom that unites us and the progress we are building together.

In the spirit of development, we renew our pledge: to drive research, innovation, and skills that advance Zimbabwe towards Vision 2030. From Lupane to the nation, we remain committed to building communities through knowledge.

Happy 46th Independence Day, Zimbabwe. Together, we move forward.



Part of LSU students who represented the institution in Maphisa



Showcasing Zimbabwe to Africa: LSU Tourism Graduate Ventures into Travel Writing

By Sindiswa Ndiweni

Lupane State University proudly celebrates the inspiring journey of a former Tourism and Hospitality student who is steadily establishing herself in the field of travel writing across Africa. Meet Tatenda Sesa, an LSU Alumna, who studied Tourism and Hospitality Management, completing her studies in 2021. Driven by a deep passion for tourism and storytelling, she is currently contributing part-time travel articles to More Cream than Coffee, an online magazine dedicated to sharing authentic tourism stories from across the continent.

The magazine brings together a diverse network of journalists from all over Africa, each offering unique perspectives on destinations, cultures, and experiences. Through this platform, the LSU alumna is playing a meaningful role in promoting African tourism and storytelling.

Her journey into travel writing began unexpectedly after she shared a LinkedIn post featuring her visit to Mutare. The post, accompanied by captivating images and the popular ZimBho mantra, caught the attention of one of the magazine's journalists, Niyi David. Impressed by her storytelling ability and perspective, he reached out and encouraged her to contribute to the publication—marking the beginning of her writing journey.

Since then, she has written three engaging articles that reflect both her creativity and passion for tourism. These include "A Glimpse of Hwange: Nature, Soul and Sanctuary," based on her 2022 trip to Hwange, a biographical piece on her hometown titled "Bulawayo, A Journey into My Hometown – The City of Kings and Queens," and a vibrant feature titled "Fun Day at Kronenzitch Gardens, Bulawayo, Where Fun Knows No Age," highlighting a popular leisure destination located 14 kilometres from the Bulawayo Central Business District.

Her love for travel predates her university studies, rooted in a lifelong dream of exploring new places and creating lasting memories. However, her time at Lupane State University served as a turning point. Through both theoretical and practical learn-

ing, she gained valuable knowledge and exposure that ignited her ability to transform experiences into compelling written narratives. She believes that the skills acquired during her studies have enabled her to effectively translate tourism knowledge into impactful storytelling.

Beyond writing, she continues to actively explore Zimbabwe through annual SDA church congresses, where she makes it a point to participate in trips around the country. These experiences continue to inspire her work and deepen her appreciation for local tourism.

Currently, her contributions to More Cream than Coffee are on a voluntary basis. However, she has ambitious plans to grow her writing into a sustainable venture by monetizing her content through travel blogging. She is also working on her next article, which will focus on one of Zimbabwe's premier tourist destinations, Victoria Falls.

Her journey reflects the aspirations of the Ministry's Education 5.0 framework, particularly its emphasis on innovation and industrialisation. By turning her passion into a creative and entrepreneurial pursuit, she exemplifies how student-led initiatives can evolve into meaningful career opportunities.

Lupane State University applauds her dedication, creativity, and initiative. Her story serves as an inspiration to current and future students, demonstrating the power of passion, education, and opportunity in shaping impactful career pathways.

The magazine brings together a diverse network of journalists from all over Africa, each offering unique perspectives on destinations, cultures, and experiences. Through this platform, the LSU alumna is playing a meaningful role in promoting African tourism and storytelling.



Women in Tourism Network



Women in Tourism Chamber

New Structure for Women in Tourism and Youth in Tourism

By M. Tiny Gango, Sylvester Tanaka Sibanda and Sihlonitshiwe P Hlabangana

The Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality (MOTHI) in conjunction with Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) held elections on Friday, 13 March at the Natural Museum to create a new leadership structure for the Zimbabwe Women in Tourism chamber and network provincial boards as well as the Zimbabwe Youth in Tourism Chamber and Network boards.

The elections brought together stakeholders from across the local tourism sector, including hospitality professionals, tour operators, and emerging entrepreneurs, all aiming to strengthen representation and leadership within the industry. Under the Zimbabwe Youth in Tourism network, Bulawayo Chapter, Lupane State University student Sylvester Tanaka Sibanda was elected Chairperson, while Lubelihle Mlotshwa was appointed Finance Treasurer.

In the Zimbabwe Women in Tourism Chamber, Bulawayo Chapter, Lupane State University alumni Sihlonitshiwe P Hlabangana was elected Vice Chair, serving under Mrs Bhulu who is a current student at Lupane State University. For the Zimbabwe Women in Tourism Network,

Bulawayo Chapter, M. Tiny Gango, a lecturer in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality, was voted in as the provincial Chair.

The initiative reflects the national development agenda championed by His Excellency the President Comrade Dr E.D Mnangagwa, whose mantra of "leaving no one and no place behind" continues to guide inclusive growth across sectors. Both associations are part of the women's and youth desks in the Ministry of Tourism. This formation will further enhance the NDS2 as both associations tackle tourism and hospitality issues from grass roots level. By incorporating women and youth into leadership structures, the tourism industry in Bulawayo is aligning itself with this broader vision.

Stakeholders noted that the elections mark an important step towards governance, fostering inclusivity and sustainability in the city's tourism landscape, with increased participation from underrepresented groups expected to strengthen innovation and improve service delivery.

The newly elected board members are expected to play a key role in driving local tourism initiatives, supporting community engagement, and contributing to national tourism development goals.



Youth in Tourism Network.

People, Culture, Food, Diversity and Sustainability

By Sisasenkosi Ndlovu and Dr. K Ngwenya

This article marks the beginning of a series aimed at documenting and disseminating knowledge, skills, and belief systems associated with diverse cultural traditions, food practices, and sustainability in Zimbabwe. Food serves as a profound medium for expressing cultural identity and preserving communal history, as it communicates social identity while embodying cultural and historical meanings. According to Jayasinghe et al. (2025:23), “food choices and dietary behaviors are inherently complex and influenced by numerous interconnected factors including individual preferences such as taste, meal timing, and social interactions, alongside external elements like affordability, cultural norms, marketing, and policy environments.” This perspective underscores the multifaceted nature of food as both a biological necessity and a socio-cultural construct.

The first article in this series focuses on the Ndebele culture, particularly its historical and cultural relationship with meat consumption. Traditional Ndebele cooking extends beyond basic food preparation; it reflects generations of accumulated knowledge transmitted through communal practices around fireplaces, as well as deeply embedded cultural values and ethical principles passed down from elders to younger generations. Within this cultural framework, meat has historically held significant importance, especially among men. Preferred delicacies included inhloko (cow head), amazondo (cattle trotters), and amawoso (braaied meat), with the cow head being widely regarded as a traditional delicacy across many Southern African communities.

This article presents beef stew as a central dish, typically served with thick porridge—such as isitshwala samabele, inyawuthi, or impuphu emhlophe—and complemented by pumpkin leaves (ibhobola). Collectively, these components form a nutritionally balanced meal consisting of protein, carbohydrates, and essential vitamins and minerals derived from locally available vegetables.

Beef stew holds particular cultural significance within Ndebele society, where cattle have traditionally symbolized wealth, social status, and economic security. The sharing of beef (inyama yenkomo) reflects values of respect, generosity, and hospitality. Cultural expressions such as “iphekwa ngomhluzi wezinye” (literally trans-

lated as “it is cooked using the broth of another”) illustrate the practice of using stock from a previously slaughtered animal to prepare meat from a newly slaughtered one, symbolizing abundance and continuity. Historically, the ownership of large herds of cattle meant that slaughtering an animal was not a significant constraint.

From a nutritional perspective, meat serves as a primary source of protein, essential for the growth, repair, and maintenance of body tissues, including muscles, skin, and bones. Staple foods such as sadza provide substantial energy, while vegetables contribute essential micronutrients. Within traditional Ndebele dietary practices, men often preferred consuming such meals in the morning, as they were believed to provide the strength and vitality required to begin the day. The provision of a protein-rich meal by women was culturally associated with respect and honor, reinforcing gender roles and social expectations. In this context, the combination of beef stew, sadza, and vegetables was not merely sustenance but constituted a culturally significant and symbolic signature dish.

Below is a simple recipe one can use to prepare a good plate for the Ndebele men.

Recipes

Sadza: 2 portions

Ingredients

2 cups white/brown mealie-meal)
4 cups water

Method of Preparation

- Boil 4 cups of water in a pot
- Add a small portion of meal-mealie, pestle to a smooth pouring consistency.
- Cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes.
- Gradually add the remaining meal-mealie, mixing well to remove all lumps to a thick pliable mixture.
- Allow the mixture to cook for about 10-15 minutes.
- Mix well again to a pliable elastic mixture. Leave to cook for another 5 minutes.
- Remove from heat, and serve on a dinner plate or platter.

Pumpkin leaves: 2 Portions

Ingredients

¼ medium fresh bunch of pumpkin leaves
Pinch salt
30 ml cooking oil
1 medium onion (optional)
1 medium tomato (optional)
Pinch of cayenne pepper (Optional)

Method of preparation

- Peel, wash and shred pumpkin leaves.
- Blanch in boiling salted water.
- Drain in a colander and refresh.
- Heat oil in a saucepan.
- Sweat onions and tomatoes till tender.
- Add refreshed pumpkin leaves, add salt and cayenne pepper
- Cook for 5 minutes
- Serve

Variation: (To be served without meat)

- Smoothen peanut butter with hot water
- Add to the blanched leaves.
- Mix well and leave to simmer
- Serve

NB//: Skip step 5 if onion and tomato is not desired.

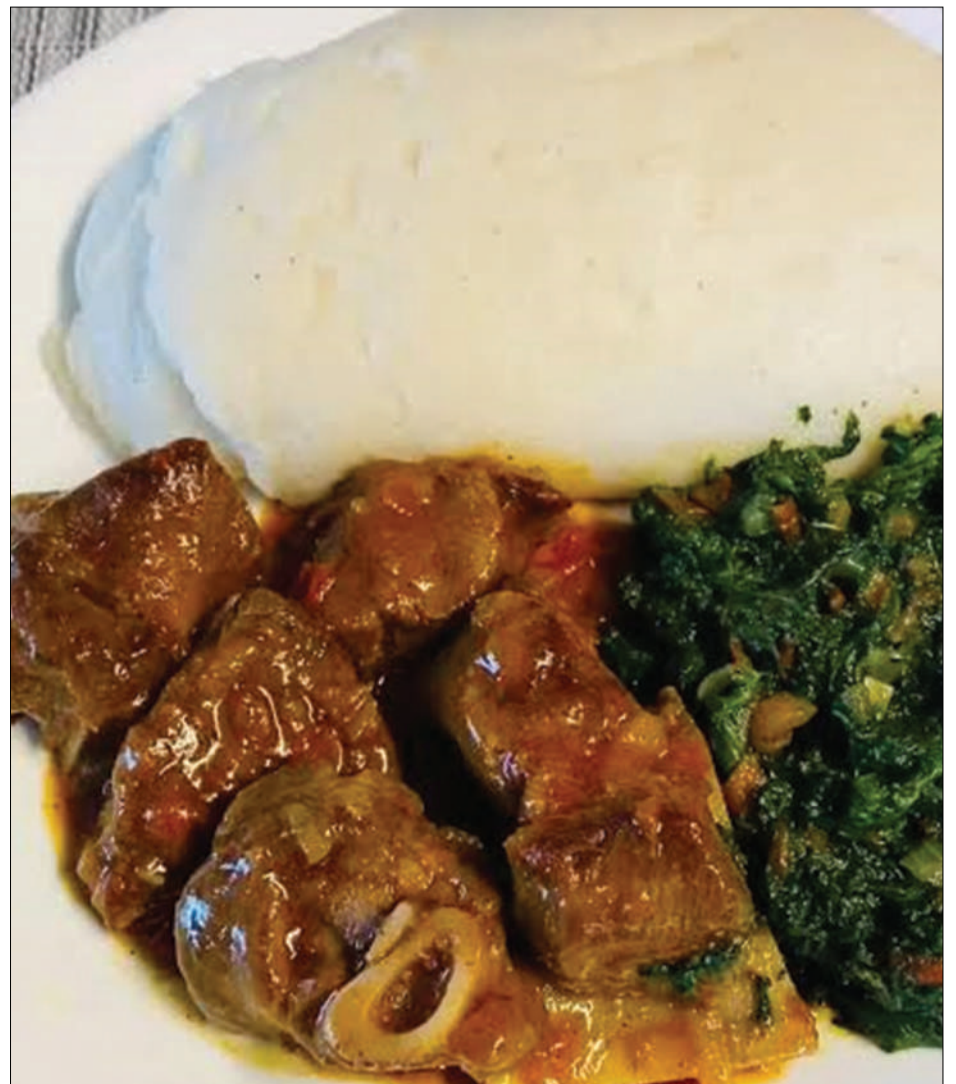
Beef Stew: To serve people

300g topside beef, cut into cubes
1 large onion, chopped

1 tomato, chopped
30ml cooking oil
Pinch salt
1 teaspoon curry powder (optional)
1 green pepper, chopped (optional)
1 cup water or beef stock

Method of Preparation

- Heat cooking oil in a pot
- Add seasoned beef cubes and sauté until browned,
- Add chopped onions and mix.
- Add tomatoes, allow to cook for 5 minutes or till tomatoes are soft.. Add green pepper, and curry powder.
- Add a cup of water or beef stock and allow the mixture to simmer for 30-40 minutes until the beef is cooked.
- Check seasoning and add green pepper
- Serve hot with sadza and pumpkin leaves.



LSU conducts crucial career guidance initiatives

By Preyish Zhou

Lupane State University (LSU) recently conducted a series of career guidance sessions in schools across Lupane and Bulawayo as part of the university's broader reach-out efforts to community building initiatives.

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

The outreach programme targeted learners at the foundational level of education, with visits including primary schools such as Mawaba Primary School and Sibantubanye Primary School, an institution dedicated in supporting children with special needs.

The team also visited high schools such as Nkulumane, Sizane, Mzilikazi, Luveve and Masotsha High School all based in Bulawayo.

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

Mr. Machokoto from LSU expressed satisfaction with the reception received from the schools and expressed specific remarks regarding the visit to Sibantubanye.

"Sibantubanye is a special school and most of the programmes we of-

fer might not be adapted to them, however we learnt that they would love to collaborate with the institution in terms of becoming self-sustaining, especially through agricultural projects," he said.

Mr. Mgcini Ndlovu who was also part of the team in Bulawayo also suggested that there is a need to expand university programmes so that everyone is accommodated.

He said LSU has a huge market demand, noting that the institution must expand and collaborate with other stakeholders and entities in order to introduce more programmes, including those that are health-related.

Mrs. S. Ndiweni and Mrs. S. Dube from the LSU Faculty of Commerce emphasised the need for more frequent outreach programmes in the Matabeleland region, saying that there is an existing market of prospective clients waiting for the university to engage with them directly.

"We have clients out there waiting for our institution to just come to them and market university programmes," said Mrs Ndiweni.

"We need to be more aggressive in terms of outreach, especially in Matabeleland, as an institution that is seeking to develop our communities," she added.

The career guidance sessions ultimately served a deeper purpose by helping young people move beyond simply viewing university programmes as a list of options but instead, encouraging them to ensure that what they choose to study is something they genuinely want to pursue, allowing them to understand clearly who they are.



Proceedings of the career guidance event at Lobengula High School



Proceedings of the career guidance event at Mzilikazi High School



Proceedings of the career guidance event at Nkulumane High School



Learners of the Sibantubanye Special School in Lupane

"We have clients out there waiting for our institution to just come to them and market university programmes. We need to be more aggressive in terms of outreach, especially in Matabeleland, as an institution that is seeking to develop our communities."

The Strategic Pivot: Safeguarding Your Lifestyle Against the Ripple Effect of Fuel Hikes

The recent surge in fuel prices across Zimbabwe is not just a challenge at the pump; it is a systemic shift. When the cost of fuel rises, it creates a logistics tax on every loaf of bread, crate of eggs, and liter of milk. For the academic community lecturers and students alike staying afloat requires more than just budgeting; it requires a strategic pivot in how we earn, spend, and invest.

1. Turning Skills into Side Hustles: In a volatile economy, a single source of income is a risk. As academics and scholars, your greatest asset is your intellectual capital.

- **Monetize Your Expertise:** Lecturers can offer specialized consultancy, professional editing for journals, or private tutoring for professional certifications. Students can leverage digital

skills graphic design, social media management, or data entry to earn in stable currencies.

- **Asset Monetization:** Look at the resources you already have. Do you have a spare room? Consider short-term rentals for visiting students. Do you have a backyard? A small-scale organic garden or poultry can reduce your grocery bill and allow you to sell surplus produce to colleagues.

2. The Operational Pivot: When fuel goes up, movement becomes expensive. The goal is to minimize friction in your daily life.

- **The Zero-Errand Strategy:** Stop the daily quick runs to the shop. Consolidate all movements into a single weekly route. If you are

going to campus, do your banking, pharmacy runs, and visits on that same trip.

- **Bulk Procurement:** The price of a 10kg bag of mealie-meal today will likely be lower than the price of two 5kg bags bought two weeks apart. Form buying clubs with fellow staff or students to purchase basics directly from wholesalers. This bypasses the retail markup added to cover the shop's own increased fuel costs for generators and delivery.

3. Immediate Household Emergency Responses: When the ZERA notice hits the news, take these three steps within 24 hours:

- **Audit Your Subscriptions:** Cancel any unused data plans or memberships to free up immediate liquidity for

The Financial Literacy Column With Sekai JC Gochera



transport.

- **Audit the Pantry:** Inventory what you have to avoid impulse buying during the panic hike phase that usually follows a fuel increase.
- **Review Your Energy-Heavy Foods:** Look at your pantry through the lens of cooking time and opt for meals that do not require hours on the stove. By simply soaking grains overnight to cut cooking time in half, you protect your transport budget from being swallowed by rising utility costs.

4. The Investment Pivot: Storing Value in Volatility: To shield your savings from transport-led inflation, pivot toward specialised Zimbabwean markets that offer better value storage than traditional accounts.

- **The Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX):** By investing in USD-denominated stocks, you hedge against


currency fluctuations. These export-oriented companies provide a stable shield for your capital, protecting its purchasing power.

- **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):** REITs allow you to own units of high-value commercial property with minimal capital. Because rentals generally track with inflation, they provide both a hedge against rising costs and a steady stream of dividend distributions.

The goal is financial resilience: building a system so robust that while the price at the pump may change, your progress toward your long-term goals remains unshakable. Let this month's shift be the catalyst that forces you to put your skills to work and your capital where it is protected. In the face of change, we do not just endure we adapt, we innovate, and we pivot toward prosperity.




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iMiklomelo kaDakamela 2026: LSU joins thousands for Landmark Celebration of Heritage, Unity and Rural Innovation

By Buhlebenkosi Makalisa

Lupane State University proudly participated in the iMiklomelo kaDakamela Culture Festival 2026 which took place from 3 to 6 April, with a thrust in celebrating the nexus between academia, research, innovation and culture.

For four days Dakamela Primary School ceased to be just a schoolyard, but became the epicentre of one of Zimbabwe's most ambitious rural cultural gatherings as the event unfolded.

The festival now firmly established on Zimbabwe's cultural calendar, welcomed an estimated number of 10 000 attendees, transforming the quiet Nkayi landscape into a dense vibrant hub where heritage met commerce and academia met tradition as the local community and Chief Dakamela hosted national and regional cultural leaders.

Stages were erected against the rolling backdrop of Nkayi's hills, exhibition tents formed a bustling corridor through the school grounds and the air itself seemed layered with the constant pulse of ingoma drums.

The murmur of business conversations between traders and corporate representatives and the unmistakable aroma of traditional food prepared in open-air kitchens by women from surrounding villages was awesome.

This was not simply a festival in the conventional sense, but an event guided by the philosophy uBuntu yiSintu Sethu which translates to "I am because we are."

The programming deliberately collapsed the distance between

heritage preservation and economic activity, placing Nkayi at the centre of a new conversation about what rural cultural tourism can look like in Zimbabwe.

The festival asserted that districts like Nkayi are not just custodians of Matabeleland's traditions, but also viable contemporary sites for creative exchange, academic engagement and investment.

Every element of the four-day programme was structured to prove that culture when properly platformed generates dignity, opportunity and tangible economic value for rural communities.

More than 20 corporate exhibitors representing a cross-section of Zimbabwe's economy, including major players from finance, telecommunications, agriculture and the creative industries did not operate in isolation, but were positioned alongside upwards of 50 traders who ran stalls selling food, crafts, fashion and merchandise.

Organisers noted that the overwhelming majority of those traders were Nkayi-based entrepreneurs and cooperatives.

The performance programme was equally extensive as more than 100 artists and performers were scheduled across the main stage and smaller village court setups covering music, dance, poetry, theatre and oral storytelling.

The audience also reflected that diversity as thousands of community members and neighbouring districts formed the core of the attendance.

During the event LSU was a prominent institutional partner, embedding academic and student participation into the fabric of the event which aligns with its motor



of "building communities through knowledge."

Its presence was both symbolic and substantive, signalling the role that higher education institutions can play a crucial role in rural cultural ecosystems.

The institution's Creative Arts student ensembles were part of the festival ensuring that the university was not only observing culture, but actively producing it.

Senior LSU representatives also contributed to poetry.

For Dakamela Trust, LSU's involvement validated the festival's intellectual direction ensuring the festival moves beyond celebration into a long-term value creation for the district.

The pathway to the next edition is already set. Dakamela Trust has confirmed that iMiklomelo kaDakamela 2027 will take place from 2 to 4 April.

“ During the event LSU was a prominent institutional partner, embedding academic and student participation into the fabric of the event which aligns with its motor of “building communities through knowledge.” The institution’s Creative Arts student ensembles were part of the festival ensuring that the university was not only observing culture, but actively producing it. ”



LSU team visits Amagugu International Heritage Centre

By Lucia Nkomo

Students from the Department of Development Studies at Lupane State University recently visited the Amagugu International Heritage Centre in the Matopo district, gaining valuable insights into indigenous knowl-

edge systems.

The trip was led by the Acting Chairperson of the Department of Development Studies, Mr. Mbonjeni Nhliziyo, along with Development Studies lecturers Mrs. Loveness Mukotekwa and Mr. Nevison Shumba. The visit aimed to connect theoretical knowledge with

real-world applications.

Amagugu International Heritage Centre is a venue that provides and organises a variety of cultural, educational and recreational programmes for the public to learn and appreciate different facets of indigenous heritage, history and cultural context.

At Amagugu, LSU representatives Mr. Quiet Dube and Mr. Arnold Nkala shared cultural lessons, highlighting the significance of indigenous knowledge in agriculture, healthcare, and environmental conservation.

The initiative aligns with LSU's mission to equip students for ca-

reers and innovation while fostering an appreciation for cultural identities and community development.

The trip also showcased the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge systems to improve lives and promote sustainable development.



Imparting Knowledge Through



AND CREATIVITY

❁ Winter and the sparks in your soul ❁

*Seasons come and go.
It was summer, and then came the rain.
Soon it will be winter; for a moment, the heat will be gone.
But winter is not meant to freeze us with its cold;
it can be a season to restore,
to cool what has been through the most,
to give a break to burning thoughts.*

*I pray that winter will be kind to you,
that you will have enough fire to be yourself,
that you won't lose your inner flame,
that as we go through winter, you stay warm on the inside; eternally
afire.*

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IN

THE SPECTACLES OF STAKEHOLDERS

Avian artificial insemination transforms poultry farming in Lupane



By Tichaona Kurewa ZBC

Lupane State University is driving poultry productivity through its avian artificial insemination programme, demonstrating the practical impact of the Education 5.0 model while supporting the Presidential Poultry Scheme.

The initiative targets productivity challenges associated with indigenous chickens, which, despite their adaptability, are often limited

by low output and poor reproductive performance.

Under Education 5.0, the university has introduced avian artificial insemination, a controlled breeding technique designed to improve production and sustainability in the poultry sector.

“Before this project, we did not have the infrastructure you now see.

“This innovation has driven significant development.

“We have scaled up from pro-

ducing fewer than 50 fertilised eggs per month to over 2 190.

These eggs are distributed to local farmers, and we have partnered with the Women’s League, which hatches the eggs and integrates the chicks into the Presidential Poultry Scheme. So far, we have contributed over 1 500 fertilised eggs, supporting the empowerment of women and youth,” said Innovation Lead at the LSU Agricultural Hub, Ms Jessica Pullen.

Working in partnership with the ZANU PF Women’s League, the programme reflects the community engagement pillar of Education 5.0, linking innovation to grassroots development.

“We purchase fertilised eggs in bulk from Lupane State University for the Women’s League. We hatch them and sell the chicks at US\$1 each, enabling women to generate income and sustain their liveli-

hoods. These eggs have been very beneficial to us,” said Matabeleland North provincial representative Ms Nomathemba Ndlovu.

Launched in 2020, the programme has evolved from a small academic initiative into a production and empowerment hub, illustrating how universities can extend beyond teaching and research to deliver practical community solutions.



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WHAT TO STUDY AT LUPANE STATE UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

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



FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

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

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

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



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

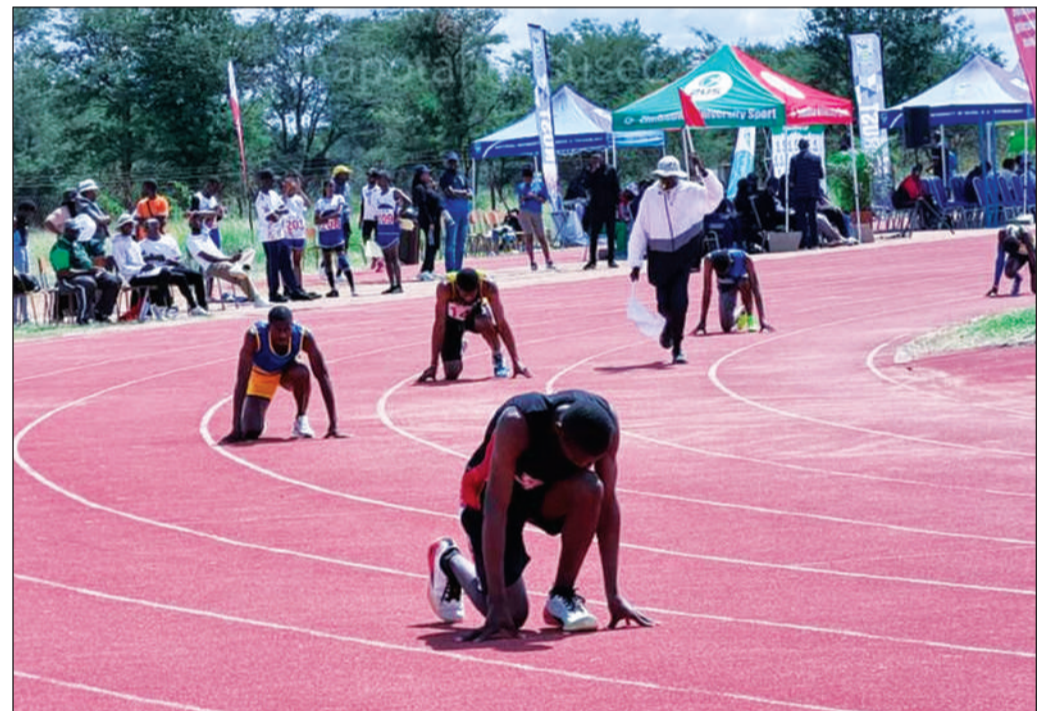
FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

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



A Tale of Mixed Fortunes at the ZUSA Expedition

By Sibanda Njabulo, Sports Reporter

In the heart of the ZUSA Games Cluster 1, held at NUST, Team LSU embarked on a journey marked by both triumph and disappointment, showcasing resilience across various sporting disciplines. It was a story of mixed fortunes that ultimately revealed the true spirit of the LSU Tigers.

The highlight of LSU's campaign was the outstanding performance of the LSU Tigers Women's Rugby Team. They bulldozed their way through the competition to claim gold and be crowned champions.

Their victory brought immense pride to the institution and stood as a testament to their determination, discipline, and grit.

In contrast, the soccer teams both men's and women's fell short of expectations, exiting the tournament at the quarter-final stage. It was a familiar outcome, echoing near misses from previous editions. Despite the setback, head coach Anele Nyathi remained optimistic, praising both the players' effort and the institution's support.

"We had fair preparations and we're grateful to the institution for giving us time to prepare and ad-

dress key areas. Of course, there is always room for improvement, but we were competitive."

Nyathi acknowledged that while the performance did not meet expectations, it still marked progress. He emphasized the importance of giving rookies valuable game time.

"The team did well, even though it was below expectations, especially compared to previous performances. It's encouraging that most of the rookies got a chance. The future looks very bright, and that experience will count."

Although LSU missed out on a podium finish in soccer, Nyathi re-

mains confident that the team is on the right path.

"We are not far from a podium finish, which is our ultimate goal. We're no longer just participants, we are becoming a real threat. Other teams are beginning to acknowledge us, and that's important."

Looking ahead, Nyathi set ambitious targets for the program, including competing at ZITS and eventually winning the ZITS (formerly ZTISU) Games.

"Our expectations are clear: reach the podium and ultimately compete at ZITS and win."

Nyathi concluded by reaffirming his belief in LSU's long-term potential.

"We are on course as a discipline. With the right mentality and the right players, we are a force to be reckoned with."

The ZUSA Games may have delivered mixed results, but for LSU, the bigger picture remains promising. With a solid foundation, emerging talent, and growing confidence, the LSU Tigers are steadily building toward a future where podium finishes become the norm rather than the exception.