

# CAMPUS CONNECT

*Where Knowledge Meets Ink*



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Lupane State University (LSU) has taken another significant step towards embracing digital transformation after successfully hosting a two-day Artificial Intelligence (AI) Training Workshop for staff members.



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In line with its commitment to community engagement and capacity building, Lupane State University (LSU) conducted a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Training Workshop for employees of the Lupane Local Board.



## LSU Students partake in the 2026 Zimbabwe Students Climate Innovation Summit / 5

Lupane State University participated at the Zimbabwe Students Climate Innovation Summit 2026, held at the University of Zimbabwe under the theme: "Towards Net Zero Future." Four students from the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Science represented LSU.



Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Mbulisi Ndlovu presenting during the conference.

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Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Mbulisi Ndlovu welcoming (left) Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Hon. Simelisiwe Sibanda during the conference.

# LSU hosts International Research Conference on Education

**Key discussions at the conference centred on promoting innovation and industrialisation within rural learning ecologies. Delegates examined the existing gap between universities and industry in the commercialisation of research and the uptake of innovation, while proposing practical strategies to bridge this divide.**

By Kimberly Ncube

Lupane State University (LSU) hosted a three-day high-level Third International Conference on Rural Education convened by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences through the Department of Educational Foundations.

The conference was running under the theme: Promoting Innovation and Industrialisation in Rural Learning Ecologies for Sustainable Development.

The conference brought together academics, researchers, policymakers, and industry partners from Zimbabwe and beyond to explore how education systems can be tailored to meet the unique needs of rural communities and contribute to sustainable development.

Officially opening the conference, the Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Hon. Simelisiwe Sibanda, underscored the need to dismantle structural barriers and create equal opportunities for learners in both rural and urban settings.

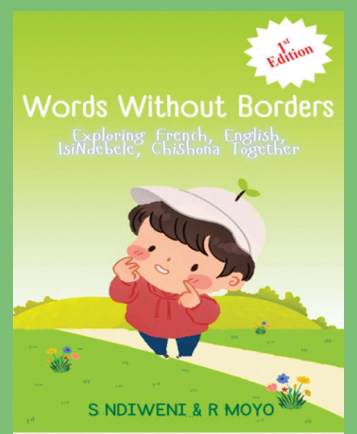
He challenged universities to move away from a "one-size-fits-all" approach to student entry requirements and instead adopt more inclusive and context-sensitive pathways that recognise students' diverse backgrounds and lived experiences.

"We must design pathways that are inclusive and responsive to where our students come from," said Hon. Sibanda.

The Deputy Minister also called on universities to reimagine their mandate by shifting from producing "job seekers" to nurturing "job creators."



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**Language made simple...  
New book blends, French,  
English, IsiNdebele,  
ChiShona for learners / 8**

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He stressed the importance of strengthening linkages between universities and industry to ensure that research translates into products, services, and enterprises that benefit communities and drive national development.

Furthermore, Hon. Sibanda urged researchers to prioritise innovation and societal impact over publication metrics and citations.

“Research must solve real problems. Our communities must feel the impact of our work,” he said.

Key discussions at the conference centred on promoting innovation and industrialisation within rural learning ecologies. Delegates examined the existing gap between universities and industry in the commercialisation of research and the uptake of innovation, while proposing practical strategies to bridge this divide.

The conference also explored issues such as curriculum reform, community-engaged research, indigenous knowledge systems, and the role of education in building resilient and sustainable rural economies.

The programme culminated in an interactive question-and-answer session with the Guest of Honour, during which participants engaged on policy, funding, and implementation challenges affecting rural education and development.

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social

Sciences, Dr Mbulisi Ndlovu, said LSU remains committed to positioning itself as a thought leader in rural development. He noted that the outcomes of the conference are expected to inform policy recommendations and foster future research collaborations aimed at transforming education in rural ecologies across the region.

“This conference provides an important platform for generating knowledge and innovative solutions that respond to the realities of rural communities and contribute to sustainable development,” he said.

Now in its third year, the international conference has continued to grow in stature, attracting participants from local and international universities and strengthening LSU’s reputation as a centre of excellence in rural-focused research and innovation.

As LSU continues to align its programmes and activities with the Education 5.0 philosophy, the University reaffirms its commitment to producing graduates and research that create jobs, solve societal challenges, and uplift rural communities through knowledge-driven development.

Join LSU – a University that nurtures excellence, develops talent and produces graduates who are making an impact both locally and internationally.



# LSU CAPACITATES STAFF WITH AI SKILLS

*By empowering staff with emerging digital competencies, the training underscores LSU’s commitment to fostering innovation and preparing its workforce for the rapidly evolving higher education landscape.*

By Mcebisi Dewa

Lupane State University (LSU) has taken another significant step towards embracing digital transformation after successfully hosting a two-day Artificial Intelligence (AI) Training Workshop for staff members.

The workshop, facilitated by AI expert Mishael Chikwaya, was

designed to equip academic and administrative staff with practical AI skills to enhance teaching, research, innovation, and institutional administration.

Participants were introduced to the fundamentals of artificial intelligence, ethical and responsible AI use, prompt engineering, and the practical application of AI-powered tools such as Canva

AI, ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Gamma, Perplexity AI, NotebookLM, among others to improve productivity and efficiency in their day-to-day responsibilities.

The interactive programme featured hands-on exercises, demonstrations and collaborative discussions, enabling staff to explore how AI can support smarter decision-making, curriculum de-

velopment, research, student engagement and improved service delivery across the University.

By empowering staff with emerging digital competencies, the training underscores LSU’s commitment to fostering innovation and preparing its workforce for the rapidly evolving higher education landscape.

The initiative aligns with the

University’s motto of “Building Communities Through Knowledge” by building institutional digital capacity and ensuring that staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to harness the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in advancing teaching, research, community engagement and administrative excellence.





# NOTICE TO ALL 2026 GRADUANDS



The University wishes to advise all 2026 graduands that the **17th Graduation Ceremony** is tentatively scheduled to take place on **Friday, 30 October 2026** at the Main Campus in Lupane.



## GRADUATION FEES (INCLUSIVE OF REGALIA)

- **Undergraduate: USD140.00** (One hundred and forty United States Dollars or ZWG equivalent at the prevailing rate).
- **Postgraduate : USD155.00** (One hundred and fifty-five United States Dollars or ZWG equivalent at the prevailing rate).



## BANKING DETAILS FOR GRADUATION FEES

| CBZ Bank                             | FBC Bank                             | CABS                                 | AFC Bank                             |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Acc Name:<br>Lupane State University | Acc Name:<br>Lupane State University | Acc Name:<br>Lupane State University | Acc Name:<br>Lupane State University |
| Acc #:<br>01222477650039<br>USD      | Acc #:<br>1120153300112<br>USD       | Acc #:<br>1152662880<br>USD          | Acc #:<br>100004951071<br>USD        |



Graduation fees must be paid by **15 October 2026**. For your convenience, swipe and **Ecocash** payment facilities are also available at the Bursar's Office, 4th Floor, CBZ Campus, Cnr Fife Street/10th Avenue, Bulawayo.



## GRADUATION REGALIA

- On graduation day, all graduands are required to wear Academic Regalia with formal attire in dark colors underneath.
- Starting from the **19th of October 2026**, graduands who have paid their graduation fee and can provide proof of payment may collect their regalia from the following locations;
- **Main Campus in Lupane** at the Marketing and Public Relations Office
- **Bulawayo Campus** at the Admissions & Students Records Office, 2nd Floor, CBZ Campus, Cnr Fife Street/10th Avenue, Bulawayo.
- **Harare Cohort** graduands are advised to collect their graduation regalia and invitation cards from: LSU Harare Office: ZIMDEF House Office No. 20B, First Floor, Rotten Row, Harare.



## GRADUANDS AND GUESTS INVITATION CARDS

- Admission to the graduation venue will be strictly by invitation card.
- Only persons who come with valid invitation cards will be allowed into the graduation venue.
- Upon proof of payment, invitation cards will be available for collection at the Main Campus in Lupane at the Marketing and Public Relations Office and the Admissions & Students Records Office, 2nd Floor, CBZ Campus, Cnr Fife Street/10th Avenue, Bulawayo from the 20th of October 2026.
- For graduands based in and around Harare invitation cards will be available for collection at the LSU Harare Office.
- Graduands and invited guests must bring their national identity cards.  
**No invitation cards will be issued on graduation day.**



## GRADUATION REHEARSALS

- Rehearsals are compulsory and will be conducted on **Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 1400 hours**, at the Main Campus in Lupane. All graduands must attend in order to be eligible to take part in the ceremony.



## ACCOMMODATION

- Overnight shared hostel accommodation will be available at the Main Campus in Lupane for graduands on the night before the graduation ceremony. The cost is **USD10.00** per person without linen, or **USD20.00** per person with linen. Payment can be made upon arrival via cash or swipe.



## OUTSTANDING FEES

- Kindly note that attendance at the graduation ceremony is strictly limited to graduands who have fully settled their fees.
- Graduands with outstanding tuition fees are urged to clear all outstanding fees by **20 October 2026** to be eligible to attend the graduation ceremony.

## ENQUIRIES/COMMUNICATION

For all enquiries, please contact the Admissions & Student Records Office on:

☎ Tel: +263 292 279147 Ext 163-5

✉ E-mail: studentadmissions@lsu.ac.zw

or reach out to the Marketing and Public Relations Office on:

☎ Tel: +263 (81) 285658 / 285527 / 285630 Ext: 2159.

✉ Email: mpr@lsu.ac.zw



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Lupane State University

# LSU ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## *Dreams to Financial Leadership: Trust Dube's Inspiring Journey*

In this edition, we feature Trust Dube, whose remarkable journey is a testament to how resilience, education, and determination can transform lives.

Born in Bulawayo in 1989, Trust's story is one of humble beginnings and extraordinary achievement. Raised in one of Bulawayo's underprivileged communities, he attended Mhali Primary School, where he walked to school barefoot.

Paying school fees was a constant struggle for his family, but these hardships never diminished his passion for education or his determination to succeed.

After completing his primary education, Trust proceeded to Magwegwe Secondary School, where he distinguished himself as a bright and hardworking student. His academic excellence laid the foundation for a career that would see him rise to senior levels of public sector financial management.

Today, Trust serves as the Treasurer at Rushinga Rural District Council, where he oversees the local authority's financial affairs.

Before assuming this role, he served in several local authorities, including the City of Bulawayo and Kusile Rural District Council in Lupane, Matabeland North, accumulating extensive experience in public sector financial management.

Over the years, Trust has built an impressive career in local government finance, holding senior financial management positions and working closely with executive leadership to promote sound financial governance, accountability, transparency, and efficient service delivery.

A proud LSU alumni, Trust earned a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Accounting and Finance and later a Master of Science Degree in Finance and Investment.

He also obtained a professional public sector accounting qualification from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Zimbabwe (ICAZ) and is registered as a Public Accountant with the Public Accountants and Auditors Board (PAAB).

These qualifications further strengthened his expertise in financial management, strategic planning, and investment analysis.

Trust credits LSU with equipping him with the knowledge, practical skills, and confidence that continue to shape his professional journey.

Throughout his career, he has played a pivotal role in budgeting, financial reporting, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation, and ensuring compliance with public sector accounting standards.

His commitment to prudent financial stewardship has contributed significantly to institutional development, strengthened governance, and enhanced financial accountability within local authorities.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Trust is passionate about mentoring young professionals and believes in nurturing the next generation of leaders.

He remains committed to lifelong learning and upholding the values of excellence, integrity, and service that define Lupane State University graduates.

Reflecting on his time at LSU, Trust speaks with deep appreciation for the institution that helped shape his future.

"I don't regret studying at LSU. The institution moulded me into the professional I am today. Given another opportunity, I would gladly return to study at LSU. The University has some of the best learning facilities in Zimbabwe, and I encourage parents to enrol their children there."

From a young boy who walked barefoot to school in Bulawayo to becoming a trusted custodian of public finances, Trust Dube's journey demonstrates that perseverance, hard work, and quality education can open doors to limitless opportunities.

LSU proudly celebrates Trust Dube as one of its distinguished alumni whose achievements continue to inspire current and future generations of students to dream boldly, pursue excellence, and serve society with integrity.



# LSU ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## *From Classroom Script to Continental Recognition: A Student's Creative Leap Pays Off*

By Allen Daniel Ndebele

A script that began as a classroom assignment at Lupane State University went on to earn continental recognition after a university student emerged as the first place winner in the English category of the African competition for Best Theatrical Script at the inaugural Algerian African University Theatre Festival.

On the 13th of July 2026 Sanenisiwe A B Siwela, a student at Lupane State University was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Algeria's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Professor Kamel Baddari, in recognition of her outstanding performance in the theatrical script competition.

The journey to the international stage began much closer to home in a university classroom.

Ms Siwela developed the award winning script while studying the Writing for the Stage module under the guidance of Dr C. Moyo. When Dr Moyo later shared a call inviting university students to participate in the Algerian-African University Theatre Festival, Siwela saw an opportunity to take her classroom work beyond the university.

"When he shared the call for university students to participate in the Algerian African University Theatre Festival, I decided to take a leap of faith and submit the script I had produced for the module," she said.

For Siwela, seeing the work travel from a university classroom to an international African theatre platform was a deeply meaningful moment.

"Today, seeing that work take me this far fills my heart with so much pride and gratitude," she said.

She added that the achievement had encouraged her to trust her creativity and take opportunities even when the outcome was uncertain.

"I am incredibly proud of myself for believing in my work, taking the opportunity and daring to put my creativity out there," Siwela said.

"This is a beautiful reminder that sometimes, all it takes is the courage to submit, to try and to believe."

Her success came during the first edition of the African University Theatre Festival, which was held in Algeria recently 2026. The festival brought together university students and theatre delegations from 16 African countries under the theme "Africa Meets on the Stage of University Theatre."

The festival featured theatrical productions, street theatre performances and competitions aimed at nurturing creativity and strengthening cultural exchange among African university students.

The Best Theatrical Script competition provided a platform for emerging writers to showcase their storytelling abilities to a continental audience.

Siwela's first place finish in the English language category represented a significant achievement not only for her personally but also for Lupane State University and Zimbabwe.

Her story demonstrates how work created in an academic environment can develop into an opportunity with an international impact. What began as a script written for a university module ultimately crossed borders and earned recognition on one of Africa's emerging university theatre platforms.

For Siwela, however, the award was not an endpoint but a beginning.

"This achievement is only the beginning. More blessings, more opportunities and greater things are yet to come," she said.

The accomplishment serves as an inspiring reminder to all students that they should take such opportunities seriously.





# LSU Conducts Customer Relationship Management Training for Lupane Local Board

By Kimberly Ncube

In line with its commitment to community engagement and capacity building, Lupane State University (LSU) conducted a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Training Workshop for employees of the Lupane Local Board. The training, which was attended by all employees, from management to lower-level staff members, was aimed at enhancing customer service delivery and fos-

tering a culture of citizen-centred service excellence within the local authority. The two-day workshop was held under the theme: “Delivering Citizen-Centred Service Excellence Through Effective Customer Relationship Management.” The lead facilitator, Professor Julius Tapera, guided participants through various aspects of customer relationship management and emphasised the importance of providing efficient, responsive,

and people-centred services in public institutions. Participants engaged in interactive discussions and practical exercises designed to equip them with the knowledge and skills required to improve service delivery and strengthen relationships with the communities they serve. Speaking during the workshop, facilitators underscored the importance of professionalism, empathy, and effective communication in enhancing customer

satisfaction and building public confidence in local authorities. The training forms part of LSU’s broader mandate of community service and engagement, in line with the Education 5.0 philosophy, which encourages universities to contribute directly to national development and community transformation. Through such initiatives, LSU continues to demonstrate its commitment to partnering with communities, local authorities, and

other stakeholders to build institutional capacity, improve service delivery, and promote sustainable development. The University remains open to collaborating with communities and organisations in delivering tailor-made training programmes and innovative solutions that address societal challenges and contribute to improved governance and development outcomes.

# Team LSU Scoops Gold Medal Award During the Culture Night

By Mcebisi Dewa

Electric. Electrifying. Mesmerising. Scintillating. Even these FOUR words barely do justice to describe Team LSU’s breath-taking performance at the Cultural Night at the ongoing Chancellor’s Games hosted by Great Zimbabwe University in Masvingo. The LSU ensemble captivated both the judges and the audience with a spellbinding display of rhythm, energy, precision and cultural pride, earning the coveted gold medal in the traditional dance com-

petition. Their flawless choreography, vibrant costumes and commanding stage presence transformed the arena into a celebration of Zimbabwe’s rich cultural heritage. Every beat of the drum and every synchronised movement reflected the University’s commitment to excellence, teamwork and the preservation of indigenous culture. The gold medal is not just a victory for Team LSU – it is a testament to the University’s talent, creativity and unwavering pursuit of excellence, both inside and outside the classroom.

# LSU Hosts AFC Bank Delegation for Development Purposes

By Kimberly Ncube

Lupane State University (LSU) recently hosted a delegation from AFC Commercial Bank from Bulawayo in the University Boardroom for a strategic engagement aimed at strengthening the longstanding relationship between the two institutions. The meeting provided an opportunity for both parties to reflect on their existing relationship and explore new areas of collaboration that can create value for both organisations. Discussions focused on forging strategic partnerships in areas of common interest, with emphasis on initiatives that can leverage the expertise, resources and capabilities of both institutions for mutual benefit. LSU remains committed to building strong partnerships with industry and other key stakeholders as part of its Education 5.0 mandate, promoting innovation, skills development, research, entrepreneurship and industrialisation. The University looks forward to translating the engagements into meaningful and sustainable collaborations that contribute to institutional growth and national development.

People, Culture, Food, Diversity and Sustainability

Series No. 4

# Documenting the Indigenous Flavours of Zimbabwe: The Offals

By Dr Khanyisani Ngwenya and Sisasenkosi Ndlovu

This paper presents the 4th series on documenting the indigenous flavours of Zimbabwe. As a recap, the first series focused on the Ndebele culture, explaining its historical and cultural linkage with meat consumption. The second series focused on the preparation of the cow head (Inhloko), explaining its preparation, consumption, and how it helps reflect the Ndebele Culture retention. Men and boys sat around a fire, sharing meat, and imparting cultural values and wisdom associated with growing up for young boys and how to identify women to marry. Including handling of community issues and leadership. This molded the young boys into real men. Failing to attend the gatherings was indeed a loss for young men aspiring to marry or become community leaders. The gatherings were memorable moments each young man would like to attend, as these were opportunities for young them to socialize with the elderly and understand how communities leave together. Consequently, women and girls at home would focus on culinary art of the different meats, from different parts of the beast, ensuring that appropriate cooking methods are used to prepare and serve the best dishes for any given occasion.

This month, the series focusses on the liver, heart, tongue and kidneys. These are called offals. The liver is particularly nutrient-dense, it is an excellent source of high-quality protein which supports muscle development. It is rich in Vitamin A, has lots of iron, Vitamin B-12, Folate, Riboflavin, and Copper. These promote blood formation, metabolism, and functioning of the nervous system. The liver is often regarded as one of the special parts of the animal. Its rich colour, soft texture and strong flavour distinguishes it from ordinary muscle meat. Traditionally, it may be prepared soon after slaughter because of its delicate nature. It can be cleaned, sliced and pan-fired or cooked with onions and simple seasonings. In some households, its preparation is associated with particular people or occasions. It reflects customary roles concerning who prepares, serves or eats it. Liver symbolize strength, vitality and the life-support for the animal. There is a common myth about the consumption of liver, especially by teething infants. The elderly believed that feeding them with liver caused teeth discolouration. Opposing beliefs was also considered as disrespect. Today many young parents do not know about this and just give their teething children liver. Its important to check what happens to their teeth.

The heart is a lean muscle that tastes similar to regular steak when cooked. The heart contains iron, zinc, selenium, and B Vitamins. The heart is a working muscle, making its preparation and cooking techniques important. It is a rich mineral organ that can be used in meat pies and stews. Traditionally, the heart is not cooked together with other meats because it is believed that, it is a taboo for the Moyo families to eat the heart because it represents their totem. It is believed that if they eat the heart, their teeth will eventually fall because they have disrespected tradition and eaten their totem. A community gathering usually has people with different surnames. To keep everyone happy and safe, the heart would be put aside and prepared on its own. It is the organ associated with life and courage. Culinary preparation normally requires careful cleaning and trimming off sinew before the heart is sliced or cut into smaller pieces. It can be prepared as braai, stewed, or cooked slowly until tender. Its firm texture gives it a distinctive eating experience, while its preparation demonstrates the practical knowledge required to transform less commonly served cuts into nourishing dishes. The tongue is a delicacy that is reserved for important visitors. It is highly nutritious and usually fried and served with teas. It can also be sliced for cold cuts and served as tacos. The tongue helps the animal to select different grasses based on taste and palatability. Animals do not eat all grasses. The tongue helps the animals to select the grass they like most. It is important for the animals to be properly fed to avoid eating some things that can harm their health.

The kidneys are equally valuable. Their strong distinctive flavour requires careful cleaning and preparation. Culturally, kidneys may be fried with onions, cooked in a savoury gravy or prepared separately to enhance the distinct flavour. Kidneys also need special preparation skills. The inclusion of kidneys in a meal demonstrates valuable taste and aroma that people like. Kidneys help filter blood, remove waste, balance body fluids and minerals, control blood pressure, and help make red blood cells. Without them, harmful toxins and extra fluid would build up quickly in the body. They are tender and very nutritious as the other offals discussed.

When animals are slaughtered, every edible part is valued differently. The beast is usually fully used including the blood that is collected when the beast is slaughtered. It is also specially cooked and mixed with some offals and consumed. Due to the perishability of offals, they are prepared and served soon after the animal has been slaughtered, especially in rural communities where there may not have any refrigerators. This article marks the end of this series on beef. The next series will venture into other protein dishes from different cultures.



Boiled Ox Tongue



Braised Ox Kidneys



Pan Fried Ox Liver



Stewed Heart



Stewed Ox Liver

### 1. Ox Liver – Traditional Pan-Fried Style

#### Ingredients

- 500 g fresh ox liver
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- Salt to taste
- Black pepper or traditional seasoning, optional
- Fresh coriander or spring onion, optional

#### Method

- Clean the liver and remove any tough membrane.
- Cut it into thin slices or bite-sized pieces.
- Heat oil in a heavy pan and lightly fry the onions.
- Add the liver and cook over high to medium heat until browned.
- Add tomatoes and seasoning.
- Cook until the liver is tender and fully cooked. Avoid prolonged cooking, toughens the meat.
- Serve hot with teas or sadza, pastas and vegetables.

### 2. Ox Kidneys – Traditional Onion and Tomato Style

#### Ingredients

- 500 g ox kidneys
- 1 large onion
- 2 tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- Salt
- Black pepper, optional
- Fresh herbs, optional

#### Method

- Trim the sinew from the kidneys.
- Remove the tough central fat and connective tissue.
- Rinse thoroughly. Dry and cut into small pieces.
- Marinade for 30 minutes
- Fry in little fat.
- Add onions, fry until soft.
- Add tomatoes. Leave to cook for 5 minutes
- Add liquid, season and leave to simmer until cooked and sauce is reduced.
- Serve hot with teas or sadza and vegetables.

### 3. Ox tongue

#### Ingredients

- 1 medim sized ox tougue
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- Salt
- Black pepper, optional

#### Method

- Trim the sinew from the tongue
- Clean the tongue thoroughly
- Put the whole tongue in a pot with boiling water to cover the tongue
- Season with salt
- Leave to the tongue to cook until tender.
- Serve with teas or as finger foods

### 4. Ox Heart – Traditional Fried or Braised Style

#### Ingredients

- 1 ox heart
- 2 large onions, sliced
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed, optional
- Salt to taste
- Black pepper, optional
- ½ cup water or stock
- Fresh herbs, optional

#### Preparation and Method

- Clean the heart: Wash the heart thoroughly and remove the outer fat, blood vessels, valves and tough connective tissue from inside.
- Cut or slice the heart into thin strips or small pieces.
- Place the pieces in a pot with a little water and simmer until stock is completely reduced.
- Add little fat and fry till browned.
- Chop onions, garlic and fry until soft.
- Add tomatoes, leave tomatoes to cook till soft.
- Add about ½ cup of water or stock, cover and simmer gently until the heart is tender and the sauce has thickened.
- Serve hot with sadza and vegetables



# LSU EXHIBITS AT THE MATABELELAND NORTH AGRICULTURAL SHOW

By Mcebisi Dewa

Lupane State University (LSU) participated at the 2026 Matabeleland North Agricultural Show in Hwange, which ran under the theme “Building Initiatives for a Sustainable Future.”

The show provided LSU with a valuable platform to engage farmers, industry players, prospective students, government representatives and other stakeholders while showcasing the University’s commitment to innovation, education and sustainable development.

At its exhibition stand, LSU showcased its academic programmes, innovations and expertise, demonstrating how the University is preparing graduates to respond to the evolving needs of communities, industry and the agricultural sector.

Prospective students were afforded an opportunity to apply on the spot.

The University conducted onsite admissions, making it easier for interested applicants to explore available programmes and take the next step towards their academic

journey. At LSU, we believe that building a sustainable future starts with empowering communities, nurturing innovation and equipping the next generation with the knowledge and skills to transform society.



# Students partake in the 2026 Zimbabwe Climate Innovation Summit

By Kimberly Ncube

Lupane State University participated at the Zimbabwe Students Climate Innovation Summit 2026, held at the University of Zimbabwe under the theme: “Towards Net Zero Future.” The University was represented

by four students from the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Science, who participated in insightful discussions on climate action, sustainability and environmental leadership alongside students from institutions across Zimbabwe. A highlight of the summit was

the National Inter-University Debate, where Lupane State University faced Chinhoyi University of Technology on the motion: “This House believes that for Zimbabwe to achieve the 2030 Climate Goals, it must prioritize Environmental Restoration over the expansion of the Mining Industry.”

The students displayed outstanding critical thinking, eloquence and evidence-based argumentation, confidently representing LSU and demonstrating the University’s commitment to academic excellence, environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

Their participation reflected Lupane State University’s unwavering commitment to producing graduates equipped to drive Zimbabwe’s sustainable development and climate resilience.

# The Smart Investor's Guide to REITs: Co-Own Commercial Real Estate on the ZSE and VFEX

Last month, we explored how mobile platforms are opening financial markets to everyday Zimbabweans. Now, we shift focus to one of today's most compelling, accessible investment tools: Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) what they are, how they pay out, and why they belong in your portfolio.

## What is a REIT?

Think of a REIT as a collective scheme for property. Instead of buying shares in a factory or product company, you pool funds with thousands of investors to co-own a portfolio of income-generating real estate shopping malls, office parks, student housing, or hospitals. You earn regular rental income and long-term property appreciation without the head-shaking headaches of land lording: no fixing leaking pipes, chasing late tenants,

or paying broker commissions. Prime commercial property is no longer reserved for multi-millionaires.

## The Major Types of REITs

**Equity REITs:** The most common variety. They buy, manage, and collect rent from physical buildings.

**Mortgage REITs:** They do not own properties; they lend money to property owners and earn interest. They offer higher yields but carry more sensitivity to interest rates.

**Hybrid REITs:** Combine both strategies, offering physical properties alongside mortgage debt for dual-income streams.

**Sector-Specific REITs:** Target single niches such as healthcare, logistics, or data centres each with distinct risk profiles.

## How You Get Paid

Regular Dividends (Cash Flow):

By law, REITs must distribute most of their taxable profits to shareholders. Locally, both the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) and Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) enforce regular dividend payouts.

This turns REITs into reliable income engines that deposit cash straight into your pocket. **Capital Gains (Growth):** As underlying properties appreciate or the portfolio expands, the share price rises. Buying at \$1.00 and selling at \$1.40 nets you a 40% gain. This blend of regular cash flow and capital growth gives REITs a distinct edge over standard savings accounts.

## REITs on the Ground: What is Available in Zimbabwe?

You do not need to look overseas to invest in property schemes; local financial exchanges are actively expanding their REIT offerings.

## The Financial Literacy Column With Sekai JC Gochera



On the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE), retail-focused funds like the Tigere Property REIT give everyday investors exposure to prime commercial developments (such as Highland Park and Greenfields Retail Centre) with reliable USD-indexed rental streams. Meanwhile, funds like the Revitus Property REIT focus on inner-city urban revitalization and commercial revitalization.

For hard-currency exposure, the dollar-denominated Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) hosts instruments like the Eagle REIT (a development-focused REIT targeting hospitality, healthcare, and residential property) alongside the Pfuma REIT. These listings mean you can buy fractional ownership in high-grade local infrastructure right from your phone or broker.

## Navigating the Risks

No investment is risk-free. REITs

face property market cycles, rising interest rates that elevate borrowing costs, and in Zimbabwe currency and regulatory shifts. These are not reasons to avoid REITs, but reasons to invest with rigor.

Examine occupancy rates, audit tenant profiles, review dividend track records, and inspect the management team's history. When in doubt, consult a registered financial adviser before deploying your capital. Becoming a commercial landlord is no longer a luxury reserved for the elite it is an open door waiting on your phone screen. By leveraging accessible stock exchanges, REITs allow you to plant your money where it can truly grow. Do your research, make your move, and take control of your financial future, one property at a time.

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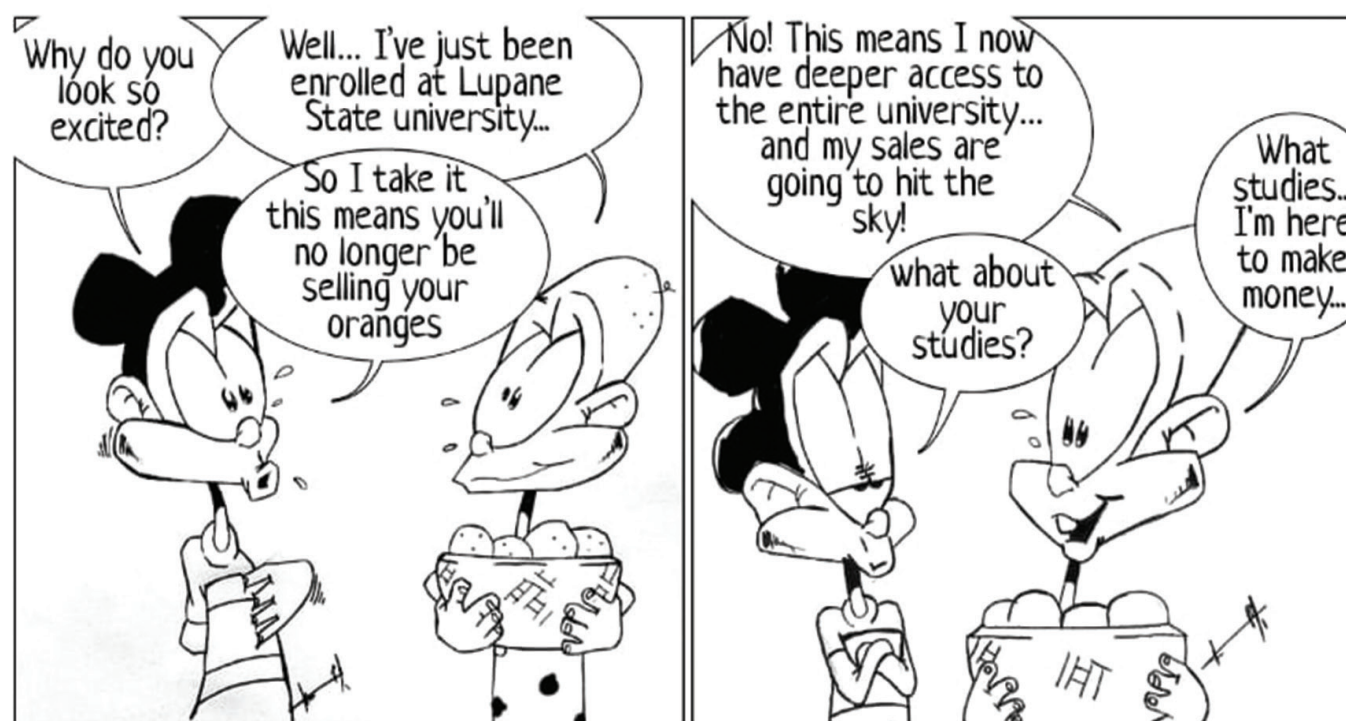
# poetry

# AND CREATIVITY

✱ For the Green Leaves That Fell in Kariba as August's wind raged ✱

August blew violent winds,  
so many leaves fell off our family tree;  
some leaves grown and brown, others bold and green.  
O August wind's audacity; raising so much dust,  
until we poured and filled a lake with our tears.  
And even though August's winds won't last,  
the dust August raised won't settle fast.  
But we will dust each other off.  
Two hands are better than one, and so we will dust each other off.  
We will be there for each other as Ubuntu teaches us;  
We are one big family tree.  
When the winds blew off our beloved leaves  
we felt it from a distance  
but we won't love from a distance,  
there's not much distance between the roots that make us one big tree,  
and so we mourn with those who mourn;  
we are those that mourn.  
(As we mourn the lives lost in Kariba) ©Agrippa Ncube

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Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Language and Communication Studies  
Diploma in Court Interpreting and Translation  
Postgraduate Diploma in Media and Public Relations  
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Diploma in Applied Language Studies  
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# Language made simple... New book blends, French, English, IsiNdebele, ChiShona for learners

By Sindiswa Ndiweni

Imagine a child opening a single book and discovering how to greet someone, identify everyday objects or express simple ideas in French, English, IsiNdebele and ChiShona- all on the same page. This is the vision behind the book “Words Without Borders: Exploring French, English, IsiNdebele and ChiShona Together”, a new multilingual educational book that is helping bridge language barriers while at the same time celebrating Zimbabwe’s rich linguistic diversity.

Just picture a child in Bulawayo learning French and ChiShona, while another child in Harare equally learning French and IsiNdebele. This book is more than just a language book; it is also a bridge across cultures, removing borders between languages.

The book was co-authored by Sindiswa Ndiweni, a (Foreign Language Instructor in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism, Lupane State University) and Rosely Moyo an (educator and author of IsiNdebele educational textbooks).

It is a beginner friendly book that introduces common words and everyday phrases through simple comparison, making it easy for children to learn four languages side by side. The book is also a valuable resource for anyone eager to explore new languages while

gaining a deeper appreciation of Zimbabwe’s multicultural identity.

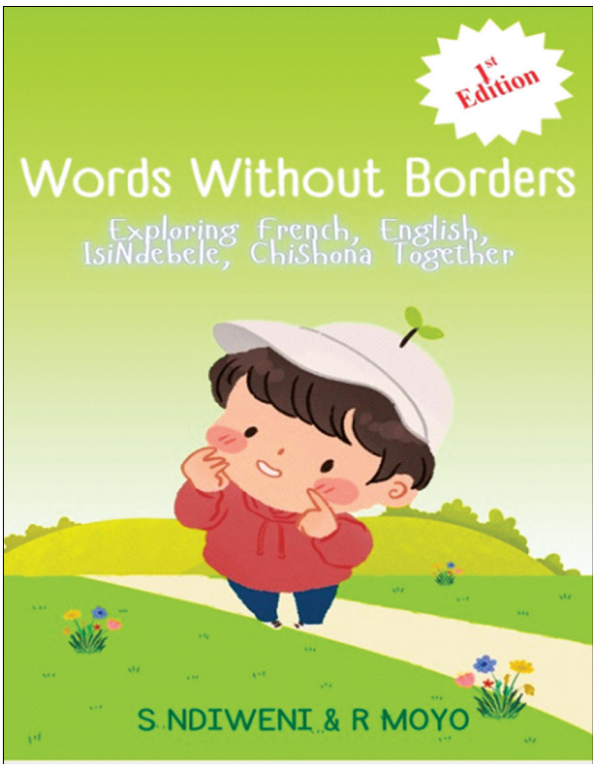
The book was the brainchild of the lead author, S Ndiweni, whose initial intention was to come up with a multilingual word book to assist young learners who are learning French at primary school.

A growing number of primary schools around Zimbabwe have recently introduced French in their curriculum and resources suitable for learners of that age are not readily available. So the intention was to provide a book that is written within the context of learners in Zimbabwe and addresses that gap.

Another gap that was noted is that many parents want to support their children’s learning, but lacked any knowledge of French and are being left out of the learning process which involves Learners-Teachers-Parents.

The parent’s role is to assist children with homework, but in the case of French most parents are being left out because they don’t know the language and it becomes difficult for them to assist their children.

But why the choice of these four languages for this book? Most Zimbabwean children are already navigating 2-3 languages daily. At home might be isiNdebele, ChiShona, ChiTonga etc and at school it is officially English and French which is in the curriculum. So, putting them side by side validates



the code-switching learners already do.

In addition to that English is often the language of exams and the official language of communication. By giving IsiNdebele and ChiShona equal space with English and French, we are telling learners; your mother tongue also belongs in academic spaces.

The book also seeks to underscore the importance of preserving indigenous languages while also learning international languages.



| French         | English            | IsiNdebele                   | ChiShona   |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Bonjour        | Hello/Good morning | Sabona/uvuke njani?/uvukile? | Mangwanani |
| Salut          | Hi                 | Unjani                       | Zvirisei ? |
| Bon après-midi | Good afternoon     | Utshonile/utsh one njani?    | Masikati   |
| Bonsoir        | Good evening       | Utshonile/utsh one njani?    | Manheru    |

We now have an upcoming generation of learners at primary school who can barely communicate in indigenous languages, largely due to emphasis on use of English at school and at home.

Hence giving indigenous languages equal prominence alongside English and French sends an important message to young learners.

The title ‘Words Without Borders’ is a means of putting across that words cross borders of cultures

and bring people together irrespective of culture or language, and it is important for children to learn that from an early age. The book is proving to be a valuable resource for teachers in the classroom as well as parents who are grateful that they now have something to work with at homework time. The publication of this book is only the beginning as the co-authors are already working on an audio to help with pronunciation of words that will accompany the book.



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## EIGHT-GOAL THRILLER: AS CEBALLOS FC STOLE THE SHOW LATE IN THE GAME, WITH LSU UNITED SURVIVING THE SCARE

By Njabulo Sibanda

**L**SU United FC and Ceballos FC were compelled to settle for a point apiece after a tense and fiercely contested matchday encounter at Rondo Sports Arena, with drama throughout the match as Youthful Ceballos FC protested every referee's decision, henceforth resultant expulsion of their captain.

The match ended in a share of spoils, but tempers flared in the closing stages as Ceballos FC Chairman and Owner Mr. Charlton Ndebele charged towards the referee after LSU United FC had found an equaliser deep in the final stages of the match.

The Ceballos faithfuls believe it was an offside.

Despite its characteristics of drama and chaotic scenes, the encounter served up a league's classic that ended 4 apiece, a match that turned terrific in the second stanza with goal galore, as both

teams alternatively took charge of the match in every 15 minutes and neither defense getting a break.

LSU United FC were the first to ask questions with the Ceballos FC's youthful goalminder standing firm to thwart the LSU United's relentless raids. However the tide suddenly changed as counter attack by Ceballos FC resulted in the first goal of the match.

But it never took time for LSU United FC to respond, as they didn't press any panic buttons.

Playing in front of the home crowd, they settled and turned the game around before the break. Two clinical strikes by veteran striker Nanaza and towering striker Bharae saw LSU United going into halftime leading 2-1.

The momentum had flipped, and Rondo believed 3 points were coming.

The second 45 was even wilder, As Ceballos started brighter and pressed high, eventually rewarded as they equalized from a free kick

just outside the penalty box.

A perfect strike that found the Goalkeeper, Scott, off position and left him with no chance 2-2 it was.

LSU United responded immediately. A foul in the box gave them a lifeline and they reclaimed the lead from the penalty spot through Bharae who scored from a rebound as Nanaza's penalty had hit an upright post and bounced back into play, 3-2. The crowd was up again.

But Ceballos weren't done.

They pressed another gear and scored twice in quick succession to turn it around completely. Suddenly it became 4-3 to Ceballos and LSU United were chasing the game with just under 5 minutes remaining. LSU United threw everything forward. Wave after wave of attacks.

The breakthrough came in the 88th minute.

A neat exchange of passes involving Nanaza and Midzi, with the latter clever flighting the for inform Bharae who cleverly beat poor off-

side trap and coolly slotted it home with remarkable composure.

Making it 4 up and throwing the game open again, with Rondo erupting into song. Both teams tried to push for a winner but to no avail as action swang from one end to another.

The match was the true definition of "open play, scoring and conceding".

Brian "Mbappe" Bharae Ndlovu scored a hattrick and was voted man of the match despite playing while he wasn't feeling well.

Speaking from the sidelines, LSU United FC stand in coach Mr V. Maphosa didn't mince his words for his defenders, after conceding 4 goals, "...i believe lapse of concentration and casual approach costed us a good 3 points today, honestly we hsd done everything well scoring early and taking control of the match only to be let down by the defence.

However am happy because our strikers responded positive-

ly..." lamented the gaffer..."However i really appreciate the fight and massive credit for character demonstrated by the whole team. Trailing in the closing moments of the game and still finding an 88th minute equalizer shows the boys's strong character and mentally strength.

The penalty created, composure and late fight will surely please the executive team and fans coming off the GZU Chancellor's Games.

For Ceballos, They'll be frustrated. Leading 4-3 late and not seeing it out will sting. But their set-piece quality and counter-attacking was excellent.

Their Head Coach Pride was frustrated by his boys..."my boys lost it when they started focusing on the referee, although i don't want to comment much on the referee's decisions, but am not happy with him..." echoed the gaffer.