



LSU hosts an educational tour and career guidance event / 3

Lupane State University recently hosted a career guidance event which was attended by five schools from Lupane District.



Beyond the Calendar: LSU's Year-Round Commitment to Women's Empowerment / 5

August in Zimbabwe is a time for reflection and celebration as we observe Women's Month. It's a period to honour the trailblazing women who have shaped our nation and to assess the progress we are making towards true gender equality.



The Ancient Wisdom of Nzokoti: A BaTonga Traditional Delicacy / 6

In the heart of Southern Africa, Zimbabwe, the BaTonga people have long been revered for their resourcefulness and innovative spirit, rooted in their ancient traditional knowledge.

CAMPUS CONNECT

Where Knowledge Meets Ink



So Near Yet So Far / 12

From Classroom to Community: LSU student nurtures green revolution in Mutoko / Page 9



LSU Lecturer, Ms Nokuqala Nyoni (right), who represented LSU, addresses visitors during the show.

LSU's exhibition bid lives to its billing

ZAS presents a golden opportunity for the institution

By Thembelani Moyo

Lupane State University has once again proved that it is Zimbabwe's leading academic institution in research and innovation, especially within the environmental and agricultural sciences sector.

This was evident during the exhibition of its various products at the recently held Zimbabwe Agricultural Show (ZAS) in Harare as well as the Matabeleland South Agricultural Show in Gwanda.

Among the exhibited items are a range of traditional grain crops from the university's farm as well as several innovative solutions for farmers.

"We had traditional grain crops or folk varieties such as sorghum (amabele), pearl millet (inyawuthi) finger millet (uphoko), bottle gourds (amakhomane) of different types: edible ones and other types that can be used to make musical instruments such as ihosho. Others can be used to make utensils such as inkezo and amaqhaga.

"We also had citron melon seed (amajodo), watermelon seed (amakhabe), pumpkin seed (amathanga) and upland rice varieties," said Lecturer, Ms Nokuqala Nyoni, who represented LSU during the show.

The university believes that the exhibition bid went a long way in encouraging farmers to plant such drought resistant crops, especially those who are located in dryland areas.

"These types of crops are climate smart, meaning that they are tolerant to dry conditions that are prevalent in areas such as Lupane. These types of crops do not require a lot of inputs as compared to their counterparts. They play a pivotal role in ensuring food and nutritional security as they are high in both macro and micro nutrients," added Ms Nyoni.

The institution also took the opportunity to showcase a range of sustainable innovations developed by researchers and students to improve agricultural processes in dryland areas.

These include the Plant-Based Pest Control and Deworming and the Organic Liquid Fertilizer.

These plant-based solutions exemplify sustainable farming practices. They are effective, organic, and environmentally friendly, avoiding the harmful residual effects often associated with conventional farming. The Plant-Based Pest Control and Deworming is the "key innovation biopesticide, a plant-based solution for controlling common agricultural pests like aphids and army worms.

... Continues on Page 2

Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION: PROF THULANI DUBE

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor PK Kuipa, Management and Staff of Lupane State University, join the Dube family in congratulating Associate Professor T Dube in celebrating his promotion to Associate Professorship in Social Sciences.

As we celebrate this achievement, the Lupane State University cherishes Professor Dube's hard work and tenacity in implementing and driving projects in the University mandate area.

By way of this memo, the University community is hereby informed that with immediate effect Dr Thulani Dube shall be addressed as Professor T Dube.

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“ZAS provided Lupane State University with a valuable platform to market our academic programmes to a diverse audience”.

From Page 1

“Unlike synthetic pesticides, our formula does not leave harmful residues in the environment, protecting beneficial insects like pollinators and maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

“In addition, we have created a plant-based deworming remedy specifically for small livestock such as sheep and goats. This organic remedy provides a natural alternative to chemical dewormers, promoting animal health without the use of harsh synthetic compounds,” said Ms Nyoni.

The Organic Liquid Fertilizer is another student-led project and is produced from a simple, readily available resource: Cattle manure and urine.

“This fertilizer is particularly rich in nitrogen, a critical macro-nutrient that is essential for robust plant growth and development.

“By using this organic fertilizer, farmers can improve crop yields sustainably, reducing their reliance on synthetic fertilizers, which can have a negative impact on soil health and water quality,” added Ms Nyoni.

The institution also took advantage of the two shows to engage with its prospective students. The Admissions Department acknowledged that the shows were a good opportunity to market brand LSU and encourage people to enroll for various programmes of their choice.

“ZAS provided Lupane State University with a valuable platform to market our academic programmes to a diverse audience. The event created an opportunity for the institution to interact directly with prospective students, parents, and stakeholders, allowing for meaningful engagement and information sharing. It also enhanced the university’s visibility and presence within the higher education space, while promoting upcoming intakes and clarifying the application process,” said Senior Assistant Registrar for the Admissions Section, Ms. Nozipho Mpofo.

Ms Lynnette Chirinda from the Mar-

LSU’s exhibition bid lives to its billing



Images showing proceedings during the ZAS show

keting and Public Relations Department added that the shows enabled them register news students for the upcoming academic year.

“Our participation at ZAS was of great benefit to LSU because there are some people who still did not know that there is a University in Lupane and some thought we are still in Bulawayo not knowing that we have a Campus in Lupane. We also managed to enroll some students for the February 2026 intake,” she said.

All LSU representatives hailed the shows and acknowledged that they were a success and positioned the institution at the forefront of academic excellence, research and innovation.

LSU has proven to be the best beyond doubt. During the previous exhibitions, including the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) and the Presidential Innovation fair, the institution was recognised and scooped various awards.

The Graduation Gown’s Ripple Effect: More Than a Ceremony at LSU

By Sanelisiwe Sibanda

As the jacarandas burst into bloom, hinting at the approaching late October, a palpable energy envelops Lupane. It’s that electric feeling of anticipation, culmination, and celebration—the onset of graduation fever. With the 16th Lupane State University (LSU) graduation ceremony scheduled for October 24th, this excitement is set to reach its zenith.

For those within the university’s walls, this season is a whirlwind of emotions and activities. For graduands, it marks the triumphant final lap of a long marathon. The frantic energy of final exams slowly transforms into a profound sense of relief, accompanied by the giddy thrill of gown fittings and portrait sessions. This isn’t just a ceremony; it’s the moment they’ve dedicated years to achieve—a threshold between their academic past and professional futures. You can see it in their confident strides and the proud smiles they exchange with peers, each beaming with dreams and aspirations.

This pride resonates deeply with the faculty and university staff. For lecturers, it’s immensely satisfying to witness the culmination of their students’ intellectual journeys. Each graduate is a testament to their hard work, mentorship, and guidance. For the administration, orchestrating this event is a logis-



tical masterpiece—a meticulously planned endeavor that embodies the university’s core mission of shaping minds and building communities. Every chair arranged and every name confirmed on the graduation list reflects their collective effort and dedication.

Yet, the excitement surrounding graduation extends beyond campus grounds. It spills over, creating a wave of heightened consciousness that sweeps through the entire local community. The first signs are unmistakable: a noticeable surge in traffic along the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls Highway, filled with proud parents, relatives, and well-wishers converging on this small yet vibrant hub of academic excellence. The roads hum with life, a procession of vehicles that symbolises the communal pride and shared investment in the graduates’ journeys.

This influx transforms the local economy for the day. Photographers find themselves in high demand, capturing joyful, fleeting moments that families will cherish forever. The air buzzes with laughter and celebration as make-up artists begin their work at the crack of dawn, enhancing the glow of each graduand with a touch of glamour. Food and beverage vendors experience a welcome boom, serving celebratory meals and refreshments that become an integral part of the day’s festivities. The graduation ceremony is not simply a moment of glory for the university; it is a day of shared prosperity, illustrating the symbiotic relationship between LSU and its surrounding community.

As we draw closer to October 24th, it becomes increasingly clear that the LSU graduation is about more than just the formal conferral of degrees. It is a momentous occasion that galvanises the entire region. It serves as a celebration of perseverance, a beacon of local pride, and a vibrant showcase of the bright futures awaiting graduates and the community that supports them. The energy is infectious, a celebration that everyone can partake in and be proud of.

The ripple effects of graduation extend into the future as well. Graduates step into the world

equipped with knowledge, skills, and a sense of purpose. They become ambassadors of LSU, carrying the university’s values into their communities, workplaces, and beyond. Their successes will inspire the next generation of students, creating a cycle of aspiration and achievement that uplifts not only individuals but the entire region.

Moreover, this annual event fosters connections that transcend the boundaries of the university. Alumni return to share their stories, mentor current students, and reinforce the bonds they formed during their time at LSU. These gatherings create an ecosystem of support and encouragement, where experiences and wisdom are exchanged, nurturing a culture of collaboration and community growth.

As the graduation day approaches, let us embrace the spirit of celebration that permeates every corner of Lupane. Let us honour not just the achievements of the graduands, but also the collective effort of the faculty, staff, families, and the wider community that has played a role in shaping their journeys. The graduation gown symbolises more than academic achievement; it represents hope, resilience, and the promise of a brighter future for all. As the excitement builds, let us all join in this celebration of dreams realised and futures yet to be written.



Lupane State University

Building Communities through Knowledge

NOTICE OF THE 2025 GRADUATION CEREMONY

DATE AND VENUE

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

OUTSTANDING FEES

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

GRADUATION FEES

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

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

BANKING DETAILS

All fees to be deposited into the following bank accounts:

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

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

GRADUATION DRESS AND REGALIA

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

GRADUANDS AND GUESTS INVITATION CARDS

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

GRADUATION REHEARSALS

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

ACCOMMODATION

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

ENQUIRIES/COMMUNICATION

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

By Arbiter Munsaka

Lupane State University recently hosted a career guidance event which was attended by five schools which included Mabikwa High School, Nechilibi High School, Ndlovu Government Secondary School, Mtshibini Secondary School, and AMR High School.

The students were taught how to choose careers that suit their interest's paths and the requirements that are needed for a particular career.

The event provided adequate information about different careers and opportunities.

During the event, the students visited LSU farm and with the department of Agriculture, they conducted experiments in the Laboratory.

They also had a tour of the LSU radio studio where they learnt about broadcasting. The students took their newfound interest in radio broadcasting to the next level by going on air as cohosts. They introduced themselves and shared their thoughts on career guidance.

Event coordinator and LSU Lecturer Dr. Unity Mugande, said that the event provided students with practical advice on careers they want to choose and showed them that LSU can make their dreams careers a reality.

"So, they proposed to come here for careers, so we had to guide them because actually they wanted to have a university tour, going to the farms, seeing the facilities and the labs.

"So, we had to make sure that we incorporate the career guidance part, so that they benefit from the university.

"Because what we want is that they don't just go to the labs and the farm but to join LSU in the near future," she said.

LSU hosts an educational tour and career guidance event



"Our main aim in doing all that community engagement, assisting them, taking them to the farm, is that LSU is a place that they can actu-

ally come to.

"We want to get as many students as possible coming to join LSU.

"We are like showcasing what we can do as LSU. So that's why we are very much concerned about it," added Dr. Mugande.

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LSU Hospitality and Tourism students shine at the Future Leaders World Challenge

By Dr Sarudzai Simango

Students from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism participated at the Future Leaders Challenge, an international competition for hospitality and tourism students from all over the world. The Future Leaders Challenge was founded by Mr Hubert Ummels Owner and Founder, Game Changers Group and the Future Leaders Challenge Platform. The main objective of the Future Leaders Challenge as coined by Mr Hubert Ummels is: “As the hospitality industry continues to witness rapid growth, it is crucial that we have a strong pool of diversified talent to resource this exciting new era for travel and tourism. The Future Leaders Challenge allows us the unique opportunity to inspire the next generation of hospitality professionals and establish the region as a leader, and catalyst, for cultivating a highly skilled hospitality and tourism workforce.”

The Future Leaders Platform is the leading platform that creates a community to tackle future challenges in the hospitality and tourism industry.

It fosters alignment across the region on key issues such as industry attractiveness, growth, learning strategies, student to industry conversion and more. It aims to bridge the gap between key stakeholders, including the industry and educational institutions, to align output with industry needs and collaboratively shape a human capital strategy for the region.

The Future Leaders platform unites industry executives, top-tier students, government leaders, and school directors to collaborate on an annually selected, region-specific strategic topic. Together, participants develop actionable solutions that address the critical challenges facing the hospitality and tourism industry. Through advocacy and stakeholder collaboration, Future Leaders Challenge strive to elevate, strategise, and champion the development of the region's human capital.

The challenge was brought to Zimbabwe by Mr Luckson Zambuko, the Director of Africa Youth in Tourism with the support of the board members including Dr. Precious Sibiya: Vice Chairperson, Air Zimbabwe Board; Mrs Emmah Kativu: Vice President, Hospitality Association of Zimbabwe; Mr Ivan Kasozi: Group Operations Executive, Cresta Hotels; Mrs Ropafadzo Rushwaya: Manager, Ancient City Lodge; Mr Kelvin Bako: Youth Desk, Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality and Mr. Lawrence Nyamuziwa—Country Brand Manager for RocoMamas & Spur Steak Ranches.

The 2025 Future Leaders Challenge (FLC) 2025 was based on the following question “As global climate deteriorates at an unprecedented pace, there is a greater need for the tourism and hospitality industry to minimise its impact on the environment. Although tourism and hospitality establishments have been promoting their eco-friendly posture, there is still a growing importance and expectation of sustainable practices from eco-conscious travellers. How can tourism and hospitality establishments in Zimbabwe implement futuristic sustainable practices to minimise their environmental impact?”

Four LSU final year Hospitality and Tourism Students were carefully selected namely; Denise Pawandiwa; Nobesuthu P. Mpabanga; Otilia E. Mbanga and Takunda H. Taruwinga. Dr Sarudzai Simango the Chairperson of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Department and Ms Petronella Spiwe Mugwagwa mentored the students in designing an innovation titled: FUTURISTIC INTEGRATED ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE HOSPITALITY IN ZIMBABWE.



The Dean of the Faculty of Commerce Dr Sibongile Manzini also graced the event to support the competing students.

Their innovation included an integrated renewable energy application (Wise Wats) which helps managers to efficiently utilise various available renewable energy sources in a single

facility where the application indicates energy levels from each source (Solar, micro-hydro power generator & biogas), ensuring that optimum energy supplies are available consistently throughout the day. The day (25 August 2025) began by a leadership workshop, facilitated by key industry including Mrs



Sibo Muteyiwa Marketing and International Relations Director at Postal and Telecommunications Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ) & Mr Chris Sithole, Director of Credibility Africa Trust and the The director of Africa's Eden is Jillian Blackbeard, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Africa's

Eden Tourism Association.

The team won 2nd place in the FLC challenge. The Prize included a trip to Victoria Falls to attend the Africa Eden travel fair, which is a platform for further professional development and networking as well as a trip to Dubai scheduled for February 2025. We congratulate the team!

Women's Month 2025

RIGHTS, EQUALITY & EMPOWERMENT

FOR ALL WOMEN & GIRLS

Beyond the Calendar: LSU's Year-Round Commitment to Women's Empowerment

By Sanelisiwe Sibanda

August in Zimbabwe is a time for reflection and celebration as we observe Women's Month. It's a period to honour the trailblazing women who have shaped our nation and to assess the progress we are making towards true gender equality.

At Lupane State University (LSU), this month serves not just as a time for commemoration but as a powerful lens through which we can view our institutional commitment to empowering and uplifting women all year round.

A crucial, yet often overlooked, aspect of this commitment is the focus on women's wellness in the workplace. The modern academic and professional landscape presents unique pressures, and for women, these challenges are often compounded by the need to balance career ambitions with societal and family expectations.

Recognising this reality, a truly supportive institution must foster an environment where the mental, emotional, and physi-

cal well-being of its female staff and students is paramount. This means creating spaces for open dialogue, providing accessible support systems, and cultivating a culture that understands the success of our women is intrinsically linked to their overall wellness.

At LSU, initiatives like the staff wellness day have been implemented to address these concerns. These programs encourage women to prioritise self-care and seek help when needed, dispelling the stigma that often surrounds physical and mental illness. By making resources available and promoting open conversations, the university is not only supporting its female community but is also fostering a culture of empathy and understanding that benefits everyone.

This supportive culture is being actively woven into the DNA of our university through forward-thinking policies. LSU is championing initiatives that not only recognise the importance of gender balance but actively support women's empowerment. Mentorship programmes are on

the cards to connect aspiring female leaders with seasoned professionals, creating networks of support and shared wisdom.

These are not just token gestures; they are structural changes designed to dismantle barriers and create tangible opportunities for advancement and personal growth.

Perhaps the most visible testament to this commitment is the deliberate effort to ensure gender parity in the university's management and leadership structures.

Empowering women means ensuring their voices are heard and their perspectives are valued where key decisions are made. By consciously promoting women to positions of authority, LSU is not only benefiting from diverse leadership but is also sending an unequivocal message to every female student and staff member: your leadership is valued, and your potential is limitless here.

In recent years, we've seen female academics at LSU take on pivotal roles within the institution, influencing policies that af-

fect not just women but the entire university community. Their presence in leadership positions serves as an inspiration to young female students, showing them that their dreams can indeed be realized. This visibility is crucial; it helps to break down stereotypes and encourages a new generation of women to aspire to leadership roles.

As we celebrate Women's Month, let us view it as a milestone, not a destination. It is a time to acknowledge our progress with pride and to recommit to the work that still lies ahead. At LSU, the goal is to build an institution where every day is an opportunity to champion the cause of women, ensuring that our campus is a beacon of equality, wellness, and empowerment for generations to come.

Beyond August, our commitment must remain unwavering. Continuous professional development opportunities, workshops, and forums should be held throughout the year to keep the conversation going. Engaging male allies in these discussions is

also essential; gender equality is not solely a women's issue but a societal one that requires the participation of everyone.

In addition, LSU can further enhance its outreach efforts by collaborating with local organizations that focus on women's empowerment.

By building partnerships with community groups, we can extend our influence beyond the university, helping to uplift women in surrounding areas and fostering a broader culture of empowerment.

As we reflect on the significance of Women's Month, let us remember that true empowerment is an ongoing journey. At LSU, we have laid the groundwork for a future where women can thrive, lead, and inspire. Together, let us continue to champion this cause and ensure that every woman—whether a student, faculty member, or staff—feels valued, supported, and ready to achieve her dreams. The path to gender equality is long, but with commitment and collective effort, we can make it a reality.

The Ancient Wisdom of Nzokoti: A BaTonga Traditional Delicacy

By Mr Charlton Siantumbu

In the heart of Southern Africa, Zimbabwe, the BaTonga people have long been revered for their resourcefulness and innovative spirit, rooted in their ancient traditional knowledge. One of the most fascinating examples of their ingenuity is the traditional crude juice known as Nzokoti, extracted from the mpuunzu fruits of the mpuuuzu tree (local name) a drought-resistant tree. This unique delicacy has been a staple of BaTonga culture for generations, showcasing their exceptional ability to harness the potential of their environment.

The Origins of Nzokoti

The BaTonga people in Zimbabwe, sharing ancient traditional knowledge with their counterparts in Zambia, have developed a profound understanding of the local ecosystem. This knowledge, passed down through generations, enables them to thrive in the semi-arid region. Mpuuuzu, a resilient and fruitful species, has and it plays a pivotal role in their survival.

Its ability to survive in dry spells makes it an invaluable resource in the region. The tree's origins are deeply rooted in the BaTonga's traditional knowledge and practices, which have been passed down through generations.

According to oral tradition, the mpuuuzu tree has been a part of the BaTonga people's lives for centuries, providing them with a reliable source of food and nutrition. The tree's fruit, which ripens during the winter months, is carefully harvested and processed into the prized Nzokoti juice. The BaTonga people's profound understanding of the mpuuuzu tree's properties and characteristics has enabled them to harness its potential, creating a unique and valuable delicacy that has become an integral part of their cultural heritage.

The preparation of Nzokoti is a traditional process that has been

refined over generations, reflecting the BaTonga people's deep understanding of their environment and the properties of the mpuuuzu tree. The fruits are boiled, and the juice is separated from the seeds and boiled again to concentrate the liquid. The resulting juice is a rich, honey-like liquid with a unique flavor and numerous health benefits. According to oral tradition, Nzokoti is believed to cure various ailments, including asthma, eye-related diseases, and respiratory issues. Its medicinal properties have made it a cherished remedy among the BaTonga people.

Cultural Significance and Consumption

Nzokoti is more than just a juice; it is an integral part of BaTonga culture and identity, reflecting their ancient traditions and practices.

The juice is consumed in various ways, with some drinking it directly and others using it as a relish. Its long shelf life, exceeding nine months when properly preserved, makes it a valuable resource during times of scarcity. In the past, Nzokoti played a crucial role in sustaining the BaTonga people during drought seasons, serving as a meal and a source of nutrition. The BaTonga people like many other Bantu-speaking communities, value collectivism and the philosophy of buntususu/ubuntu/unhu, which emphasises the importance of sharing and caring for one another. As such, Nzokoti is often shared among families and communities, fostering a sense of togetherness and solidarity. When a family harvests Nzokoti, they often share it with their neighbors and relatives, strengthening social bonds and reinforcing their communal values. This sharing of Nzokoti is a testament to the BaTonga people's strong sense of community and their commitment to buntususu/ubuntu/unhu.

Value Addition and Economic Benefits

The BaTonga people's innovative approach to value addition has enabled them to capitalise on the Nzokoti juice, building on their traditional knowledge and practices. By processing and packaging the juice, they can sell it and generate income.

Each mpuuuzu tree can yield over 6 liters of juice, making it a significant source of revenue. This entrepreneurial spirit demonstrates the BaTonga people's ability to adapt and thrive in their environment. Furthermore, the BaTonga people's cultural heritage is being promoted through various initiatives, including cultural festivals like the BaTonga Cultural Festival, cultural exchange programs, and tourist attractions. These initiatives not only showcase the significance of Nzokoti but also provide economic benefits for the local community, contributing to their economic well-being and preserving their unique traditions and practices.

Medicinal and Health Benefits

Nzokoti's medicinal properties extend beyond its traditional uses, reflecting the BaTonga people's deep understanding of the natural world. The juice is believed to have aphrodisiac properties, increasing erection in men and enhancing sperm count. Its health benefits have made it a staple in BaTonga households, particularly during the winter months.

The story of Nzokoti is a testament to the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the BaTonga people, rooted in their ancient traditional knowledge and practices.

Their ability to harness the potential of the mpuuuzu tree, creating a unique and valuable delicacy, is a shining example of sustainable practices and entrepreneurship. Nzokoti continues to thrive, offering a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of the BaTonga people, while also contributing to their economic well-being and preserving their unique traditions and practices for future generations.



“ According to oral tradition, the mpuuuzu tree has been a part of the BaTonga people's lives for centuries, providing them with a reliable source of food and nutrition. ”



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The sun will shine tomorrow without us; The moon will still float- we've never held it up. Yesterday was once today, But Yesterday is a keeper- some things just don't make it out; All the same tomorrow comes, with or without us:

Early for these, too late for others.

I honestly wanted to write you a love poem; A poem dripping honey-like intimacy and an intense warlike romance,

But a love poem sounded like the emboldened, loud, vulgar graffiti on the Green hall's walls in-

scribed in deep vernacular.

There is a time for everything- And this sure is no time for a love poem; Perhaps a time to love and not let go.

@agrippa Ncube

Lupane State University Alumni Premiere Documentary on Human-Wildlife Coexistence in Hwange

By Sanelisiwe Sibanda

On Saturday, August 23, two passionate alumni from Lupane State University (LSU), Survivor Nyasulu and Matesu Dube, brought their vision to life with the premiere of their documentary, *Living in Harmony*.

The film was showcased to the Mabale community, highlighting the intricate relationship between local residents and the wildlife surrounding Hwange.

Both graduates of the BA Honours program in Film, Television, and Media Studies from the Department of Languages, Media and Communication Studies, Nyasulu and Dube launched their film at the Soft Foot Alliance.

The documentary, funded by the EU Delegation to Zimbabwe through the Culture Fund under the CreativeACTIONS2 project, sheds light on the daily struggles and triumphs of people and animals coexisting in this biodiverse region.

"Living in Harmony offers a raw, emotional glimpse into life on the edge of Hwange National Park, where communities and wildlife intersect," Nyasulu shared during the premiere.

With eight years of experience as a former ranger, he explores what it truly means to share land with elephants, lions, and other wildlife.

"In the heart of Zimbabwe, where survival and conservation often collide, this film delves into the delicate—and sometimes perilous—relationship between rural communities and wildlife. It captures the daily reality of those living at the forefront of coexistence," he added.

The documentary serves as a powerful voice for both people

and wildlife, addressing one of Zimbabwe's most urgent human-wildlife conflict issues. Nyasulu emphasises that conservation must uplift communities, creating a secure future for both wildlife and humans.

"This is a story of courage, resilience, and hope—a call for solutions where both people and nature can thrive."

Co-producer Matesu Dube, a dedicated theatre practitioner, expressed their intention to empower communities as the strongest protectors of wildlife.

"We hope this documentary will open eyes and inspire policy changes in conservation," he explained.

"Our goal was to capture authentic stories from those on the front lines of human-wildlife conflict," Nyasulu remarked.

"It's not just about the challenges; it's about the innovative solutions and the deep commitment to conservation that we witnessed."

The screening at Soft Foot Alliance was a conscious choice to engage the community featured in the film.

It drew a notable audience, including Mabale Ward 17 Councillor Mr. Sibanda, a representative of Chief Dingani, local lodge owners, and the Painted Dog Conservation Team. Faculty members from LSU, including Acting Chairperson Ms. Sanelisiwe Sibanda and Film Lecturer Mr. Innocent Godknows Mwapangira, also attended.

One local community member shared: "Seeing our own stories and our neighbours on screen is powerful. It shows that our efforts to live peacefully with wildlife are being recognized and valued."

Dube reflected on how their

education at LSU equipped them with essential storytelling and media production skills. *Living in Harmony* is expected to screen at the Department of Languages, Media and Communication Studies Lecture Series in September at the Main Campus as well as other upcoming film festivals and serve as an educational resource for communities facing similar environmental challenges.

David Kuvawoga, Director of Operations at Painted Dog Conservation, praised the film as a vital storytelling tool that shares knowledge beyond the Mabale community. He highlighted the importance of local perspectives in storytelling, commending Nyasulu for pursuing his dreams in film to enhance his conservation efforts.

Kuvawoga encouraged local youths to follow Nyasulu's example, urging them not to let obstacles hinder their aspirations. "For me, *Living in Harmony* is not just a documentary; it's a catalyst for conservation, understanding, and, most importantly, for change," he said.

The work of Nyasulu and Dube is a crucial part of the conservation narrative, reminding us that the distinction between humans and wildlife is often blurred. We are all interconnected within the same beautiful yet fragile ecosystem.

As Lupane State University continues playing its part in building communities through knowledge, Dube and Nyasulu are a crucial part of the university's alumni that have taken it to themselves to inspire important conversations and drive change in conservation efforts, both locally and globally. We can only hope their impact resonates far and wide.



Survivor Nyasulu (left), Matesu Dube (second from right) Acting Chairperson Ms. Sanelisiwe Sibanda (second from left) and Film Lecturer Mr. Innocent Godknows Mwapangira (right).

"In the heart of Zimbabwe, where survival and conservation often collide, this film delves into the delicate—and sometimes perilous—relationship between rural communities and wildlife. It captures the daily reality of those living at the forefront of coexistence."

From Classroom to Community: LSU student nurtures green revolution in Mutoko

By Tafadzwa Mukome

In the depths of Mashonland East Province a quiet revolution in horticulture is taking root at Katsukunya Secondary School led by a dedicated student from Lupane State University. Stanley Waire, a Bachelor of Science Education Honours student specialising in Agriculture, is spearheading a project that is not only transforming the local landscape but also providing valuable knowledge and resources to the community.

The project, which began with a focus on gum trees to combat deforestation, has since blossomed into a diverse fruit tree and decorative plant nursery.

“We are doing a project on horticulture. To be specific, we are into fruit tree production, producing oranges, mangoes, naartjie , avocados and many other trees” , said Mr Waire.

Drawing from his studies, Stanley proposed a significant expansion.

“I acquired a lot of knowledge from the university after doing my modules on horticulture. That is when I proposed to diversify from planting of gum trees to also include fruit trees,” he explained.

The project, which sits on one acre of land, now focuses on producing budded and grafted fruit trees, which are sold at a higher price than their ordinary counterparts.

“For ordinary mangoes, avocados, lemons we sell them at \$2 each and for the budded and grafted trees we sell them at \$5,” Mr Waire said.

The nursery also cultivates decorative and shade-providing trees, such as the croton and duranta.

The initiative's impact extends far beyond the school grounds. Stanley highlights the benefits for the local community, which is both a customer base and educational outreach.

“This programme has benefited the community a lot because we are imparting knowledge to the community,” he said. “Many people come in order to get training on how to do budding, grafting and other propagation methods.”

The affordable prices also enable local residents to improve their nutrition by planting their own fruit trees. The learners are also direct beneficiaries, as the project serves as a hands on practical classroom.

“School children are also benefiting because we are carrying out practical activities at the greenhouse which enables them to have lifelong education,” Stanley noted. “Learners are taken to the greenhouse where we demonstrate the propagation of these fruit trees and also the planting of the fruit trees and the caring of them until the harvesting stage.”

The project's success has allowed the school to establish an orchard,

which serves as a powerful marketing tool.

“It also helps us to show how our fruits look like because this side they grow the ordinary mangoes,” he said. “But our mangoes, the propagated ones are different from the ordinary which they usually see here. So they get inspired when they see the mangoes which we planted at our orchard and then they are motivated to buy.”

With a motto of “a tree today, a forest tomorrow,” the project aims to foster a culture of environmental conservation and tree planting within the community.

Stanley and his team are also working towards expanding the project and meeting the standards for exporting their produce.

“The project is not yet into export but we are working on it so that we meet export standards and also to expand our project,” he concluded.

KATSUKUNYA SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS MADE REMARKABLE STRIDES IN PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, PRACTICAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT. THE SCHOOL HAS ESTABLISHED A SUCCESSFUL HORTICULTURE GARDEN AND A THRIVING GREENHOUSE PROJECT, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE ENHANCED AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO FOOD SECURITY AND INCOME GENERATION. THROUGH ITS WELL-ORGANIZED CAREER GUIDANCE DAY, THE SCHOOL HAS EMPOWERED LEARNERS WITH CRITICAL INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR FUTURE ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS. IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS, KATSUKUNYA SECONDARY HAS ACHIEVED NATIONAL-LEVEL PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS AND DEMONSTRATED STRONG PERFORMANCE IN DISTRICT-LEVEL BALL GAMES, SHOWCASING ITS COMMITMENT TO HOLISTIC LEARNER DEVELOPMENT. THESE ACHIEVEMENTS REFLECT THE SCHOOL'S DEDICATION TO FOSTERING WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS EQUIPPED WITH KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND VALUES FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS.

Katsukunya Secondary School flower beds, signages and classroom blocks

The signage project at our school started in 2024. The idea behind is to raise awareness to learners on issues like children rights, anti- littering and avoiding discrimination among others. The signages also showcase pictures of various projects and achievements at the school. They are displayed on strategic points so that they are accessible to everyone which helps to send the intended message.

Katsukunya Secondary School administration block, stone benches and flower beds

The school administration block is surrounded by flower beds with various types of flowers, shrubs and indigenous trees which add beauty to the surroundings. Knowledge obtained from Lupane State University helped a lot in identifying the flowers and shrubs as well as their medicinal properties which plays a pivotal role in keeping teachers and learners healthy. Stone benches are currently under construction. They help a lot in providing a conducive environment to explore the beauty of the environment and also offer a good place for relaxing. Learners at the school undertake various activities in order to boost productivity and acquire knowledge. These activities help learners in hands on appreciation and boosting problem solving abilities. This method of teaching is adopted from Lupane State University where hands on learning is a priority. Some of these activities and projects.

Katsukunya Secondary School greenhouse

The greenhouse project was officially opened in 2012 with its core business of producing gumtree seedlings for sell to tobacco farmers in an effort to curb deforestation caused by cutting down trees for tobacco curing. When the agriculture teacher enrolled with Lupane State University for a degree programme in 2022, this presented a very good opportunity for acquiring knowledge on fruit tree production through various propagation methods such as budding and grafting. The school is now offering fruit trees, shrubs and gumtrees for sale.

National athletics competitions and medal presentation at school level

The school is well known in our district and province for producing quality athletes who are capable of competing at national level. The agriculture teacher who is also the sports director at the school is very confident and



provide good leadership which he learnt from Lupane State University and the department is thriving very well. Medal presentation sessions are also conducted at school level in order to motivate learners to excel in sports.

Katsukunya Secondary School teaching practice supervision by Lupane State University lecturers

In an effort to ensure quality education, Lupane State University lecturers move around the country, supervising students on Teaching Practice despite of the distance from the University. Our school was visited by the lectures and we had a nice time together as shown on the pictures below.



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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
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Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree Supply Chain Management
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Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Human Resource Management
Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Industrial Psychology
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Master of Business Leadership
Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Human Resource Management
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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

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Bachelor of Education Degree in English and Communication
Bachelor of Education Degree in Agriculture
Bachelor of Education Honours Degree in Language and Communication (IsiNdebele)
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Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies
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Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies
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Bachelor of Engineering Honours Degree in Mechatronics Engineering
Bachelor of Engineering Honours Degree in Fuels and Energy Engineering

Celebrating World Rangers Day with LSU

By C. Jani, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Science

Every year on July 31, the global conservation community comes together to mark World Rangers Day, an occasion to honour and celebrate the commitment, sacrifice, and essential impact of wildlife rangers and front-line conservationists worldwide.

This year, under the powerful theme “Rangers: Powering Transformative Conservation,” we not only celebrate their achievements but also recognise their evolving and dynamic role in shaping the future of conservation.

World Rangers Day is observed to acknowledge the critical role rangers play in safeguarding the world’s natural and cultural heritage. It is also a day of remembrance, paying tribute to those who have lost their lives or been injured in the line of duty while protecting wildlife, ecosystems, and local communities.

The day, established in 2007 by the International Ranger Federation, shines as a spotlight on the often-unseen bravery and dedication that rangers display every single day.

The theme reflects the changing landscape of conservation work. Today’s rangers are not only guardians against poaching or illegal activities but are also educators, scientists, community liaisons, and vital stewards for a sustainable future. They are driving forces behind new approaches to conservation that embrace technology, community involvement, and adaptive management in response to climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

At Lupane State University (LSU), we are proud to have rangers who are part of this global movement of rangers who work tirelessly to protect Zimbabwe’s natural resources. Our university recognises that empowering the next generation of conservation leaders is integral to ensuring long-standing ecological resilience and community well-being.

Our rangers show selfless commitment to conservation and this exemplifies the transformative spirit underscored by this year’s World Rangers Day.

They act not only as protectors of the land but also as ambassadors of knowledge, working alongside researchers, local communities, and international partners to build robust conservation models that can withstand our changing world.



While we celebrate the achievements of rangers, World Rangers Day is also a solemn reminder of the risks they face.

Across Africa and beyond, many have paid the ultimate price, losing their lives in the defence of wildlife and land-

scapes we all cherish. LSU stands in solidarity to honour these fallen heroes and extends heartfelt condolences to their families and colleagues. Their sacrifice is not in vain but rather it is a powerful reminder of the value of conservation work and the urgency to support

those on the frontlines.

On this World Rangers Day, Lupane State University reaffirms its commitment to supporting rangers through education, innovation, and advocacy, ensuring they have the tools, training, and recognition they deserve.

As we reflect on the theme “Powering Transformative Conservation,” let us all pledge to support and elevate the critical work of rangers, whose courage and passion inspire us to imagine and create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Varsity Boys in Mixed Fortunes

By Njabulo Sibanda

LSU Football Club, affectionately known as the Varsity Boys, have had a rollercoaster journey in the Lupane Football League (LFL) as the season approaches its halfway mark.

They kicked off in dominant fashion, thrashing Supper Eagles 5-1, followed by a hard-fought 3-2 win over Matshakayile. These back-to-back victories showcased LSU's attacking intent and sparked early optimism among fans.

However, the winning momentum was short-lived. The Varsity Boys stumbled to a humiliating 4-0 defeat at the hands of Elitsheni FC, then dropped more points in a 2-2 draw away to Mpofu FC, exposing concerns about the team's consistency.

In their highly anticipated clash against log leaders Lupane City FC, LSU suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat in front of a capacity crowd at Rondo Sports Arena.

The match was a pulsating encounter, with LSU dominating the first half and forcing six corners. Prince KB Sibanda missed a golden opportunity in the 27th minute, failing to convert a chance that could have turned the tide.

Lupane City responded clinically. A well-

placed header by Sandile, from a brilliant Maphikani cross, nearly gave the visitors the lead.

The rest of the match was a tight, end-to-end affair. LSU's defensive stalwarts, Bonus Dimbira and Captain Amaleck Ndebele, held firm under pressure. But a moment of miscommunication between goalkeeper Watie Jnr and Captain Amah allowed Sibongokuhle Maphosa to slot home what would have been a winning goal.

Despite the lapse, Watie Jnr redeemed himself with a series of outstanding saves in the dying minutes, keeping the scoreline respectable and emerging as LSU's stand-out performer.

In the end, LSU bowed out with pride, though the 1-0 loss meant another three points slipped through their fingers. These recent results have raised concerns about the team's ability to sustain strong performances across the season.

Still, LSU Football Club remains a dangerous side in the LFL. Their early-season form proved they have the talent and spirit to compete at the highest level. With the second half of the season ahead, the Varsity Boys will need to regroup, refocus, and re-discover their winning formula if they are to mount a serious challenge.



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So Near Yet So Far

...LSU.s Rondo suffers a narrow defeat for the defense forces day cup

By Njabulo Sibanda

The Varsity boys suffered a narrow defeat at the hands of Army Select in a thrilling match at a packed Somhlolo Stadium, Lupane.

The game began with a pulsating intensity, as both teams seized opportunities as they arose. However, Army Select dominated the first half, dictating the pace and controlling the proceedings. The Varsity boys struggled to find their footing, appearing jittery and clue-

less in possession.

Army Select's resilience paid off as their relentless attack yielded a crucial goal. The team's loss of possession led to a swift counter-attack, which caught the Varsity boys' defense off guard.

Most were beaten for pace, and the normally dependable LSU goalkeeper, was caught flat-footed, failing to deal with a seemingly harmless shot that spilled into the net.

After the goal, Varsity boys' coach Francis Mpofu rallied his troops,

and the tide of the game shifted. The Army side was forced to back-track, and the referees intervened, blowing the whistle to end the first half.

The second half was a different affair altogether. The Varsity boys launched a relentless barrage on the Army side's defense, laying siege to their goal.

A sequence of missed opportunities followed, with the fans on the edge of their seats.

Bongokuhle Bonzo's header crashed against the woodwork in

the dying minutes, while Amaleck Ndebele forced an acrobatic save from the Army side's goalkeeper with a thunderous effort from a set piece.

Despite LSU's resurgence, the Army side stood firm, slowing down the tempo and frustrating the Varsity boys' momentum with frequent stoppages.

The Varsity boys' torrential attack never ceased, but ultimately, they fell short.

Coaches from both teams commended the spirited display from

their players.

Army Select coach Mr. Prince acknowledged that LSU had given them a strong challenge, saying: "It was one of those tight contests. True, LSU came hard at us; actually, they were the better side in the second half."

The Varsity boys may have lost the game, but they earned the respect of thousands for their flair and panache. Though it was a near miss, they can walk tall, knowing they pushed the Army side to the limit.