

CAMPUS CONNECT

Where Knowledge Meets Ink



Sports, the way to release student academic stress / Page 10



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Having a top position in a big institution does not always concern power, but relationship building and creating a safer working environment for everyone, Lupane State University Vice-Chancellor Professor Pardon Kuipa, has said.



LSU unveils ambitious tourism development plan / Page 4

Lupane State University has announced an ambitious plan to boost tourism development in the region, creating new employment opportunities for students and locals alike.



Lupfin empowers communities through financial inclusion / Page 5

Lupane Financial Services commonly known as Lupfin is a microfinance company owned by Lupane State University. Established to provide inclusive financial solutions Lupfin serves vegetable vendors, farmers, dealers, and small to medium enterprises.

Stakeholders applaud LSU's work-study programme / Page 8



Acting Senior Assistant Registrar in the student affairs department Ms Sikholiwe Dube



Deputy Registrar for Academic Affairs, Mr. Philip Ncube

Expanding horizons: LSU's postgraduate offerings

By Michelle Moyo

Lupane State University has taken a significant leap forward in academic excellence with the launch of an array of innovative postgraduate degree programmes.

The university's latest offerings include Master's degrees in various disciplines, as well as an extensive range of PhD programmes across multiple faculties, including humanities, commerce, agriculture, and science. This brings the university's programmes to a total of 75.

Notably, the PhD programmes in Humanities and Social Sciences specialise in critical areas such as media studies, African languages, and culture.

The new programmes include PhD in African Languages and

Culture, PhD in Media Studies, PhD in Performance Studies, PhD in Development Studies, PhD in Monitoring and Evaluation, PhD in Accounting and Finance, PhD in Human Resource Management, PhD in Entrepreneurship and Business Management, PhD in Environmental Science, PhD in Animal Science, PhD in Agricultural Economics, PhD in Ecological Resources Management, Master of Science in Tropical Resources Ecology, Master of Science in One Health, Master of Science in Food Safety and Port Health, Master of Education in Curriculum Studies, Master of Science Education in Animal Science, Postgraduate Diploma in Tertiary and Higher Education, Bachelor of Commerce Special Honours Degree in Digital Marketing (BComm SP Hons DM), Master of Science Degree in Supply

Chain Management (MSC SCM), Master of Science Degree in Hospitality and Tourism.

This strategic expansion is poised to empower students with cutting-edge knowledge and skills while also addressing the critical needs of local communities and contributing to Zimbabwe's socio-economic development.

By broadening its academic horizons, LSU is cementing its position as a hub for higher learning and research in the region.

According to the Deputy Registrar for Academic Affairs, Mr. Philip Ncube, the introduction of these programmes was necessitated by the institution's desire to consolidate its niche and mandate by offering varied programmes in Agriculture; to respond to the market by crafting programmes that suit the ever changing needs

of the market so that the university remains relevant to current trends; to widen the choice of programmes from the institution thereby increasing its student numbers; to embrace PhD students in various faculties and to increase the claim in research and knowledge creation.

"The launch of these programmes means the growth of brand LSU and general the image of the university. It is also fulfilling the vision of the university of being an international premier university through introduction of programmes with an international flair. The introduction certainly improves the ranking and image of the university nationally and internationally," he said

LSU's Acting Senior Assistant Registrar in the student affairs department Ms Sikholiwe Dube

highlighted that the admissions are based on students' qualifications, with certificates and diplomas serving as evidence.

For undergraduate programs, students must provide their Ordinary Level certificate, while postgraduate applicants must hold a degree or diploma. To prevent fraud, the university verifies certificates and requires national identity card.

The application fees for undergraduate programmes are going for \$15, Masters \$15 and PhD \$40.

"The university prioritises students with proper qualifications and evidence. They also consider students' readiness to learn. Married students must provide their marriage certificate to ensure it does not affect their studies," she said.

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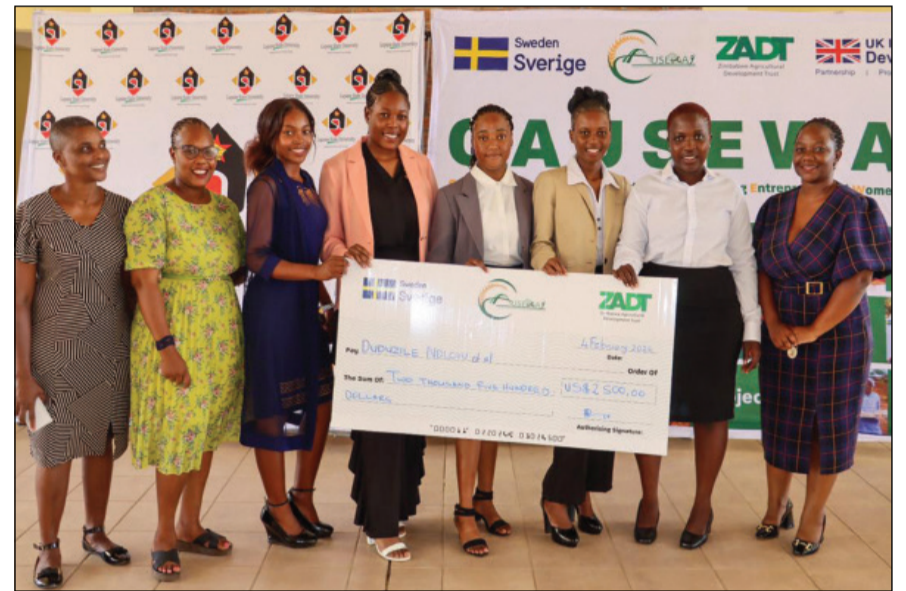
Ms Dube explained that the introduction of new degree programmes aims to create employment opportunities, including junior lectures senior lecturers, secretaries and other staff. This initiative contributes to Zimbabwe's economic growth. "Admissions are ongoing, and the

university encourages interested students to apply, especially those with qualifications. Graduates without employment are also urged to apply to enhance their learning and earning potential," said Ms Dube. The university will collaborate with the industry partners to design and

deliver postgraduate programmes that will address the specific needs of the industry or society. She added that postgraduate students will carry out research that will be aimed at addressing the bread and butter issues of the day.

"The university regularly reviews

and updates the postgraduate curriculum to ensure that the programmes remain relevant and aligned with industry and societal needs. A great need to solicit feedback from former students to assess the effectiveness of the postgraduate programmes in the industry and society."



The above images show proceedings during the disbursement of loans to LSU students from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.



Empowering future entrepreneurs: LSU students receive a business boost

By Blessing Khanye and Desire Ngwenya

In a groundbreaking initiative, the Zimbabwe Agriculture Development Trust (ZADT) has partnered with Empower Bank to provide financial support to students from Lupane State University, Gwanda State University, and Esigodini Agriculture College.

This innovative programme aims to empower students to become financially stable and start their own businesses in the agricultural sector.

This forward-thinking approach is aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and financial stability among young people in the region.

"ZADT provides financial support to agricultural students especially those that are going to their third academic year to start

their own businesses.

"This innovative approach replaces traditional attachment programmes, instead giving students the opportunity to become entrepreneurs and gain hands-on experience in running their own ventures," said ZADT's Mr Qhelani Moyo.

The initiative has already borne fruit, with students embarking on exciting projects such as piggery and mushroom cultivation.

These enterprises not only provide a source of income but also contribute to the region's agricultural development.

On February 4, a ZADT function was held at LSU main campus where loans were disbursed to students from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.

Each student was given an amount of 500 US dollars, which they will use in groups

and develop innovative projects.

Two groups of students were formed, each with a unique project idea.

The first group, consisting of two male students, will be embarking on a piggery project in the LSU farm while the second group, made up of five female students, will be exploring the world of mycology with a mushroom project in one of the science laboratories.

This event marked a significant milestone in the partnership between ZADT, Empower Bank, and LSU.

By providing financial support and empowering young entrepreneurs, these organisations are playing a vital role in shaping the future of agriculture in Matabeleland.

As these students grow and develop their businesses, they will not only improve their

own financial stability but also contribute to the region's economic growth and development.

In an exclusive interview, one of the students expressed her gratitude for the funding.

"We're thrilled to announce that our mushroom project has received funding. This milestone is a direct result of our team's tireless efforts, commitment, and shared enthusiasm for mycology".

Mr. Moyo said the initiative of ZADT aims to promote business development in Matabeleland North and South by providing financial support to students.

"We congratulate the students of Lupane State University on their exciting projects and look forward to sharing their progress and successes in future," he said.



Lupane State University

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PhD in Media Studies

PhD in Performance Studies

PhD in Development Studies

PhD in Monitoring and Evaluation

Faculty of Commerce

PhD in Accounting and Finance

PhD in Human Resource Management

PhD in Entrepreneurship and Business Management

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

PhD in Environmental Science

PhD in Animal Science

PhD in Agricultural Economics

PhD in Ecological Resources Management

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- ✓ **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**
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LSU hosts management and leadership training workshop for its management

By Sanelisiwe Sibanda

Lupane State University (LSU) successfully hosted a five-day Management and Leadership Training Workshop from January 27 to 31, aimed at enhancing the leadership capabilities of its management team.

The workshop, facilitated by Mr. Nixon Kufangowenyu and Mr. Michael Chihwehwe from the Zimbabwe Public Service Academy's Elangeni Training Centre, was a follow-up to LSU's Strategic Planning Workshop held in December 2024.

The two facilitators, Mr. Kufangowenyu and Mr. Chihwehwe have a wealth of experience in human resource training and development aimed at enhancing skills, knowledge and attitudes for effective management and leadership.

The topics that were covered include, Management Functions, Communication, Public Relations, Emotional Intelligence, Motivation, Problem Solving, Time and Economic Resource Management, Employee Wellness as well as Integrated Result Based Management.

The workshop was part of LSU's ongoing efforts to strengthen its leadership team, aligning with the university's broader goal of fostering long-term strategic thinking and efficient management practices.

The workshop targeted LSU management staff, including the University Principal Officers, Deans, Directors, and Departmental Chairpersons. It provided an opportunity for collaboration, shared learning, and reflection, essential for cultivating effective leadership within the institution.

In his opening remarks, Vice Chancellor of Lupane State Uni-

versity Prof. Pardon Kuipa emphasised the importance of individual contributions to LSU's success.

"Each one of us contributes to the larger notion of fostering a vibrant learning community. Our ability to engage with other colleagues directly impacts student experiences and the success of our university" Prof. Kuipa said.

He urged participants to actively engage, share insights, and learn from one another throughout the workshop.

Acting Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as the Faculty of the Built Environment, Dr Mbulisi Ndlovu reiterated the VC's sentiments, adding that each and every member has a role to play in the realization of LSU's success:

"It is crucial that everyone in the structure should be motivated to have a shared vision. The 'us-and-them' mentality should be dismantled as it has no place in a team" said Dr Ndlovu.

The training covered key aspects of leadership and management, with a focus on equipping participants with the tools to navigate challenges in their professional and academic lives.

Mr. Kufangowenyu and Mr. Chihwehwe led a series of interactive discussions, practical exercises, and group presentations aimed at improving leadership effectiveness and building positive workplace cultures.

On the subject of the importance of fostering positive organizational culture, Dr Unity Mugande, Chairperson of the Agricultural Economics Department commented:

"To transform Lupane State University into a well-oiled machine, we must evolve our organisational culture. As Team LSU, we are not just members; we are the brand

ambassadors of our institution," said Dr Mugande

Throughout the workshop, attendees were encouraged to reflect on their own leadership styles and develop personal action plans for applying new skills and strategies in their roles.

The workshop emphasised several critical leadership skills, including:

1. **Effective Communication** – Participants explored the need for active listening, tailoring messages to diverse audiences, and improving university communication channels to enhance communication with both internal and external stakeholders.

2. **Team Building** – The importance of fostering a collaborative team environment was highlighted, with exercises on trust-building, delegation, and leveraging individual strengths to achieve common goals.

3. **Emotional Intelligence** – Participants learned how to recognize and manage their own emotions while understanding the emotions of others to improve leadership effectiveness and team dynamics.

4. **Time and Resource Management** – Participants were taught strategies for prioritizing tasks, delegating effectively, and managing resources efficiently, which would lead to increased productivity within teams.

The success of the workshop reflects LSU's commitment to nurturing leadership development at all levels of the institution. By the end of the event, participants left with valuable insights and practical tools to apply within their respective roles, driving LSU's vision of continuous growth and improvement.



Vice Chancellor Professor Pardon Kuipa

'Leadership is not just about authority or position'

By Thembelani Moyo

Having a top position in a big institution does not always concern power, but relationship building and creating a safer working environment for everyone, Lupane State University Vice-Chancellor Professor Pardon Kuipa, has said.

The Vice-Chancellor was speaking during the induction session of the newly-hired staff held this January at the institution's main campus.

He emphasised that as LSU leadership and management, they are keen in promoting a working environment where everyone is psychologically, physically and emotionally safe.

"Leadership and management are not just about authority or position, but about influence, relationship building and creating an environment where everyone can thrive," Prof Kuipa said.

"In today's fast-paced and often challenging educational environment and climate, the skills we develop in these areas are more crucial than ever," he added.

Prof Kuipa reminded the workers that their contribution to the university is very much valued, given the fact that the institutions is immensely contributing to manpower development across the nation.

"Each one of us contributes to the larger nation of fostering a vibrant learning community. Our ability to engage with colleagues and believe in purpose directly imparts student experiences and success of our university," he said.

"Over the coming days, ladies and gentlemen, we will explore a range of topics from effective communication and conflict reso-

lution and strategic decision making," he added.

During the induction sessions several speakers emphasised on the importance of knowing the vision of the institution, respective roles as well the value of emotional intelligence.

Following the induction session, Prof Kuipa also had the opportunity to speak to the university administrators and management during a workshop meant to equip them with leadership skills.

He reiterated that as leaders, it is critical that they embrace quality skills that would help them assist the university in realising its vision which is entrenched in the education 5.0 framework.

"I encourage each of you to engage actively, share your insights and learn from one another. Let's embrace this opportunity to grow, reflect, and develop the skills that are necessary to lead with confidence and integrity," he urged the institution's leading workforce.

"By the end of our time together, I hope each of you will live with new tools and perspectives that you could apply within your roles. Remember, leadership is a journey. I think 30 years ago I was a chairperson of a department. It's a real journey and not a destination.

"I didn't think it was a destination when I was a chairperson of chemical engineering 30 years ago. Each one of us can continue to evolve and enhance our capabilities. Thank you once again for your participation here today. Let's make this training not only informative, but also an enjoyable and inspiring experience for everyone. Thank you very much once again," concluded Prof Kuipa.



Images showing the proceedings of the workshop

LSU unveils ambitious tourism development plan

By Michelle Moyo

Lupane State University has announced an ambitious plan to boost tourism development in the region, creating new employment opportunities for students and locals alike.

The initiative includes the launch of new tourist facilities in Victoria Falls, lodges in Lupane Waterfront, and the introduction of a Masters programme in tourism and hospitality.

The university plans to relocate its tourism and hospitality course to the main campus, providing students with on-campus accommodation and enhanced learning experiences.

This strategic move is poised to position the institution as a hub for tourism development and education in the region.

LSU lecturer and Tourism Cluster Coordinator, Ms Munyaradzi Gango, said that the tourism school will be built using sustainability in mind, benefiting the local community and stakeholders at large.

The tourism cluster also has other projects such as the Waterfront, LSU restaurant and Bingwa projects which are aimed at empowering the local community through employment creation as well as the students through a hands on approach to learning. These are the key mandates to education 5.0.

"In the past years, roughly 30 percent of our students are from Victoria Falls alone. Building a tourism school in the area will enhance the President's Mantra of leaving no one behind.

"The university, being the major training institution in Matabeleland North, has so far been part of the community through establishing these entrepreneurial activities that employ the locals as well as educating them," she said.

She added that the University Charter of 2004 indicates LSU's mandate is tourism, given its location in Zimbabwe's tourism band in Matabeleland North.

The university has consistently demonstrated a commitment to advancing education, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

By establishing a campus in Victoria Falls and a waterfront resort centre, the university aims to unlock opportunities for academic growth, economic stimulation, and community development.

"Victoria Falls, a globally renowned tourist destination, is an ideal location for an LSU campus. The establishment of a campus in this area would deliver benefits such as enhancing academic opportunities as it is the heart of Zimbabwe's tourism industry. The new campus will focus on offering specialised degrees in Tourism and Hospitality Management, Wildlife Conservation, Eco-Tourism and Sustainable Business Practices, aligning academic programmes with the region's economic activities.

"Students will have unparalleled access to world-class tourist attractions, enabling hands-on learning experiences in tourism management, marketing and eco-tourism. The location's global appeal will attract both local and international students seeking to study in one of Africa's most iconic destinations.

"An LSU campus in Victoria Falls positions the university as a key player in delivering education in a tourism-driven economy, potentially drawing partnerships with international institutions. The campus will create employment opportunities in teaching, administration, and support services.

"Increased student and faculty presence will stimulate local businesses, including housing, food services and transport providers. Partnerships with local tourism operators can foster internship opportunities for students and create mutually beneficial collaborations," said Ms Gango.

Ms Gango emphasised that the decision to introduce a Masters programme in tourism was inspired by LSU vision to address the growing demand for advanced expertise in tourism and hospitality in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Leveraged the university's location along the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls corridor, a strategic area for tourism development.

"As a leading institution for higher education in tourism strengthens partnerships with the tourism and hospitality industry, fostering innovation and practical solutions for local and regional challenges. It also aims to attract local and international students, boosting the university's profile as a hub for tourism education and research and ; promote sustainable tourism practices, aligning with global trends and enhancing the university's contribution to economic development."



LSU lecturer and Tourism Cluster Coordinator, Ms Munyaradzi Gango

“Increased student and faculty presence will stimulate local businesses, including housing, food services and transport providers. Partnerships with local tourism operators can foster internship opportunities for students and create mutually beneficial collaborations,” said Ms Gango.

Ms Gango also mentioned that the benefits for students are access to state of the art infrastructure, including training labs, lecture halls, and research resources tailored to tourism and hospitality studies.

"Proximity to Lupane's rich cultural and environmental at-

tractions provides opportunities for fieldwork and practical learning experiences.

"Integration with other academic departments fosters a multidisciplinary approach to tourism and hospitality education.

"Opportunities to collabo-

rate with local communities on sustainable tourism projects. Facilitates stronger partnerships with tourism operators and organisations, fostering innovation and employment opportunities for graduates," she said.

The Importance of Research in the SME Space

By Nhlanhla Dabengwa and Jennings Joy Chibike

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of many economies around the world, driving innovation, creating jobs, and contributing significantly to GDP.

In Zimbabwe alone SMEs contribute US\$8,6bn to Zim GDP, employing 4,8million people and contributing a staggering 60% of the GDP.

Despite their crucial role, many SMEs struggle with challenges such as limited resources, competition from larger corporations, and rapidly changing market dynamics.

To navigate these challenges successfully, research plays a pivotal role. Here, we explore why research is essential for SMEs and how it can drive growth and sustainability.

1. Understanding Market Dynamics

Research enables SMEs to gain a comprehensive understanding of their target market. By analyzing customer needs, preferences, and behavior, SMEs can tailor their products and services to meet demand effectively. Market research also helps in identifying emerging trends, uncovering new opportunities, and staying ahead of competitors. For instance, a small bakery could use research to identify growing interest in gluten-free products and adjust its offerings accordingly.

2. Identifying Growth Opportunities

SMEs often operate in competitive environments with limited room for error.

Research helps businesses identify areas for growth, such as new customer segments, untapped geographic markets, or complementary product lines.

With detailed data and insights, SMEs can make informed decisions and allocate resources efficiently, minimizing risks and maximizing returns.

Putting into context the Africa Free Continental Trade Agreement (AFCTA) is looming and that comes with its dynamics which would require extensive research and development to survive.

3. Enhancing Innovation and Competitiveness

Innovation is a key driver of success for SMEs.

Through research and development (R&D), businesses can create innovative products, improve processes, and adopt new technologies.

Staying competitive requires a deep understanding of industry trends, customer pain points, and technological advancements—all of which stem from robust research efforts. For example, a tech startup can use research to identify gaps in the market and develop software solutions that address specific problems.

4. Improving Decision-Making

Effective decision-making requires accurate and timely information. Research equips SME owners and managers with data-

driven insights, reducing reliance on guesswork or intuition. Whether it's determining pricing strategies, selecting suppliers, or planning marketing campaigns, research ensures that decisions are based on evidence rather than assumptions.

5. Adapting to Regulatory Changes

SMEs must navigate complex regulatory environments, which can vary significantly by industry and location.

Conducting research helps businesses stay informed about relevant laws and regulations, ensuring compliance and avoiding costly penalties.

For instance, a small manufacturer exporting products overseas can use research to understand international trade regulations and adapt its processes accordingly.

6. Building Customer Trust and Loyalty

Customer-centric SMEs thrive in competitive markets. Research helps businesses understand what drives customer satisfaction and loyalty.

By gathering feedback through surveys, focus groups, or social media analytics, SMEs can refine their offerings and improve the overall customer experience. Happy customers are more likely to recommend a business to others, driving organic growth.

7. Supporting Sustainable Practices

Sustainability is becoming increasingly important for businesses of all sizes. Research enables SMEs to identify environmentally friendly practices, reduce waste, and adopt sustainable business models. For example, a small clothing brand can research eco-friendly materials and production methods, appealing to environmentally conscious consumers while reducing its environmental footprint.

8. Leveraging Institutional Research

Research from institutions like universities, research centers, and think tanks can be an invaluable resource for SMEs.

Academic research often delves into advanced technologies, industry trends, and innovative business practices. Collaborating with universities can provide SMEs access to cutting-edge findings, skilled researchers, and even funding opportunities. For instance, a small manufacturing firm could partner with a university to develop more efficient production methods or sustainable materials.

Institutions can also provide training and workshops to upskill SME employees, fostering innovation and competitiveness.

In the fast-paced and competitive SME landscape, research is not a luxury but a necessity. It empowers businesses to make informed decisions, adapt to changes, and seize opportunities for growth. By investing in research, SMEs can build a solid foundation for long-term success, ensuring resilience in an ever-evolving market. As the saying goes, knowledge is power—and for SMEs, research is the key to unlocking it.

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Lupfin empowers communities through financial inclusion

By Blessing Khanye

Lupane Financial Services commonly known as Lupfin is a microfinance company owned by Lupane State University.

Established to provide inclusive financial solutions Lupfin serves vegetable vendors, farmers, dealers, and small to medium enterprises.

With its headquarters located at Lupane State University main campus, the company has expanded to include a second branch in Hwange.

According to Mr. Mbira, Director of Lupfin "our primary vision is to create a financially empowered society where poverty does not exist"

To achieve this, Lupfin offers a variety of products and services designed to meet the unique needs of its clients.

Lupfin's product offerings include farming microloans which foster sustainable rural livelihoods and promote rural economic development.

These small-scale loans cater to the financial requirements of small agricultural enterprises, providing farmers with access to capital and customised agricultural loans with lower interest rates and flexible repayment

terms.

In addition to farming microloans Lupfin offers microvendor loans which cover loan deductions for food and vegetable vendors among others.

Micro small to medium enterprise loans are also available assisting small companies in covering regular operating costs such as purchasing stocks, paying salaries and meeting other business-related expenses.

Furthermore Lupfin provides salary-based loans, offering employed individuals with regular salaries rapid access to collateral-free loans. These loans are designed to meet personal needs such as medical expenses, construction and education and are repayable over a set period.

One of Lupfin's clients, Mrs. Lisolani Siyambumbi, a local villager from Gwayi, shared her story of how Lupfin's loan helped her revive her butchery business.

"I had been struggling financially and my fridges were no longer working. With the help of the loan I managed to purchase a new fridge and now my business is back on track," she said.

Lupfin offers loans ranging from \$150 to \$500 to its internal clients at an interest rate of 10%, and up to \$1000 to external clients at an interest rate of 12% repayable over six months.

Despite its successes, Lupfin faces challenges, including a lack of collateral, poor financial management practices among clients and difficulties in accessing credit information.

Additionally, some clients struggle to produce business plans to support their loan applications and lack clarity on financials and cash flow needs.

Looking to the future, Lupfin aims to expand its services with plans to open more branches in Matabeleland North Province, particularly in rural communities and in Bulawayo, where there is a high demand for financial services.

Mr. Mbira noted: "The future of Lupfin looks promising and we are committed to continuing our mission of providing inclusive financial solutions to empower our communities."

Lupfin offers loans ranging from \$150 to \$500 to its internal clients at an interest rate of 10%, and up to \$1000 to external clients at an interest rate of 12% repayable over six months.

Weekday Shows on LSU Campus Radio

0600-0900 - Morning Mingle (Dr Jazz & Malunga)

0900-1200 - Mid Morning Insider (Melz & KayBee)

1200-1500- Lunchtime Crunch (Makhalisa)

1500-1800- Campus Drive (Smallest & BLQ Italian)

1800-1900- Boots on Brains (Uncle Tom)

1900-1930 -Main News Roundup (Sthabisile Mthonisi Sibanda & Shepard Sibanda)

1930-2030 - Open Chat (umaNare)



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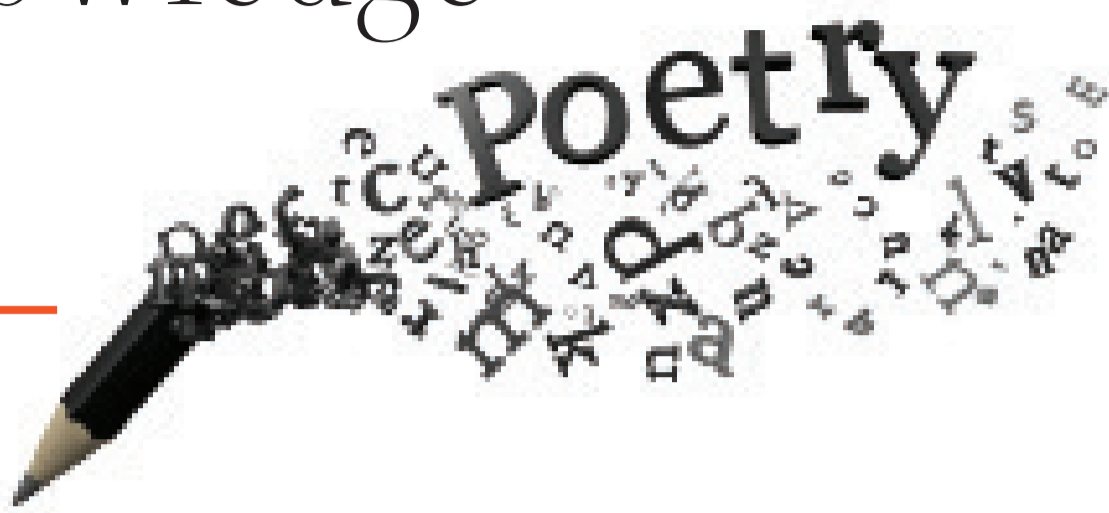
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with **MALUNGA** Hosting **TAFADZWA NCUBE**

0600HOURS-0700HOURS
"Word and Health talk"

Imparting Knowledge Through



Walking on blank pages



Last year had its blessings
At some point we experienced life's aching
In all things we moved forward never turning-
Our eyes fixed on the prize.
Last year we made strides,
You and I were all willing to pay the price.
This year we move on,
We move on from failure;
We pick ourselves up
And armed with the lessons from falling
we will walk our way to the sky.
This year we stay focused,
we do not cry over yesterday-
We fix today;
Our eyes fixed on the prize,
Our minds thinking beyond 'now'.
This year we will win;
Holding hands we will win,
Armed with collective strength we will win!
Last year we tried to fly
This year we will spread our minds and fly;
This year we will walk on water,
We will close our eyes and take a step.

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Whispers of Youth in Hallowed Halls

In hallowed halls where knowledge blooms,
Young hearts tread soft, amid the rooms,
With dreams like stars in a midnight sky,
Yet burdens weigh, and spirits sigh.
Pages turn in the silent night,
With coffee cups and weary sight,
They chase the dawn, with hopes unfurled,
The weight of the world, in a student's world.

With sleepless nights and endless seams,
They stitch together fragmented dreams,
A question here, a doubt to quell,
In the echoing halls, doubt weaves its spell.
Anxiety looms, a shadow near,
The fear of failure, the voice of fear,
But in every struggle, there's strength to find,
A flicker of light, a pull of the mind.

So gather your courage, stand up tall,

Embrace the challenge, give it your all,
For every misstep is a lesson learned,
And every heartache, a bridge that's turned.
Seek out the kinship in fellow souls,
Share the load, let love make you whole,
For in unity's strength, the burden's light,
Together you'll soar, through the darkest night.

In libraries filled with infinite words,
Amidst the noise, be still like birds,
Let knowledge guide you, let passion drive,
In the heart of struggle, you'll learn to thrive.
So take a breath, and raise your chin,
Remember, dear students, it's where you begin,
With every setback, pave your own way,
For future's bright dawn is born from today.

By Sibusisiwe Lunga



A beguiling, sinister collection of 12 dark academia short stories from masters of the genre, including Olivie Blake, M.L. Rio, Susie Yang and more!



The team behind the project



Mr. Mpofu (left) and Dr. Chisadza (right).



Biogas project set to uplift Lupane communities

By **Thembelani Moyo**

A collaboration between Lupane State University and EMA on a One health solid waste management project in Daluka Ward, Lupane is set to improve livelihoods and human, animal and environmental health. The project is funded by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) through the Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (COHESA) project. It is one of the two waste management projects that are be-

ing implement in Zimbabwe under COHESA.

The Principal investigators of the project are Dr. Bright Chisadza and Dr Margaret Macherera from LSU and the team members are Mr. Alban Mugoti, Mr Nkululeko Mpofu from LSU and; Mrs. Nomvula Amanda Moyo; Mrs. Chipu Mpofu Zuze; Mrs. Memory Kapuma and Mrs. Sithabile Dube from EMA.

According to Mr Nkululeko Mpofu, the project aims to address challenges of solid waste management in Daluka ward, Lupane using a one health approach.

“Improper solid waste management has led to indiscriminate disposal of waste endangering animals, the environment and public health. This project seeks to engage communities and other stakeholders in developing sustainable strategies to solve the solid waste management problem. Currently the ward does not have an integrated solid waste management system,” he said.

Mr. Mpofu added that their initiative is a 12-month project and is expected to be completed by October 2025. Lupane State University

is set to benefit from the project through the implementation of the education 5.0 philosophy. Education 5.0 is a philosophy that focuses on harnessing local resources for innovation and industrialization. It emphasizes problem solving and value creation. The project will also support two Masters students registered with Lupane State University with research funding. Other university and local secondary school students can also benefit through look and learn visits.

The team is looking forward to raise awareness on One health

and solid waste management. The project will benefit the community, specifically women and youths in ward 19, Lupane through income generating projects originating from the SWM models. The income generating projects include waste recycling, and reuse. The project will also train communities on project governance, marketing and horticulture. The waiting mothers shelter at St Lukes hospital will also benefit from the biogas generated from the biogas plant. This is expected to reduce deforestation from the St Lukes area.



Images showing the proceedings of stakeholder meeting held in Lupane on 22 January 2025.

Stakeholders applaud LSU's work-study programme

By Buhlebenkosi Makalisa

In a significant development, stakeholders in Lupane District have expressed admiration for Lupane State University's innovative work-study program.

This initiative provides underprivileged students and orphans with the opportunity to pursue their studies while working during their holidays for 200 hours at the university.

The programme has been hailed as a game-changer in promoting access to quality education, while also protecting vulnerable students from exposure to dangers.

The work-study programme, which enables students to offset their tuition fees through work, has been praised for its holistic approach to education.

By providing students with a safe and supportive learning environment, the programme helps to shield them from the dangers of child labor, exploitation and abuse.

According to stakeholders, the programme will be instrumental

in reducing the risk of students being forced into early marriage, prostitution and other forms of exploitation.

By providing students with a stable and secure environment, the programme enables them to focus on their studies, free from the burdens of poverty and vulnerability.

LSU's Senior Administrator Assistant in Marketing and Public Relations department, Mcendisi Ngwenya, revealed that the work-study programme in a meeting held at the Lupane World Vision boardroom on January 22, 2025.

The meeting discussed plans and improvements aimed at enhancing education in schools.

Stakeholders praised the work-study programme, noting that it aligns with the district's goals of providing quality education to all students, regardless of their background.

"The work-study programme is a beacon of hope for many vulnerable students in our district, providing them with access to education and a safe learning environment.

We are helping to break the cycle of poverty and protect them from harm," said District Schools Inspector Lovemore Ncube.

LSU's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility has been demonstrated through this programme, which has been running successfully for some time.

The university offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including courses in agriculture, commerce, humanities, food science, and agricultural processing.

The stakeholders' meeting aimed to shape the district's operational plan for 2025. The meeting's objective was to bring together all relevant parties to ensure a unified approach to education, ultimately leading to the district's success.

Stakeholders noted that the work-study programme enables children to progress in their studies despite the challenges they face.

By providing a safety net, the programme ensures that vulnerable students can continue their education, even when facing finan-

cial difficulties and other obstacles.

The programme has also been praised for its impact on the community. By providing students with work experience and skills training, the programme is helping to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the workforce.

Furthermore, the programme has been credited with promoting social cohesion and community engagement.

By bringing together students from different backgrounds and providing them with opportunities to work together, the programme is helping to foster a sense of unity and cooperation.

With the work-study programme in place, Lupane District is poised to make significant strides in improving access to quality education, while also protecting vulnerable students from harm.

The programme's success is a testament to the power of collaboration and innovative thinking in addressing the educational needs of underprivileged students.

As stakeholders continue to work together to support the programme, it is clear that the work-study programme will remain a vital component of Lupane District's education sector.

By providing vulnerable students with access to education and a safe learning environment, the programme is helping to build a brighter future for generations to come.

The success of the work-study programme has also sparked interest from other districts, motivating vulnerable students. This has the potential to have a far-reaching impact, improving access to education for vulnerable students across the country.

The programme is a shining example of innovation and commitment to education.

By providing vulnerable students with access to education and a safe learning environment, the programme is helping to build a brighter future for generations to come.

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Sports, the way to release student academic stress

By Jabulani Mpofo

With the proliferation of higher education and the intensifying social competition, the academic pressure confronting university students has become increasingly pronounced, the pressure not only jeopardizes their mental well-being but also has the potential to impede their academic performance and future career prospects.

Academic stress represents a primary challenge university student's encounter, emanating from diverse sources including coursework demands, examinations, paper submissions, internships, and employment responsibilities. Prolonged exposure to excessive academic stress can precipitate a range of issues such as anxiety, depression, insomnia, and physical discomfort, exerting adverse effects on the mental and physical well-being of university students.

It is undeniable that Universities have to come up with deliberate strategies to assist students in overcoming these debilitating challenges faced by students. Sports provide a vital catharsis avenue to which every student should take advantage of. Lupane State University is offering students some avenues for students to access sports activities and students are encouraged to actively participate. Students should know that they are not supposed to be proficient in any sports discipline, but need only to partake and enjoy themselves. Through their active participation in sports, they will be doing themselves a wealth of service. Participation in sports bolsters the students' self-esteem and confidence. Though showcasing their abilities and achieving success, students garner recognition and affirmation of their self-worth. Additionally, forging close connections with fellow athletes facilitates the formation of a supportive social network, offering emotional reinforcement and encouragement. Consequently, this diminishes feelings of social isolation and loneliness, augmenting happiness and mental well-being.

Moreover, engagement in sports endeavours can enhance body image and satisfaction, fostering increased self-acceptance and contentment with one's physical appearance, thereby mitigating anxiety and stress associated with appearance. Importantly, the relationship between university students' sports activities and mental health is reciprocal: active involvement in sports enhances mental well-being, while robust mental

health status further motivates students to participate actively in sports. Hence, actively promoting campus sports activities emerges as a potent means to nurture the mental health of our students.

To students, sports is not for the playful students who have time to waste, sports is a critical psycho-social tool that brings out certain attributes you never knew existed in you. Through mixing and mingling with other students you network and improve yourself in handling academic pressures you thought were insurmountable. Do not ignore sports there is a lifeline in it, rediscover yourself and take on the world.

Engaging in sports activities allows students to break free from the monotony of studying and immerse themselves in a different environment. It provides an opportunity to socialize, build relationships, and connect with fellow students who share similar interests. The camaraderie and teamwork fostered through sports can create a sense of belonging and support, alleviating the feelings of isolation and loneliness that often accompany academic stress.

Moreover, sports offer a much-needed outlet for students to release pent up energy and tension. Physical exercise stimulates the production of endorphins, the body's natural mood enhancers, which can help combat feelings of anxiety and depression. By engaging in regular physical activity, students can improve their overall mental well-being, leading to increased resilience and a better ability to cope with academic challenges.

Furthermore, participating in sports can have a positive impact on academic performance. Studies have shown that students who engage in regular physical activity tend to have better cognitive function, improved memory retention, and increased problem-solving skills. The discipline and time management required to balance sports and academics can also translate into better study habits and improved academic outcomes.

In conclusion, sports provide a much-needed respite from academic stress and offer numerous benefits for university students. By actively participating in sports activities, students can enhance their overall well-being, build social connections, and improve their academic performance. Universities should continue to prioritize and promote sports as an integral part of the student experience, recognizing its potential to alleviate academic stress and contribute to the holistic development of students.

Compliments of the New Season

As we usher in the year 2025, I extend a warm welcome to all athletes. At this time, we may not have a finalized sports calendar, but I encourage everyone to engage in regular practice. New members interested in participating in sports are invited to join the Staff Sports Group via the link available on the Campus Connect platform. Once you have joined the main group, please select your preferred discipline and follow the link provided within the group.

Regular participation in sports is vital for maintaining physical fitness and overall well-being. We offer a diverse range of disciplines for our members, including soccer, women's soccer, volleyball, chess, darts, tennis, table tennis, tug-of-war, shot put, javelin, tso-ro, draught, and many more.

Sport possesses the unique ability to challenge the status quo, inspire greatness, and unite individuals from all walks of life. Through our shared passion for athletics, we come together to innovate, motivate, and inspire one another.

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Linda.L.Mugabe

Vice Chairperson of the LSU Sports Association.



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