

GSU Successfully Holds 2nd AGM

Gwanda State University successfully held its 2nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation Science and Technology Development in Harare, on Monday 22 January 2024.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Pic 1: From left is the Honourable Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Professor dr. A. Murwira, former Council Chairperson Mrs M E Mwamuka, Vice-Chancellor Professor D Z Moyo and The Bursar, Mr P Zhira.
Pic2: Vice-Chancellor Professor D Z Moyo (standing) presenting during AGM proceeding.

Annual general meetings (AGMs) are held so as to track transparency within organisations, and to hold management accountable for the day to day running of an organisation.

The AGM was held in compliance with the Public Entities Corporate Governance Act, Chapter [10:31], No 4 of 2018. The meeting which was chaired by the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Prof dr Amon Murwira, adopted the Audited Financials and Audit statement reports of the Auditors for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2022.

The Vice-Chancellor also presented the 2022 Annual Report during the AGM. The Annual Report detailed the activities that the University was engaged in during the course of that year. Highlights of these activities were the installation of the Gwanda State University's first Chancellor, Cde, Dr. E D Mngangwa and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor D Z Moyo.

The Report further mentioned Gwanda State University successfully holding its first graduation ceremony and the laying of the foundation stones for the Engineering Laboratory and Innovation Complex as well as the Agro-Innovation Complex buildings.

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Clr.
Dr Sheri Nyakudya
Council Chairperson

Third GSU Council Appointed

The third Gwanda State University Council was appointment on 12 March 2024. The 10 elected members are to play an oversight role in the governance and management of the institution.



Clr.
Eng. S H Ncube
Vice-Council
Chairperson



Clr.
Eng. Sydney
Mandidi



Clr.
Mrs. Veronica
Mutiro



Clr.
Mr. Courage
Shonhiwa



Clr.
Prof. Andrew
Siwela



Clr.
Mrs. Priscilla
Musundire



Clr.
Mr. Cletos
Masawi



Clr.
Ms. Priscillar
Nkala

Dr Sheri Nyakudya was appointed the Council Chairperson. Other members of the Council are Eng Sijabuliso Harold Ncube, was elected as the Vice-Chairperson of Council, Eng Sydney Mandidi, Mr Tendai Cletos Masawi, Mrs Veronica Mutiro, Professor Andrew Hlanganiso Siwela, Mrs Priscilla Musundire, Mrs Cyndrella Masimbe, Ms Priscillar Nkala and Mr Courage Shonhiwa.

According to the Gwanda State University Act of Parliament (Chapter 25:30), No5/2016, the governance and executive authority of the University is vested in the University Council. As such, the University Council plays an oversight role in the management of the University.

Council members operate through various committees of council as well as joint committees of Council and Senate.

Some of the major functions of Council are to:

- (i) cause to be prepared annually a statement of the income and expenditure of the University during the previous financial year, and of the assets and liabilities of the University on the last day of such year;
- (ii) submit statements of income and expenditure referred to in paragraph
- (iii) to audit by an auditor appointed by the Council, and publish such statements and the auditor's reports thereon;
- (iv) cause to be prepared annually estimates of income and expenditure for the following financial year;
- (v) cause to be prepared and made available to the public a report on the activities of the University during each year;
- (vi) prepare and refer to the Senate any proposed amendment, repeal or replacement of the Statutes.

(vii) Without limitation on any other powers conferred on the Council by this Act, the Council shall have the following powers –

(viii)

- (a) to receive recommendations from the Senate for conferment, withdrawal or restoration of degrees, including honorary degrees, and diplomas, certificates and other awards and distinctions of the University and, if approved, to submit them to the Chancellor;
- (b) to amend, repeal or replace the Statutes in terms of section 31(2);
- (c) to administer the property of the University and control its affairs and functions;
- (d) to delegate its functions to the Executive Committee or any other committee or officer of the University.

GSU Participates at the Inaugural Times Higher Education Pan-Africa Summit



Vice-Chancellor Professor D Z Moyo

The Vice-Chancellor Professor DZ Moyo attended the Times Higher Education Pan-Africa Summit that was held from 17-18 April 2024, at the University of Pretoria, in South Africa.

The inaugural summit which ran under the theme "The Future of African Higher Education," was attended by 300 University leaders from 32 countries.

The objectives of the summit focused on the role of a Vice-Chancellors in enhancing employability of graduates, creating a sustainable knowledge economy in the African higher education system, the interdisciplinary science rankings and Pan-Africa Universities, digital transformation and the role of academic and industry partnerships in promoting sustainable development.

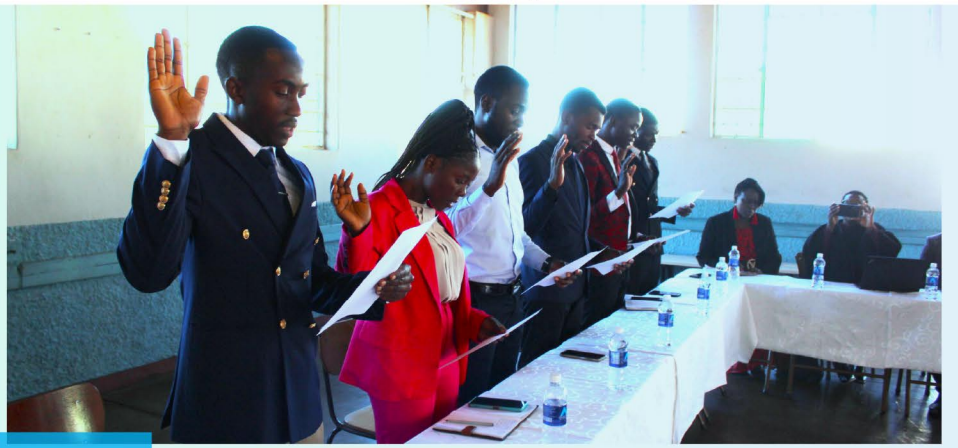
University leaders were reminded of the role of a University in fulfilling the aspirations of society by proffering solutions and the development of future leaders with the right mindset and skills to drive sustainable economic development. The summit theme augured well with aspirations of Gwanda State University, as enshrined in the Strategic Plan, and focused on collaborations that are inclusive, facilitate engagements with industry, impactful and strengthen innovative ecosystems. Internationalisation of higher education was flagged as an important cog for advancement of research and sustainability of a University.

Inauguration of New SEC Members

Fourteen (14) students were sworn in to the new Student Executive Council (SEC) on Thursday 13 June 2024 at Epoch Mine Campus. The SEC is elected annually by the students and it consists of 14 members. Makomborero Vushe is the out-going SEC president.



SEC President: Mr Elvis Rindi (standing) giving his inaugural speech



SEC Members taking oath during their inauguration



Vice-Chancellor Professor D Z Moyo (seated in the middle) posing for a photo with the newly sworn in SEC Members.

Elvis Rindi Elvis F was elected the president of the Student Executive Council, Ms Gatahwi Merjury Vice-President, Mkombe Handsome Secretary-General, Magodora Nyaradzo T Minister of Internal and External Affairs, Mutuumwe Lacastancia Minister of Health and Nutrition Muleya Grace Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Vushe Audrey Minister of Gender and Social Affairs, Sanzira Tinotenda Minister of Academic Affairs, Mukokanduku Anesu C Minister of Residence and Non Residence, Maganga Langton M Minister of Sports and Entertainment, Manhimanzi Zvikomborero Minister of Transport and Security, Mapfumo Nigel T. Minister of Information and Publicity, Moyo Given S. Minister of Finance, Mwashita Cadet-light Minister of Cultural and Religious Affairs.

Taking their oaths during the inauguration, the new SEC Members pledged to perform their new office duties faithfully and impartially. They further highlighted that they were going to bear true faith and allegiance for the common good of the institution.

The SEC offers a variety of services to individual students and different student groupings and in offering these services the SEC exercises political, economic and administrative authority in order to manage the activities of student life. As such, the SEC is the highest decision-making structure of student governance at Gwanda State University.

The SEC is a vital stakeholder within Gwanda State University, since various decisions require consultation with the SEC, as a result, Gwanda State University, through these processes, embraces the notion of co-operative governance.

GSU Agro-Innovation Hub and Industrial Park cattle project was featured at the recently launched book entitled "Redefining Zimbabwe's Education System: ED Mnangagwa's Vision and Transformational Leadership".

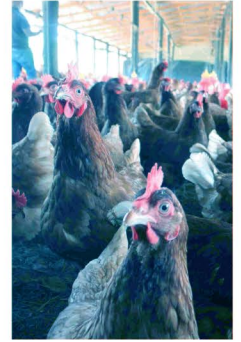
The Heritage Based Education 5.0 Book was launched by President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa in Harare.

The Agro-Innovation Hub and Industrial Park is one of the University's projects that supports Education 5.0 and it aims at feeding into the national food security cluster. It seeks to contribute to poverty reduction, economic growth, greater resilience and social cohesion in Zimbabwe through enhanced productivity and commercialisation of agriculture. Further, it contributes to NDS1 and the transformation of Zimbabwe into an upper middle class economy by year 2030.

With respect to animal agriculture, the project is underpinned by the following research areas: Animal health and welfare, grazing land management, genetics and genomics, livestock production, food safety and traceability, product innovation and marketing, biosecurity, digital animal agriculture as well as feed development.

With respect to crop agriculture, the project is underpinned by the following research areas: plant breeding and genetics, integrated pest and disease management, biopesticides, post-harvest technologies, crop yield maximisation and management, organic production techniques, product innovation and marketing, greenhouse technology, hydroponics and vertical farming as well as digital crop agriculture/ Precision agriculture/ Smart agriculture-techniques. In his remarks, President Mnangagwa said the launch of the book underscored the -

GSU Agro-Innovation Hub and Industrial Park Set to Drive Education 5.0



centrality of education as a critical driver to propel Africa's development, modernisation, industrialisation and prosperity. He added that a robust, relevant and responsive education system further facilitates the realisation of the potential of technology and innovation for economic growth, peace, equality and the eradication of poverty.

“Education and knowledge have always been the cornerstone of progress, a beacon of hope and a sustainable pathway to a brighter-prosperous future, even here in our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.” He said.

“Since time immemorial, culture, heritage and education have been important threads which weave together the fabric of our identity, industrialisation and modernisation,” he added. Through the country's Heritage-Based Education 5.0 model, President Mnangagwa said the Second Republic has ushered in a new era of learning, innovation and creativity.

“Through the Heritage-Based Education 5.0 Model we have ushered in a new era of learning, innovation and creativity. This is further exhibited by the integration of our abundant natural resources and rich heritage, with the innovative tools and technologies to produce goods and services,” President Mnangagwa said.

He further unpacked the concept of heritage that it is not merely an heirloom of the past but rather evidence of the country's resilience, wisdom and values.

“Equally, our heritage has never been a mere relic of the past; it is a living testament to our resilience, wisdom and shared values”.

“Guided by the philosophy Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatirwa nevene vayo/Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo, we have intricately interwoven our education and heritage to re-define and re-shape the future of our country”.

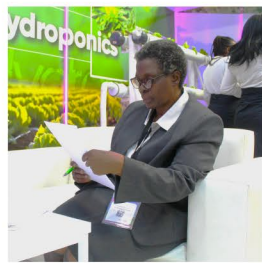
President Mnangagwa said innovation and ingenuity have always been in Zimbabweans' DNA as evidenced by innovations such as the Great Zimbabwe monument.

“By reflecting on the Dzimhahwe and Mutapa civilisations, we are reminded that innovation and ingenuity have always been a part of who we are, as a people and the descendants of the great Munhumutapa. Hence, under my administration, the Heritage-Based Education 5.0 model is not just an educational philosophy; it is a transformational and mind-shifting approach that empowers our people to appreciate their foundational roots, understand their place in the world and envision a modern future,” he said.



GSU @ Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) 2024

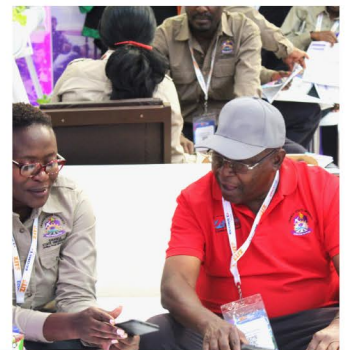
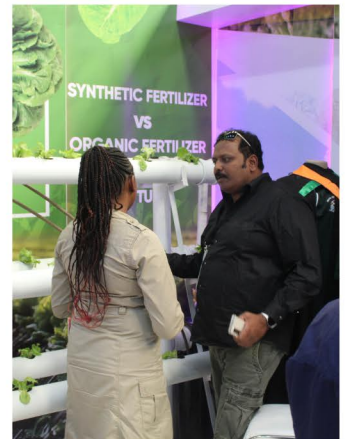
In pictures





GSU @ Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) 2024

In pictures





by Julius Munodawafa (Director: Monitoring and Evaluation of Performance Contracting, Gwananda State University)

Introduction

This article seeks to delve into the concept of performance contracting which herein shall be referred to as PC. This is a new way of doing business by public institutions. Most recently there has been a demand for improved service delivery of public sector institutions with citizens, governments, pressure groups, opposition political parties and a lot other stakeholders putting pressure and emphasising on transparency and accountability on the part of public institutions.

The PC philosophy has in fact introduced a new way of doing business particularly in the public sector. PC calls for an organised and efficient way of conducting public service business. The new way calls for outputs and results instead of just inputs. It calls for target setting and follow up of systems. PC has been defined as a system which in itself is used to define responsibility and expectations between parties in order to achieve common results.

PC therefore entails the setting of performance expectations and goals for individuals and groups so that they can direct their efforts towards achieving set objects of an organisation. The process of drawing up PCs makes it an effective and efficient management system as it aligns individual and group objectives to the overall organisational goals and ultimately national goals. Gone are the days of doing things haphazardly where public sector employees have been accused of being complacent in their way of doing things.

Tracing PC approach

Performance Contracting can be traced to France in the late 1960s. The process has also been used in India, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. The UK and New Zealand also introduced PCs in the 1980s. What is common is that PC emerged when governments were experimenting with the outcome based approach in their operations. The PC idea brings about a shift of focus from inputs and processes to measurable outcomes and results. Africa has not been left alone. Kenya, for example has made huge strides in the use of PC where the government introduced PC as a written agreement between the government and heads of state agencies with the idea of delivering improved services to the public. Public servants are expected to come up with quantifiable targets which are explicitly stated and specified and covers a period of one financial year.

Obong'o S.O (2009) comments that Kenya introduced PC not only to improve service delivery but to also refocus the mindset of public service away from a culture of inward looking towards a culture of business as focused on the customer and results. Rwanda has also used PC as a way of institutionalising a performance oriented culture in service delivery, measurement and evaluation of performance as well as linking rewards and sanctions to measurable performance. Both Kenya and Rwanda have used committees and teams to administer and coordinate the process in the public sector. *(continued next page)*

Kenya for instance uses the Performance Contracts Steering Committee (PCSC) which gets assistance from an ad hoc negotiation or evaluation task force to negotiate, evaluate and moderate the performance of ministries and state owned enterprises. Namibia and Tanzania have also adopted performance contracting as a strategy towards reforming state corporations.

Zimbabwe recently introduced performance contracting as one big strategy by the second republic. One of Zimbabwe's guiding philosophies is 'leaving no one and no place behind'. Adoption of such a philosophy has enabled Zimbabwe not to be left behind particularly on public sector reforms which has given birth to performance contracting. Within a short period of time, Zimbabwe, through the second republic has ensured there is order within the public sector system.

Performance Contracting in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has ensured there is a well-coordinated system where all public officials are expected to sign performance contracts at the beginning of each year. A process which started with cabinet ministers signing PCs during the covid 19 period has immediately cascaded to all high ranking public officials. Zimbabwe believes PCs are an accountability tool which hold public officials to account as they execute their duties. The idea is to ensure that checks and balances are put in place to see whether such officials are performing as expected. Where one is performing well, they are rewarded and recognised. Where one is underperforming it is critical to establish what may be the cause. If for instance it is due to factors which can be addressed, then that will be done. If the underperforming is attributed to the individual employee, they may be relieved of their duties.

Signing of PCs should not be viewed as an annual ritual but a process which should be taken seriously to bring about change and more towards the achievement of the national vision.

The Monitoring and Evaluation departments in Zimbabwe's systems should be adequately capacitated to be able to deliver. More resources should be channelled towards creating and sustaining a reward system. The PC system should be free from political interference by senior public officials. An effective PC process should derive its roots from the legal and policy provisions of that particular institution.

For instance, in Zimbabwe, the national vision leads all public officials, 'towards a prosperous and empowered middle income society by 2030'.

More so, the vision 2030 then through NDS1 ensures that all public sector institutions have in place strategic plans, annual plans and the Chief Executive Officer's Performance Contracts.

Conclusion

The article above focused on the PC as a new public sector philosophy. The article looked at the background to the PC, how it emerged from France and ultimately spread to countries like UK, Kenya, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. From the discussion above, it can certainly be concluded that PCs have brought forth results for Zimbabwe's public sector system by enhancing accountability and improving public sector performance. The government of Zimbabwe has introduced PCs for senior office bearers. However, for the PC to be more effective there is need for them to be fully implemented and monitored. In conclusion, PCs are a necessary tool in Zimbabwe as it aims to enhance governance, transparency and accountability of public officers and ultimately benefitting citizens and the nation as a whole.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author. They do not represent the opinions of any individual or organisation.

Women's Month Celebrated in Style



THANK YOU!

At Gwanda State University, women's month celebrations did not go unnoticed. The Vice-Chancellor Professor DZ Moyo appreciated all Gwanda State University female employees for their hard work and commitment to keeping the University functions running smoothly. March is the World Women's Month to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women throughout history and contemporary society.



The first National Woman's Day was observed in the United States on 28 February, 1909. The Socialist Party of America designated this day in honour of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, where women protested against working conditions. Officially recognised by the United Nations in 1977, International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe.

The concept of a day to celebrate women workers caught on in Europe, but in the United States the holiday's socialist and communist origins felt like a cause for concern.

The myth of a U.S.-based strike as the day's beginning helped American feminists accept the holiday, especially in light of Cold War tensions—

though the myth seemingly originated in a 1957 issue of the French daily newspaper *L'Humanité*, whose editors wanted to separate the holiday from French socialist and communist groups, and not in the United States.

To date, International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognised for their achievements despite national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political affiliations.

Drawing closer home, the nation at large celebrated the Women's Month under the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate progress." The campaign, known as the "Every Stage of Woman," focused on reproductive health and support for women from adolescence to menopause.

It aimed at empowering, educating, and reassuring women throughout their various life stages.

Zimbabwean women have shown remarkable resilience despite numerous challenges, emphasising their collective strength and unity.

Women's efforts in the development of the African continent have been hailed too. This is evidenced by the advent of the African's Africa Day which is observed annually across the continent on 31 July and is a day earmarked to recognise and affirm the role of women's organising in achieving the political freedom of Africa and advancing the social and economic status of women on the continent.

Africa's Women's Day was proclaimed as a day to be commemorated during the first conference of the Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO) which was held in July 1962 in Dar es Salaam Tanganyika (now known as Tanzania).

Africa's Women's Day offers a national, continental and global opportunity to recall and affirm the significant role of African women in the evolution of a strong Pan-African identity, with shared values, objectives and vision for the future, as well as women being key contributors towards achieving Africa's inclusive growth and sustainable development agenda anchored in the AU vision of an integrated prosperous and peaceful Africa.

Women in Science Celebrated

Dr. Annabel Banda, the Chairperson of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Production at Gwanda State University, received a Women in Science Recognition Award at the inaugural Women in Science and Technology and Innovation Conference held on the 20th to the 22nd of March 2024 in Harare.



From left is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Professor F. Tagwira, Chairperson of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Production, Dr A. Banda, CEO of Elevate Trust, Ms S. Dube (STEM-Lady), and Chairlady of Organisation for Women (Zimbabwe National Chapter) in Science, Ms S. Muyambo

The Conference was hosted by Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education Innovation Science and Technology Development, Elevate Trust, Women In Academia, and the Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD). Speaking during the Conference, Honourable Minister for Higher and Tertiary Education Innovation, Science and Technology Development Prof. dr. Amon Murwira encouraged women to take action and actively shape the environment they aspire to see in Academia, Innovation, and Research.

The awards, which were presented by Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development, Professor F. Tagwira were given to women who have demonstrated exceptional excellence in STEM fields.

The recognition awards served as a testament to the dedication and perseverance of women who have made significant contributions to Zimbabwe's scientific landscape.

The success of the inaugural conference paves the way for future events that will continue to empower women and inspire the next generation of STEM leaders in Zimbabwe.

According to United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), addressing barriers to STEM education requires a multifaceted approach that challenges gendered attitudes, expectations, and biases.

UNESCO's initiatives focus on empowering girls by fostering their confidence and providing them with supportive environments where they can thrive. Central to these efforts is the role of female teachers who serve as key role models and mentors. They play a major part in inspiring girls to pursue STEM careers and break down stereotypes.

Jason Ziyaphapha Moyo High School Visit in pictures



Demystifying Money Public Lecture

The 2007 global financial crisis fueled critical scholarship on the geographies of finance, money, credit and debt. This research led to calls for clarifying and demystifying modern money and credit to better understand the proliferation of debt, austerity, and inequality within the contemporary nexus of capitalist class relations, and the broader imperative of managing global economic growth and crises under financialisation.

Gwanda State University staff and students participated at the "Demystifying money" public lecture event which was organised by Raysun Capital (Pvt) Ltd. The event which took place at Epoch Mine Campus, aimed at delving deeper into the financial budgeting and saving aspects.

Raysun Capital (Pvt) Ltd. is a financial services company that uses fintech to offer financing for small businesses and entrepreneurs in Africa. It is committed to transforming lives by providing tailored financial solutions such as start-up funding, working capital and short term credit solutions to individuals and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The public lecture came at a time when the Zimbabwean economy is on a growth trajectory after the 2007 global financial crisis and economic meltdown which affected micro and macro economies extensively.

The economic dilemma fuelled critical scholarship on the geographies of finance, money, credit and debt research led to calls for clarifying and demystifying modern money and credit to better understand the proliferation of debt, austerity, and inequality within the contemporary nexus of capitalist class relations, and the broader imperative of managing global economic growth and crises under financialisation. The event focused on demystifying money and provided a platform to share invaluable insights, foster financial resilience, and equip staff and students with the knowledge needed to make informed financial decisions, thereby ultimately contributing to the national economic development and stability.

The objectives of the public lecture were to (i) examine tools and resources for making sound and informed financial decisions, (ii) enhance the understanding of fundamental financial concepts such as budgeting, investing, saving and debt management for tertiary students, and explore the importance of financial independence and entrepreneurship for economic growth and development within Zimbabwe.



Raysun Capital Founder, Mr Brian Munywarara, presenting to staff and students during the public lecture



Simosenkosi Mathobela

Gwanda State University scooped ten (3 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 5 bronze medals) medals at the '2023' Chancellor of Zimbabwe Staff Games which were hosted by the National University of Science and Technology from 17 to 22 June 2024.

Under individual competitions in athletics discipline, Ishmael Msipha won a gold medal in 400 metres and a silver medal in 200 metres, Tendai Phiri won a bronze medal in 100 metres while Wiston Banda won 2 silver medals in 200 metres and 100 metres respectively, in the 45 years and above age group.

Under the track events, Team GSU, comprising of Tendai Phiri, Micah M Nyoni, Brian Mauya and Allion T Mpofu, won a silver medal in the 4 x 100 metres relay competitions.



At the centre is Ishmael Msipha, the 400 metres Gold Medalist, during his crowning moment.

GSU Bags 14 Medals at the '2023' Chancellor of Zimbabwe Staff Games



GOLD x 3, SILVER x 6
AND BRONZE x 5
MEDALS

Team GSU composing of Luratho BV Bhebhe, Simon Lameck, Walter Ndlovu and Simosenkosi Mathobela also brought home a silver medal in 4 x 400 metres relay, while Lovemore Nkomo grabbed a bronze medal in the walk race.

In the field events, Farai Madongorere scooped a gold medal while Rachel Nkomo won a bronze medal in the Javelin competitions. In the darts competitions, Team GSU, which was made up of Michael Matsheza, Kennedy Magaya, Kwandokuhle Ncube, Lovemore Nkomo, Mxolisi Sibanda, Nisbert Ncube, Rico Moyo and Chance Moyo won bronze medals. Under traditional games competitions, Rico Moyo grabbed a gold medal in tsoro competitions while Rumbidzai Gwenhure and Monica Tshuma won bronze medals in tsoro competitions.

Under draught competitions Rico Moyo and Keith Mutambaneshango scooped silver medals.



'2023' Chancellor of Zimbabwe Staff Games in pictures.



Team GSU Excels at ZUSA Games

Gwanda State University team participated and excelled at the recently ended Zimbabwe Universities Sports Association (ZUSA) Games held at the Midlands State University. The University participated in the basketball, Soccer, netball, Volleyball and Chess competitions.

Sports are important for personal growth, well-being, and developing crucial life skills for Gwanda State Students. They promote mental health, social connections, teamwork, and leadership. By participating in sports, we learn discipline, perseverance, and the ability to overcome challenges.

Sports bring people together, break down social barriers, and provide a platform for individuals to showcase their talents and skills. They can also serve as a source of inspiration and motivation, teaching valuable life lessons such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.



GSU Men's Volleyball Team Members



GSU Netball Team Members



GSU Men's Basketball Members



GSU Men's Soccer Team Members

The Paradigm Shift – from High School to University



**Article written by
Nobukhosi N Ncube**

I can't believe this is me right now, sitting on my single bed in the middle of a cold night surrounded by tones of books all waiting for me to peruse through them and find answers, whilst my dear roommate is sleeping on her bed across mine, snoring her life away. My mind is in a battlefield filled with deadlines, assignments – pressure to make my parents proud and become someone in life.

University life is often misinterpreted, glamorized to be all about party life however the truth about it is far from that. It all starts with late nights, drinking countless cups of coffee just to stay awake, early mornings, two-minute baths start to be normal, before you notice everything starts taking an emotional toll on you.

University students are expected to make everything work, balance social life, personal and mental wellbeing, at the same time, making sure nothing falls apart as we figure out our future. It is a heavy burden and it takes a strong willed person to fight tooth and nail so as to make it.

I have seen friends struggling with anxiety, depression and even burnouts, myself not being an exception. Whilst the pressure of succeeding may seem suffocating, it is better than the fear of failure which is like an electrical shock that paralyzes the whole body.

However, the joy of being a University student is that no man is an island hence you are never alone, we are a community, all struggling together. And in that struggle, together we find strength.

We find strength in the late nights, through texting a friend and sharing the same experiences. We find strength in those distinctions achieved and the collective sighs of relief after each assignment is submitted on time. We find strength in those little moments of victory and as we pray to succeed in the final examinations.

University life is a challenge but it is also a privilege that some people can only wish to have, hence when that privilege has been granted to you, one needs to make the most out of it. It is a chance to grow, to do self-introspection, and to find yourself and what you are capable of doing. So, dear colleagues, let us embrace the struggle, support each other and let us remember we are not alone in this journey.

Luncheon with the Vice-Chancellor

Article written by Nobukhosi N Ncube

At Gwanda State University, a long standing tradition of an event to honor the academic achievements of top performing students still stands. Every semester, students who outshine others academically, earn themselves a spot at the Vice-Chancellor's lunch table.

The invitation itself is a privilege, symbolising the University's interests in the students' hard work and dedication. Before the event, common mixed emotions such as that of excitement and nervousness are shared by students. No greater excitement exceeds the feeling of rubbing shoulders with the Vice-Chancellor, a warm and elegant woman, who has remarkably achieved a lot in her career journey.

During the luncheon, students are given a platform to share their research interests and projects, in turn the Vice-Chancellor offers valuable advice and shows genuine interest in the students' experiences and aspirations. The lunch is usually filled with moments of laughter, relaxation and oneness.

As the lunch comes to an end the students always depart with a renewed sense of purpose, motivated to continue striving for greater pursuits.

The tradition symbolizes the University's commitment to recognizing and nurturing exceptional talent, fostering a legacy of academic distinction, with the hope of motivating others to do better.

This is due to mounting of unachieved tasks and set targets which are caused by procrastination and failure to plan to perform activities according to their importance. If only people who are trapped in this calamity would invest time in studying the bugs in their schedules and reflect on why they go under these conditions, they would really give a shot at time management skill development. Meeting deadlines really just gives that satisfaction and a sense of pride.

If one has a task at hand that needs to be perfectly executed, they need to create a properly scheduled program plan to achieve that task, they will have a lot of time to relax and refresh after the task has been achieved. Below are tips that can assist in time management:

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR ATTAINING EFFECTIVE TIME MANAGEMENT

- Setting clear goals and priorities according to their importance.
- Use a planner, calendar, or app to schedule task for instance Google Classroom, alarms.
- Make a to-do list.
- Break tasks into manageable chunks.
- Eliminate distractions and minimize multitasking.
- Review and adjust the schedule regularly.

Mastering time management is a skill that can be developed with practice. Implementation of these tips can optimize daily routine. Students can exploit these skills to plan excellent reading schedules. Food for thought, if students can undergo these hiccups because of lacking time management skill, imagine the effect on workman-student.

Time Management- A Crucial Component For Success



Article written by
Cynthia Moyo

When shifting from high school to University, I noticed that time management is very crucial.

In my own words, I would define time management as structuring and planning how to perform tasks in a given period of time be it a day, week or month. If executed effectively, time management will increase productivity, ease stress and pressure, leaves time for relaxation. In a University environment, one has targets and standards to meet. The achievement of these set targets result in increased productivity and achievement of superb results like excelling in assignments, examinations and or projects.

At University, stress and pressure are major factors that have often led to poor grades, bunking lectures, stress related ailments like hypertension and suicides.

GSU-Charity Club Donates to Mpumelelo Secondary School

In a bid to positively contribute to the Filabusi community, Gwanda State University Charity Club donated a total of 15 boxes of sanitary pads (360 packets), clothes and foodstuffs to 70 girls at Mpumelelo Secondary school, in Sukasihambe Village, on Friday 14 June, 2024.

The event which was dubbed "Pad drive" ran under the theme "Restore Girl Child's Confidence" and it aimed at promoting menstrual hygiene management, empowering girls, and providing essential items to the less privileged pupils.

The Club also delivered a lecture on the awareness of drug and substance abuse, child marriages, teen pregnancies, and career guidance for both girls and boys. The sessions, which were aimed at breaking down stigmas and fostering a sense of unity and understanding, allowed for open discussions, which resulted in both the boys and girls reaching a consensus on these matters. Research has shown that many girls between the ages of 12-19 miss a week of school every month due to lack of sanitary pads. In Ghana and Uganda, girls who are provided with underwear and sanitary pads have 30 to 50 percent chances of staying in school during that time of the month.

According to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), investing in girls' education transforms communities, countries and the entire world. Girls who receive an education are less likely to marry young and more likely to lead healthy, productive lives. They earn higher incomes, participate in the decisions that most affect them, and build better futures for themselves and their families. In addition, girls' education strengthens economies and reduces inequality. It contributes to more stable and resilient societies that give all individuals – including boys and men – the opportunity to fulfil their potential.



Gwanda State University Charity Club Members distribute sanitary pads to Mpumelelo Secondary School pupils



Gwanda State University Charity Club Members at Mpumelelo Secondary School



Above, Gwanda State University Charity Club Members and Mpumelelo Secondary School pupils pose for a photo



Mpumelelo Secondary School beneficiaries

It's a
FLU & SEASON!!!

TAKE PRECAUTIONS THIS WINTER

As Zimbabwe is in the middle of the cold winter season, the nation cannot be spared from the bacterial and viral disorders, such as all types of flus, COVID 19 and other respiratory infections that are exacerbated by this season. GSU community is being advised to practise respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. In cases where one is not sure about how they are feeling, kindly visit the clinic for further consultation.



● Below are some measures that can be implored to suppress the spread of these disorders:

- If you have a fever or flu symptoms, don't go to school or work.
- Stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, unless you need medical care.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, not your hands, when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work and school.



● Practice Healthy Habits:

Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.



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DON'T BE LEFT OUT,
HURRY
AND **ENROLL**
NOW!



AUGUST INTAKE 2024

CONVENTIONAL

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