

The Pacesetter

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OFFICIAL MUTARE POLYTECHNIC

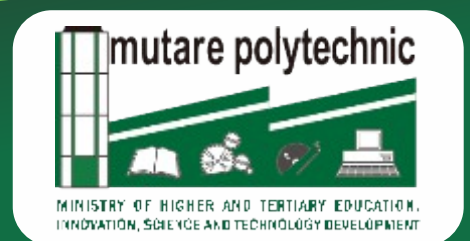
Magazine

13

**Six Mutare
Poly Students**
Win Presidential
Students Awards

20

Lecturer in Germany
for Workshop



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THE ATUPA
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

WELCOME CONFERENCE



We are The
Pacesetter



WELCOME TO 2023 ATUPA CONFERENCE, ACCRA



Ministry of Education
Republic of Ghana





Mambondiyani Charity

Editor's Note

Greetings once again to you all Pacesetter Magazine readers. The Pacesetter is an annual magazine which covers developments and life at Mutare Polytechnic. As my team and I put together the articles and pictures, we focused on Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach (ISEOP) programme; a government initiative aimed at promoting economic development through

knowledge and skills development across the province. We hope that the youths, women and marginalised groups in Manicaland and other provinces will explore the potential of ISEOP in alleviating unemployment, poverty and inequality in Zimbabwe; leaving no one and no place behind.

For more information on ISEOP

one can visit Mutare Polytechnic and learn more about the programme.

I therefore invite you all to read this exciting issue and as always, we value your feedback for continuous improvement of your magazine.

Wish you all a happy reading Charity.

Editorial Team



Taurai Dhlwayo



Pretty Chibangwa



Guyford Muchayakanyi

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Prospectus

Applied Arts & Sciences



APPLIED ARTS

Course	Levels Offered	Career Opportunities	Entry Requirements
ART & DESIGN	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS)	Advertiser, Graphic Designers, Illustrator, Photographer, Fine Artist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all NC Courses:- Five 'O' Level passes including English For all ND Courses:- 5'0' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification. HND: 5 'O' Level passes plus relevant ND Qualification
BEAUTY THERAPY	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS) HND (1YR)	Make up artist, Massage Technician, Hair stylist, Beauty Therapist	
FASHION DESIGN	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS) HND (1YR)	Fashion Designer, Freelance Designer, Fashion Buyer, Consultant, Merchandiser, Lecturer/ Teacher, Fashion Illustrator, Fashion Editor	
INDUSTRIAL CLOTHING & TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS) HND (1YR)	Consultant, Quality Controller, Pattern Maker, Production Manager, Lecturer/ Teacher, Designer, Buyer	
MUSIC	NC (1YR)	Music Teacher, Culture Consultant, Sound Engineering, DJ, Music Composer, Ethnomusicologist, Arts Coordinator, Music Director.	

APPLIED SCIENCE

Course	Levels Offered	Career Opportunities	Entry Requirements
HORTICULTURE	NC (2YRS), ND (2YRS) HND (1YR6M)	Horticulture Managers, Field Agriculture Officers in NGOs, Agriculture Teachers, Agriculture Extension Officers, Entrepreneur.	5 'O' Levels Including English, Mathematics and Science
LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY	NC (2YR)	Agriculture Inspection Officers, Assistant Chemical Analyst, Assistant laboratory Technician, Assistant	

TOURISM & HOSPITALITY STUDIES

Course	Levels Offered	Career Opportunities	Entry Requirements
BAKERY STUDIES	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND (1YR)	Bakery Supervisor, Bakery Hand, Pastry Chef, Confectioner, Bread Maker, Bakery Manager, Recipe Assembler, Production Manager.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all NC Courses:- Five 'O' Level passes including English For all ND Courses:- 5'0' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification. HND: 5 'O' Level passes plus relevant ND Qualification
FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND (1YR)	Waiter, Bartender, Air hostess, Food & Beverage manager, Restaurant Manager.	
PROFESSIONAL COOKERY (CULINARY ARTS)	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND (1YR)	Cook, Chef, Kitchen Manager, Executive Chef, Entrepreneur, Consultant, Canteen Manager, Matron Boarding Master, Quality Assurance Manager	
TOURISM & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND (1YR)	Hotels, Self-employment, NGOs, Safaris, Nutritionist	

Research Education And Enterprise Development (reed)



EDUCATION

Course	Levels Offered	Career Opportunities	Entry Requirements
FURTHER EDUCATION TRAINER'S DIPLOMA	ND (2YRS)	Lecturer/ Training Officer	5 'O' Levels, Including English & Mathematics

Prospectus

Civil & Construction Engineering



CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

Course	Levels Offered	Career Opportunities	Entry Requirements
BUILDING TECHNOLOGY	NC (3YRS)	Artisan, Foreperson, Technician, Draughtsman, Building Inspector, Supervisor, Own Employer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all NC Courses:- Five 'O' Level passes including English For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification. HND: 5 'O' Level passes plus relevant ND Qualification
CARPENTRY & JOINERY TECHNOLOGY	NC (3YRS)	Artisan, Foreperson, Technician, Draughtsman, Building Inspector, Supervisor, Own Employer	
PAINTING & DECORATING	NC (3YRS)	Artisan, Foreperson, Technician, Draughtsman, Building Inspector, Supervisor, Own Employer	
PLUMBING & DRAIN LAYING TECHNOLOGY	NC (3YRS)	Artisan, Foreperson, Technician, Draughtsman, Building Inspector, Supervisor, Own Employer	
WOOD MACHINING & MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY	NC (3YRS), ND (2YRS 6M), HND (1YR)	Artisans / Craftsmen in Wood Processing & Manufacturing Industries, Factory Production Foreman & Supervisor, Research, Design	
CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING	ND (2YRS 6M), HND (1YR)	Artisans / Craftsmen in Wood Processing & Manufacturing Industries, Factory Production Foreman & Supervisor, Research, Design	
CIVIL ENGINEERING			
CIVIL ENGINEERING	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND (1YR 6M)	Civil Engineering Technicians, Lecturers, Consultancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all NC Courses:- Five 'O' Level passes including English For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification. HND: 5 'O' Level passes plus relevant ND Qualification
QUANTITY SURVEYING ENGINEERING	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS)	Quantity Surveying Technicians, Lecturers, Consultancy	
WATER RESOURCES & IRRIGATION ENGINEERING	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS)	Irrigation Technicians, Irrigation Engineering Technicians, Consultancy	

Bachelor of Technology Degree Programmes



BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY (HONS) IN WOOD TECHNOLOGY

Entry Requirements

- Five Ordinary Level passes including English, Science and Mathematics.
- Be in possession of a Higher National Diploma in Wood Technology or equivalent.
- Be a holder of a Skilled Worker Class One / Journeyman.

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY (HONS) IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

Entry Requirements

- Five Ordinary Level passes including English, Science and Mathematics.
- Be in possession of a Higher National Diploma in Construction Engineering or equivalent.
- Be a holder of a Skilled Worker Class One / Journeyman in the designated trade.

National University of Science and Technology (NUST) In Collaboration with Mutare Polytechnic

Prospectus

Commerce



BUSINESS STUDIES

Course	Levels Offered	Career Opportunities	Entry Requirements
ACCOUNTANCY	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Administrator, Accounts Clerks, Senior Accounting Officers, Finance Managers, Bookkeepers, Sales Managers, Purchasing Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 'O' Levels Including English, Mathematics
BANKING & FINANCE	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Bank Teller, Investment Manager, Treasury Manager, Financial Analyst,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification. HND: 5 'O' Level passes plus relevant ND Qualification

MANAGEMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Human Resources Officers, Managers, Assistants, Health & Safety officers, Labor Relations Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 'O' Levels Including English
MARKETING MANAGEMENT	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Brand Manager, Marketing Officer, Marketing Manager, Sales Manager, Sales Representative, Customer Relations Manager, Marketing Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification.
PURCHASING & SUPPLY	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Buyer, Procurement Manager, Purchasing Clerk, Purchasing Officer, Buying Clerk, Stores / Warehouse Clerk, Stores / Warehouse Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HND: 5 'O' Level passes plus relevant ND Qualification
TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Transport Operations, Distribution Management, Supply Chain Logistics, Port Operations, Clearing Agency, Exportation, Importation	

OFFICE MANAGEMENT

OFFICE MANAGEMENT	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR&M)	Administrative assistant, Personal assistant, Executive secretary, Executive assistant, Office manager, Typist or word processor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 'O' Levels Including English
SECRETARIAL STUDIES	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS)	Data capture, Secretary, Clerk, Receptionist, Legal secretary, Office assistant, Team secretary, Audio typist, Office lady	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification. HND: 5 'O' Level passes plus relevant ND Qualification

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Data entry clerk, Website Developer, Computer Technician Computer Operator, Systems Developer, administrator Analyst or programmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 'O' Levels Including English,
LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Librarian, Bibliographer, Information Management Professional, Information Officer, Public Relations Officer, Teacher/ Lecturer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics is not a requirement except for information Technology,
RECORDS & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	NC (1YR), ND (3YRS), HND(1YR)	Records and Archives Manager, Archivist, System Analyst, Conservator, Preservationist, Information Management Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification. HND: 5 'O' Level passes plus relevant ND Qualification

Prospectus

Engineering



AUTOMOTIVE

Course	Levels Offered	Career Opportunities	Entry Requirements
AUTO MOBILE ELECTRICS & ELECTRONICS	NC (3YRS)	Auto-Electrician, Workshop Foreperson, Technical Sales Person, Workshop Manager	5 'O' Levels Including English, Mathematics and Science For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification.
MOTOR VEHICLE BODY REPAIRS & REFINISHING	NC (3YRS)	Workshop Foreman, Technical Sales Person, Self-employed	
MOTOR VEHICLE MECHANICS	NC (3YRS)	Mechanic Technician, Sales Person, Workshop Foreman, Workshop Manager, Technical Sales Person	
AUTOMOTIVE PRECISION MACHINING	NC (3YRS)		

ELECTRICAL

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS	NC (3YRS)	Communication technician	5 'O' Levels Including English, Mathematics and Science For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification.
ELECTRONIC COMPUTER SYSTEMS	NC (3YRS)	Computer technician, Systems Analyst	
ELECTRICAL POWER ENGINEERING	NC (3YRS), ND (2YRS), HND (1YR)	Electrician, Electrical Technical Engineer	
INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL	NC (3YRS)		

MECHANICAL

FABRICATION ENGINEERING	NC (3YRS)	Boiler Maker, Plate welder, Artisan	5 'O' Levels Including English, Mathematics and Science For all ND Courses:- 5'O' Level passes plus relevant NC qualification.
MACHINE-SHOP ENGINEERING	NC (3YRS)	Machinist, Plant Foreman, Artisan	
REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING	NC (3YRS)	Refrigeration technician, Artisan	
PRODUCTION ENGINEERING	ND (2YRS 6M)	Plant Manager, Technician, Supervisor	
PLANT ENGINEERING	ND (2YRS 6M)	Production Manager, Technician, Supervisor	
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	HND(2YR)	Manager, Supervisor	



Message from the Principal

Principal, Poniso Watema

I would like to extend my greetings to The Pacesetter Magazine readers.

In line with Governments' thrust of spreading Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) to the periphery, Mutare Polytechnic has established Chipinge Industrial Training centre; an establishment under the Ministry of Higher Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development's Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach Programme (ISEOP). The programme aims at providing skills for productions of goods and services to everyone regardless of gender, education and social background and abilities. This follows the government policy:

"Leaving no one and no place behind".

This year alone Mutare Polytechnic trained 40 students in Chipinge, 520 in Chimanimani and 1 558 in Mutare districts under this programme and will continue to help to develop human capital that will help the country in attaining Vision 2030.

Mutare Polytechnic is also guided by this maxim Nyika inovakwa nevene

vayo vachisevenzesa zvavakapihwa newedenga for emancipation and prosperity. This has seen the institution helping its former graduates to register business consortium. One such consortium is FABAO Construction which has been engaged by the institution to implement construction works. The consortium has proved that they have the capacity to reconstruct and reconfigure the Zimbabwean economic terrain.

Our research efforts continue to be alive and conscious to the need to make veritable contributions to national development. In this context, the institution this year combined the research conference with innovation exhibition from both students, SMEs and individuals in a quest to champion the mantra Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo, and the fulfillment of National Development Strategy (NDS1, which calls for paradigm shift in teaching and learning to build an innovation led and knowledge driven economy by 2025.

The institution's Tourism and Hospitality Department opened a college bar and braai facility for students training. The students are getting first-hand experience of the hospitality industry while at college so

that when they graduate they will be start their own businesses.

This year's graduation saw a total of 1 057 graduands from two streams of November 2022 and April 2023 being awarded National Certificates and Diplomas. Of these, 50.14% were females and 49.86% were males. Our Staff and Students also participated various foras that included in the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) conference that was held in Ghana, Africa Tech Challenge Season viii Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) lathe training and competitions in Kenya, Cool Training workshop at Bundesfachschule Kälte - Klima - Technik Training Centre in Germany among others.

Last but not least, I wish to inform our readers that the institution's hard work is not going unnoticed as we have been awarded several accolades including the Presidential awards and Manicaland Agricultural awards.

Happy reading.
Poniso Watema
Principal



Message from the Vice Principal's Desk

Vice Principal Dr Stefani Chabwera

Research and Innovation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is a key driver of socio-economic transformation and reconstruction.

This Pacesetter magazine is a true reflection of Mutare Polytechnic's unwavering involvement in the industrial revival of Zimbabwe in line with the expectations of National Development Strategy (NDS1) and Heritage based philosophy as promulgated by the principles of Education 5.0.

This publication showcases the institutional innovative culture aimed at reawakening and revitalising the country's innovative and industrial thrust through TVET.

Mutare Polytechnic's concerted vision and pragmatic structure is disseminated through the experiential events outlined in this magazine. I therefore, invite you to read this magazine and share our experiences and excitement as The Pacesetter.

I am confident that the institution will further develop its innovative culture as we inch towards industrial revival through TVET in Zimbabwe.

Enjoy your reading
Dr Stefani Chabwera



Mutare Poly bags prize at Presidential Innovation Award

By Charity Mambondiyani

Mutare Polytechnic scooped the Best Innovating Polytechnic first runner up award at the Inaugural Presidential Innovation Fair Award ceremony, which were at the Harare International Conference Centre (HICC) in April this year.

Several unique and value addition design projects by Mutare Polytechnic students attracted the award and the institution walk away with US\$5000 prize money.

The awards fell into 17 categories that started this year to support Education 5.0, classifying universities, polytechnics, teachers' colleges and industrial colleges as the key drivers of industrialisation and modernisation of the country.

Mutare Polytechnic project that captivated the judges was the furnishing of the Midlands State University National Pathology Research and Diagnostics center.

"We are glad that we won this award and its recognition that as institutions of higher learning we can transform our economy with the skills that we have," Mutare Polytechnic Principal,

Poniso Watema said.

The ceremony officiated by Zimbabwe President, His Excellency Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa ran under the theme, 'Innovation Excellence for Vision 2030 and beyond,' the fair was aimed at showcasing current innovations and technologies by institutions that had, and would contribute to improving Zimbabwe's resilience by providing technologies, goods and services that Zimbabwe wanted.

President Mnangagwa challenged institutions of higher and tertiary education to take the lead in innovations aimed at producing goods and services in line with the "Nyika inovakwa nevenevayo/Ilizwe lakhiwa ngabanikazibalo" mantra.

"My Government is in the process of implementing various policies and programmes which have seen our economy transitioning from stabilisation to growth. In order to maintain this momentum, my Government is investing in innovation and industrialisation. Given the shift from concentrating on the teaching of theory to practical's and entrepreneurship, our various

institutions of higher and tertiary education should be torch bearers of innovations aimed at producing quality goods and services," President Mnangagwa said.

President Mnangagwa added that in order to beat the effects of the illegal sanctions imposed on the country by the West over 20 years ago, it was necessary to fast-track the country's industrialisation and modernisation through science, technology and innovation and changing of mindsets, dubbed "Chimurenga chepfungwa".

Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Prof Amon Murwira highlighted that by launching the Education 5.0 doctrine, President Mnangagwa inaugurated the 'Chimurenga Chepfungwa' journey to spur the development of the country. Correct education is that which gives appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes," said Prof Murwira.

Masvingo Polytechnic won the first prize and walked away with US\$10 000 while Harare Polytechnic was the second runner up and walked away with US\$2000.



Far right Mutare Polytechnic Principal, Poniso Watema following proceedings during the Presidential Awards



Canopy manufactured by Mutare Polytechnic, exhibited during the Presidential Awards

Six Mutare Poly Students Win Presidential Students Awards



Students following proceedings during Presidential Awards

By Charity Mambondiyani

Six Mutare Polytechnic students won the Presidential Awards at a ceremony held at Harare International Conference Centre in April this year.

The awards were presented to students who excelled in various local, regional and international innovations events, law moot courts and debate and sport competitions. In his speech read on his behalf by Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Professor Amon Murwira,

President Emmerson Mnangagwa said the achievements of students were a cause of celebrations as they made the country proud.

"It is important that we celebrate the student work and motivate their performance as these students have made us proud. The various sectors and disciplines in which the students competed in are a clear testimony that our education is now a movement of doers and problem solvers and achievers," President Mnangagwa said.

Students who were recognized showed their gratitude to the President for the recognition.

Blessing Tatenda Vito, a Civil and Construction student who took part in the Africa Tech Challenge Season

vii awards said there was a lot of work and it feels good to be recognized.

"I am that happy that my hard work has paid off and it feels good to be recognized by the President. I am very humbled,"

Vito said.

Forward Mlambo and Adrian Govera Civil and Construction students also won the same prize as Vito in the same category.

Tanaka Mafuta who took part in the Confederation of University and Colleges Association (CUCSA) basketball competitions in Malawi also expressed the same sentiments adding that:

"To take part in the international competition is a wholesome experience and I really enjoyed myself. This exposure has cemented my sporting spirit and I was glad to represent my country in a foreign land."

In the same competitions, Hailey Masara participated in the tennis.

Letwin Mutsanya who took part in the Pan African Debate championships in Kenya thanked President Mnangagwa for the recognition.

"I thank the President for the recognition, I never expected this, it came as a surprise and I am really honoured and thankful to our President for such a gesture,"

Mutsanya said.

The students walked away with US\$500 and US\$400 each prize money.



Picture collage showing Poly students receiving awards



Lecturers, students take part in ATUPA conference, Accra

By Staff

Lecturers and students took part in the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) conference held from August 27 to September 2 this year in Accra, Ghana

The conference was running under the theme: "Mainstreaming Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Skills Development, Mobility, and Resilient Economies in Africa."

The conference aimed to draw on the lessons learned from the limitations of existing TVET programming models to stimulate a post-pandemic debate among stakeholders.

The conference highlighted the role of sustainable TVET models in

building the resilience of African economies; generated consensus on the efficacy of harmonized TVET concepts in enhancing the employment outcomes of TVET graduates at regional and continental levels; and identified new knowledge streams on how digitization, diversity, and inclusion could be leveraged in building transnational and trans-institutional TVET linkages.

Mutare Polytechnic lecturers participated in the research conference while students took part in the fifth Pan African Youth Forum, Startup Africa competitions.

Green revolution was one of the seven projects that sailed through to the Pitch -Africa 2023 Talent and Innovation Competition and awards

for Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) students.

Green revolution is a project that uses processed sisal fiber for the purpose of reinforcement partitioning and reframing.

ATUPA was founded in 2019, following a resolution of the General Assembly of Heads of Member Institutions of the Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA). The decision was ratified by the Ministers of Education from AU member states at the Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC - EST III) in 2019.



Mutare Polytechnic students who participated in the Start Up Africa competitions in Ghana.
Blessing Vito, Mitchell Murota, Tinshe Mashoko, Kelly Mavhudzi, Sithole Elisha, Munyaradzi Kasuso

Poly Student Represent Team Zimbabwe in Kenya

By Charity Mambondiyani

A team of three Polytechnic students took part in the Africa Tech Challenge Season viii Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) lathe training and competitions that took place end of July, Kenya.

The team led by Engineer Itai Tsatsi, a Harare Polytechnic lecturer, went through a five week training of CNC lathe machines.

In his report, Eng Tsatsi said some of the concepts covered included the basic machining practices of a CNC machine operator, arc interpolation commands, thread processing instructions, analysis of inner contour processing technology,

processing integrated and external threads parts among other concepts.

Eng Tsatsi said Zimbabwe's TVET system had strong foundation and this was seen through convectional machining strength of the three students.

"The TVET foundation that our students have made the training and teaching a lot easier during the whole period and as such team Zimbabwe became a force to reckon with," Eng Tsatsi said.

He also added on the importance of having well equipped facilities with CNC lathe machines in training institutions so as to fair well in

international competitions.

Sigangeni Calvin (Mutare Polytechnic), Takudzwa Kamutimbe (Harare Polytechnic) and Panashe Leroy Kupeta (Bulawayo Polytechnic) are the students who represented Zimbabwe in the competitions.

The team won the second prize and walked away with US\$2500.

In the same fit Engineer Tsatsi was the most outstanding CNC lathe team leader, while Takudzwa John Kamutimbe was awarded a scholarship to study in China as well as internship and job opportunities in AVIC International Company.



Sigangeni Calvin showing his skills during the Africa Tech Challenge Season Viii, in Kenya.

Mutare Poly establishes Industrial College



2023 Graduating Cohort



Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development
Honorable Raymore Machingura

By Staff

Mutare Polytechnic has established Chipinge Industrial Training Centre in line with Government's thrust to bring technical and vocational education and training closer to the people.

The establishment was made possible through the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development's Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach Programme which seeks to ensure that marginalised youths are not left behind in skills training.

In a speech read on his behalf by his

deputy, Honorable Raymore Machingura, during Mutare Polytechnic's 32nd graduation ceremony in August this year, Higher Education Minister, Professor Amon Murwira applauded the move.

Prof Murwira said the decentralisation would benefit the people of Chipinge. He said the training centre would help develop human capital for the attainment of the country's Vision 2030.

"The country must attain or even exceed an upper middle income economy by 2030, driven by knowledge and innovation," Prof Murwira said.

He said Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa had called on institutions to develop start-ups, products and technology.

"Rural youths should not be left behind in this revolution so that they take part in building the country's economy," Prof Murwira said.

Prof Murwira said the Chipinge Industrial Training Centre was

currently operating at St Kelvin's Secondary School in Chipinge, while its own campus would be constructed at the site they were allocated by the local authority.

"We are happy that the plans for the buildings are in place and that in no time, the campus will be ready. So far, 43 students in Chipinge have completed their engineering courses and await trade testing in due course," he said.

Mutare Polytechnic Principal, Poniso Watema said they would continue to support Government's thrust of leaving no one and no place behind.

"Everyone must be equipped to contribute to the development and transformation of our beloved country, and that is why we established the training centre. We are looking forward to training more rural students in the coming months," said Ms Watema.

A total of 1 032 students graduated from Mutare Polytechnic.

Poly holds Research and Innovation Symposium

By Charity Mambondiyani

Mutare Polytechnic held its Research Conference which was followed by an Innovation and Symposium Fair in July this year.

Officially opened by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Prof Fanuel Tagwira officially opened the events running under the theme "Sustainable Industrialization for Economic Growth through Research and Innovation"

Prof Tagwira said the innovations which were being showcased at the fair were in line with the President Emmerson Mnangagwa's National Development Strategy 1 truism that the country's economy was to become innovation and knowledge based.

Prof Tagwira said these collaborations with innovators from different sectors was commendable because in the "contemporary society we live in, what is required is coming together and produce tangible results of research and innovations which could immediately be ploughed into development to transform the society".

Mutare Polytechnic Principal, Ms Poniso Watema said the institution's research efforts continued to be alive and conscious to the need to make veritable contributions to national development.

She said this year the research conference and innovation symposium aimed at showcasing collaborative efforts between the polytechnic and its partners in the drive to promote research and innovation the research conference with in response to Education 5.0 and National Development Strategy 1.

"This year we have invited our partners from Small to Medium

Enterprise (SMEs), High Schools individual's and sister institutions to showcase their innovations in a quest to champion the mantra Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo, and the fulfillment of NDS1, which calls for paradigm shift in teaching and learning to build an innovation led and knowledge driven economy by 2025," Watema said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event Director and founder of Dolla Deals, Beauty Hughs said she was happy to be part of the exhibition which has exposed her to other innovators and partners.

"I was very happy to be part of this exhibition and the knowledge that I have gained on the importance of collaboration has made me to understand the African proverb I always heard, which say if you want to go fast ,go alone,if you want to go far,go together.I think collaborations can take Zimbabwe far in term s of innovations and industrialization," said ...



Mr David Ngandu, from Advanced Design College speaks during Mutare Polytechnic Research Innovations Association conference



Permanent Secretary of MoHTEISTD, Professor Tagwira visits Zeengaz stand during Mutare Polytechnic Symposium and Exhibition fair.



528 Graduate in ISEOP

By Staff

Five hundred and twenty residents of Chikukwa and Ngangu in Cimanemani district, graduated in various disciplines under the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach Programme (ISEOP) in July this year.

Speaking during the graduation and certification ceremony, Mutare Polytechnic Vice Principal, Dr Stefani Chabwera said Mutare Polytechnic had been conducting Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach Programmes (ISEOP) in various courses at Chikukwa and Ngangu business centers in Chimanimani district. This is in line with Education 5.0 meant to attain the vision of the President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Emmerson Mnangagwa of self-reliance, self-employment and job creation to enable the youths to be self-dependent and self-sufficient.

"Mutare Polytechnic continues to support, His Excellency, Cde E.D Mnangagwa thrust of leaving no one

behind and no place behind and that education can be brought to where people are so as to access to education and no one is left behind," Dr Chabwera said.

He said everyone must be equipped to contribute to the development and transformation of the country.

"Our Ministry introduced the Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach Programmes (ISEOP) to ensure that the marginalised people in our rural communities are not left behind in terms of skills training," said Dr Chabwera.

The graduates expressed gratitude to government and said their hopes have been fulfilled as they have equipped with the necessary skills for self-sustenance.

Prince Mhako, a youth from Chikukwa said with the skills he had acquired he was now able to start his own business and employ people from his community so as to eradicate poverty

in his community.

"The programme has been really beneficial to me and the skills that have been imparted to me, I'm now able to start my business because what lacked was the necessary skills and employ people from my community so that we can uplift our livelihoods in this community," Mhako said.

Agnes Kwashe echoed the same sentiments and said with the knowledge acquired she could now work for herself and be able to take care of her children.

"With the knowledge that I have acquired, I can now work for myself, I now know how to run a business through my Know Your Business course. I am now able to earn money and be able to pay for my children school fees," Kwashe said.

The same programme is also taking place in Chipinge district.



Part of the Chikukwa Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach Programme graduands follow proceedings during their graduation ceremony.



Seated, Mutare Polytechnic Lecturer, Ms Patience Rupapa explaining to prospective ISEOP students during a skills outreach in Chipinge.

Mutare Polytechnic in Skills outreach Programme

By Staff

Mutare Polytechnic has embarked on an Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach Programme (ISEOP) in Chipinge district.

The Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development's programme is aimed at empowering individuals to promote self-empowerment and entrepreneurship. Chipinge Town Council has since allocated 15 hectares of land for the construction of an Industrial Training College by Mutare Polytechnic.

As they await the construction of the new college training will take place at St Kelvin High School.

The training programme will benefit the Chipinge community.

Speaking during an outreach programmes in Chipinge, Mutare Polytechnic Principal, Poniso Watema said Skills Training had been brought to the door step of people of Chipinge community and they was no need for them to travel to Mutare for training.

"Instead of traveling to Mutare for training, training has been brought to their doorstep in Chipinge. We are starting with short courses of which the training is in progress," Watema.

Watema added that as the ISEOP training plans are also underway to start conventional courses for people with five ordinary levels.

"In the meantime we are starting to train ISEOP courses which focuses on training those with passion and are able to read and write, however plans are also underway to start training conventional courses for people with five ordinary levels when we have constructed buildings at our site here in Chipinge," Watema said.

A Chipinge resident, Ms Tsitsi Mhenga said: "We are very happy that we can now access skills training in our town as there were no skills training institutions in Chipinge. We are grateful to Mutare Polytechnic for such a noble idea."

Lecturer in Germany for Workshop



Participants of the Cooling Training Workshop in Germany



Mr Guyford Muchayakanyi a Mechanical lecturer

By Staff

A lecturer in the Mechanical Department attended a two week Cool Training workshop in October last year at Bundesfachschule Kälte – Klima – Technik Training Centre in Germany.

The workshop was organized by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ProKlima programme on the use of natural refrigerants in commercial refrigeration plants.

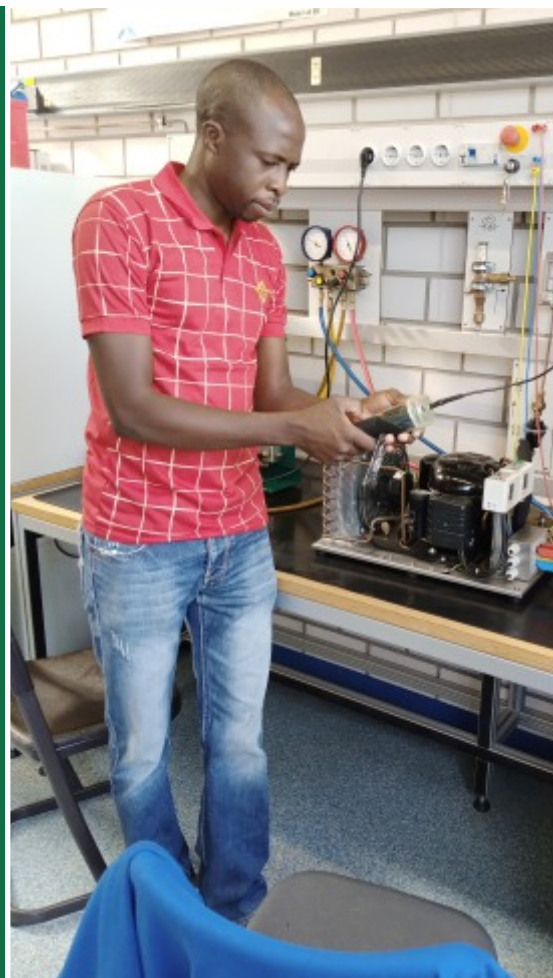
Mr Guyford Muchayakanyi said the main objective of this workshop was to expose trainers from different countries to the use of propane (R290), Carbon dioxide (R744) and ammonia (R717) refrigerants specifically focusing on the preservation of the ozone layer and the environment.

“These natural refrigerants mentioned above help in the preservation of the ozone layer and the environment hence the need to have such trainings on how to safely use these natural

refrigerants because they have high operating pressures, flammable and toxic,” Mr Muchayakanyi said. He during the workshop, they were taught on how to continuously preserve the ozone layer by not venting dangerous gases such as ChloroFluoro Carbons (CFCs) for example R12 and Hydro Chloro Fluoro Carbon (HCFC) R22 refrigerants.

“R12 was banned under the Montreal Protocol because they were destroying the ozone layer which limits the amount of ultraviolet radiation (UV-B) to reach the earth's surface,” Mr Muchayakanyi said.

Fifteen participants from different institutions and countries in Africa that offer Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Courses including Zimbabwe were trained.



Poly Opens bar, braai facility

By Charity Mambondiyani

Mutare Polytechnic Tourism and Hospitality Department recently opened a bar and braai facility with students offering services at the new facility.

Mutare Polytechnic Principal, Poniso Watema said students get first-hand experience of hospitality industry while at campus so that when they graduate they will be able to start their own businesses.

"We would like our students to appreciate first-hand experience by doing the actual practice. This is the reason why we have decided to open the bar and braai facility. The facility is run by students mainly

from the professional cookery and food and beverage services with the guidance of their lecturers," Watema said.

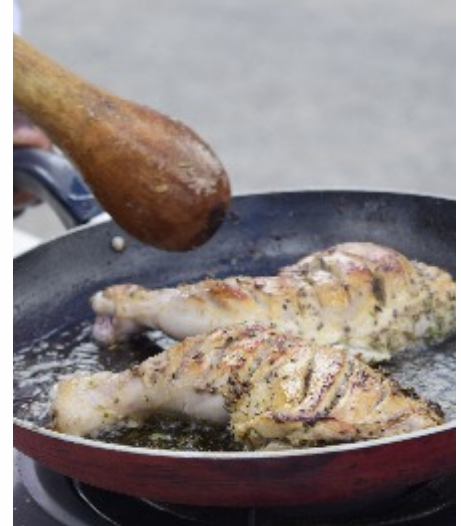
She added that the facility was open to the public.

Watema said the institution also offers other services like guest house accommodation, conferencing and wedding facilities, catering and hire of facilities.

"We can also offer conferencing, wedding facilities, guesthouse accommodation as well as catering services here. We offer these services at very affordable prices,"

she said.

Apart from the mentioned services, the institution is also into clothing production, vehicle and body repairs, poultry, piggery, rabbit keeping, crop farming, chemical and detergents making.



Bar and Braai Facility



Left to Right: WITED Marketing Officer, Rindai Svovse, Secretary General, Rose Gauchi and Chairperson, Tafadzwa Sampindi.

WITED Group Launched

By Staff

Mutare Polytechnic launched Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) group in August 2023.

Speaking during the launch of the project, Mutare Polytechnic Principal and ATUPA Gender Representative for Southern and Central Africa, Poniso Watema said WITED was aimed to empower women in technical education, training and employment to participate in development and influence the society positively across the country.

"WITED is a project in Africa which was initiated by ATUPA to empower women in technical education, training and employment to participate in development and influence the society positively across the country. Hence we have started as Mutare Polytechnic," Watema said.

The forum in the near future, Watema said would seek to invite other technical institutions to join and start their own forums as well.

"The vision is to be able to influence as many women as possible in training and encourage women to participate in research and produce prototypes that can be used in communities and at national level," she said.

Watema said women were to be empowered to start business units. "We want this project to spread across the province as well as other provinces. We want to have WITED Zimbabwe in the end," Watema said.

Speaking during the same event, WITED chairperson, Ms Tafadzwa Sampindi said Mutare Polytechnic WITED group supported the WITED mission which sought to identify and promote opportunities that were responsive towards professional and personal development of women and girls in technical education and training.

"We have launched WITED Mutare Polytechnic, today, and we want to identify and promote opportunities that are responsive towards professional and personal development of women and girls in technical education and training as stipulated in the mission. We want to create awareness of this project to other institutions and in the end have our own Manicaland chapter which involves many women in technical education from our province," Sampindi said.

Ms Sampindi highlighted the following objectives of WITED:

1. To develop strategies that enhance the participation of women in technical education at all levels for economic empowerment

2. Raise awareness of gender issues at institutional level through conferences, workshops, training forums, seminars, career talk and debates

3. Enhancing and projecting female participation in technical education and research

4. Appeal to the institution's authorities, employment of labour (public and private) on working conditions of female

5. Develop partnerships and collaborations and linkages with other gender sensitive bodies such Education Ministries and or other Gender and Equality bodies

6. Inform members on links for sponsorship of research undertaken by women from time to time to encourage more participation.

7. Have our own institutional Journal publication on women in research work.



Poly Manicaland Agricultural Show exhibitions awarded

By Charity Mambondiyani

Mutare Polytechnic scooped second prize in the best Tertiary/University Stand category at the 2023 edition of the Manicaland Agricultural show held in Mutare recently.

The show was running under the theme

“Innovation and Collaborations for Sustainable growth”.

The Pacesetter was hosting its

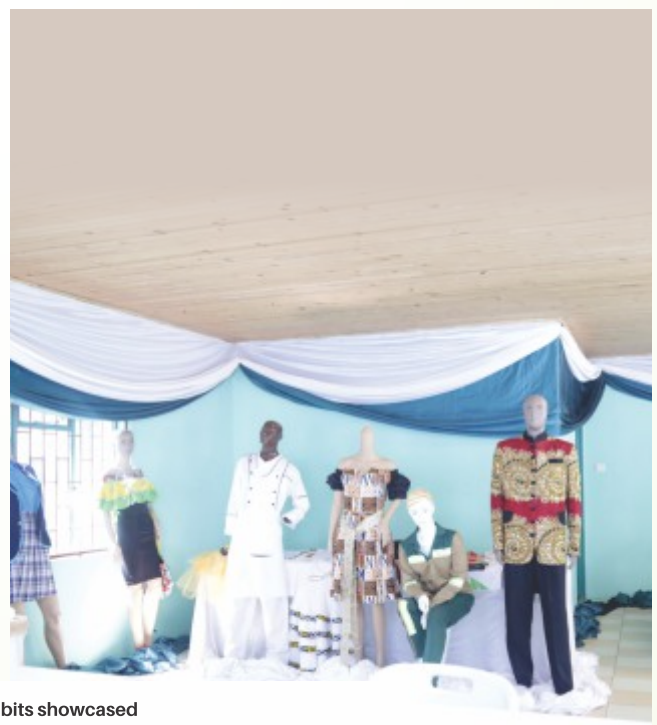
exhibition in their own stand pavilion.

Hundreds of people visited the stand to get an up-close look at the latest developments and activities at the college.

The polytechnic's displays comprised of detergents like floor polish, fabric softer and toilet cleaner; latest fashion designs using national fabric, safety clothing, doors and bricks made from

sawdust and coal ash.

Mutare Polytechnic, Principal, Poniso Watema, Vice Principal, Dr Stefani Chabwera and some senior staff members also toured the exhibition.



Part of the exhibits showcased

Poly hosts 2023 ZTISU Games



Host Principal, Poniso Watema

Mutare Polytechnic hosted this year's tertiary institutions from across the country in June for the Zimbabwe Tertiary Institutions Sports Union (ZTISU) Games.

Speaking at the official opening of the games, Mutare Polytechnic Principal, Poniso Watema urged all athletes to be at the forefront of the effort of unifying the Zimbabwean society and eradicate gender imbalances through sport.

"I urge athletes to be at the forefront of the noble effort of unifying the Zimbabwean society and eradicate gender imbalances. Let us make this edition of the ZTISU games a special one by proving to ourselves and the world at large that together we can achieve extraordinary through sport," Watema said.

Watema said when properly managed, sports could act as a unifier, a feat that was not easily achieved through other means.

"During these games, I want to challenge all participants to have respect for rules, respect for competitors, respect for dialogue can transcend all differences and lead to unbelievable and extraordinary outcomes," she said.

In his speech read on his behalf by regional sales manager, Chirara, Delta regional manager (Lager Division), Mr Lucky Nkunzane, said Delta Beverages celebrated its fourth year of sponsoring the ZTISU Games in Zimbabwe and vowed to continue doing the diligent work towards the games.

"Carling Black label celebrates the fourth year of sponsorship of the ZTISU games, and we are thrilled to continue to reward the champions at play," Mr Nkunzane said.

He said sport played an important part in community development and aligned well with Carling Black manifesto that encouraged and rallied people to be better version of

themselves.

"Over the years, Carling Black Label property has grown in popularity as sport is a passion point for many of our consumers and it resonates well with them across demographics. Most of the ZTISU games are played around our valued customer's premises, thereby cementing a natural bond for our traders, the brand, and the champions," Mr Nkunzane said.

Mutare Polytechnic also participated in the annual Technical Education Sports Association of Zimbabwe (TESAZ) and Zimbabwe Tertiary Institutions Sports Union (ZTISU) competitions and scooped 7 gold medals 4 silver and 3 bronze medals. The following disciplines scooped gold medals during the TESAZ games - rugby, basketball, pool men, lawn tennis men and 10 kilometers athletics men. Notably Rugby and 10 kilometers men are the reigning champions for ZTISU games.



ZITSU President Mr Chekure (centre) pose for a photo with Principal, Watema, Judith Siziba, ZITSU Usher

Chimanimani community benefit from modern carpentry machinery.

By Charity Mambondiyani

Youths in Chimanimani district are now benefitting from the use of modern machinery donated India to Zimbabwe under the India-Zimbabwe (Indo-Zim) initiative.

Speaking during the tour of the Chimanimani Business Incubation centre in September 2023, Indian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, His Excellency Vijay Khanduja commended the community for maximising the opportunity to use the machinery to their improve livelihoods.

"I am pleased that the community is using this machinery to improve their livelihoods. India and Zimbabwe have a long history of close and cordial relations which dates back to the era of the Munhumutapa Kingdom and Indian merchants who established strong links with Zimbabwe," Ambassador Khanduja said.

Ambassador Khanduja said the relationship had seen the Government of India distributing machinery to 17 centres across the country.

"This is one such centre where I have seen the full utilisation of the machines because the machines are to benefit the small and medium enterprises who do not have the capacity to buy they are own machines, yet they are able of producing products. This speaks to the positive relations between our two governments where we join hands to improve the livelihoods of our people," Ambassador Khanduja said.

Chimanimani East legislator, Honourable Joshua Sacco said the intervention speaks to the excellent relationships between Zimbabwe and India.

"As Chimanimani we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Zimbabwe and the Indian government for the donation

of carpentry machines that have truly transformed the lives of Chimanimani community.

"This development speaks highly of the positive relationship we share. Our community has been empowered to produce quality furniture and this is highly commendable given that we are a timber-producing company," Hon Sacco said.

Mutare Polytechnic Principal, Poniso Watema said Mutare Polytechnic was mandated to oversee the

"These statistics indicate Mutare Polytechnics commitment to women emancipation and empowerment. It is important to note that these courses are offered at minimum cost so as to enable the disadvantaged members of the community to partake the courses," she said.

She said to further reduce the burden of accommodation and transport on the trainees, the courses had been taken to the people rather than the trainees coming to the institution.



Simba Mwapukupa explains how the machines work to the Indian Ambassador, Vijay Khanduja, Hon Joshua Sacco, Principal Poniso Watema and Delegation

"Beneficiaries of the ISEOP programme now have the capacity to start their own businesses and as we speak those who were trained in Fabrication and Carpentry are already making use of the available equipment in this facility," she said.

However, Ms Watema said, there was still need to have equipment in other areas where training was conducted since the graduates lack the much needed finance to procure capital equipment."

"We would like to convey our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the donation of two surface planners, a disk sander, a scroll saw, a combination sander, a pillar drill, two welding machines, and various hand tools. These machines have not only empowered the Chimanimani community but have also opened up new opportunities for them to enhance their livelihoods and build prosperous and lucrative future generations," Watema said.

Watema said further assistance was needed in upgrading the Chimanimani Business Incubation facility with the provision of a 6-head moulder, a 500-width thicknesser, an extractor furnace, a door assembler, a tenoner machine, deducing pipes, an angle grinder, and a sanding machine. With these additional machines, we can facilitate the growth of local industries.

operations in the two Business Incubation facilities in Manicaland, one in Chimanimani and the other at Mutare Polytechnic.

She said the major objective of these Business Incubation centres was to provide the needed capital equipment to enable youths to carry out their works in the fields of Fabrication, and Carpentry and Joinery through the Integrated Skills Expansion Outreach Programme (ISEOP),

Mutare Polytechnic has embarked on a massive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme in Chimanimani district and this has seen youths and women graduating in Fabrication, Brick and Block Laying and Clothing among others.

Watema said to date, eight hundred youths and women have graduated; five hundred female and three hundred male.

Entrepreneurship

In my extensive reading on entrepreneurship, I tried to figure out how to start and create my own empire. I asked myself what it takes to start a business. A brilliant idea? A great team? Money? Yes; all of those things. But more than anything, I realised that what it takes is "belief". A belief that there is significance to the problem being addressed, and that the solution is something which the consumer wants.

But what are the financing options available for entrepreneurs like me who want to start their businesses. I engaged an Entrepreneurship lecturer from Mutare Polytechnic to take me through some of the financing options to support my business venture.

Mr Hudson Chikuni highlighted the following as the financing options that entrepreneurs may consider when venturing into business.

1. Personal Saving: One should have an income to start a business. This means one can go to work or having another business which is doing well and save the profit so as to invest in the other business. This is said to be one of the most reliable source finance because it's you the entrepreneur saving from your money. It has less risks and has no cost of borrowing.

2. Angel Investors: This involves wealthy individuals or groups willing to invest their money in a brilliant idea. One should have a very good business plan and a comprehensive market research to prove that the business is most likely to be a success. In this financing option one should be a very good sales person to market the idea to these wealthy individuals or groups. Normally



Hudson Chikuni, Entrepreneurship Skills Development (ESD) Lecturer

these are well known local people in a region or country.

3. Traditional Bank Loans: These also require a well prepared business plan which is to be presented to the bank. The bank will scrutinise the business plan to assess the business viability. The banks are more concerned with how the business is going to transform and be able to pay back the loan. The loans involve the interests, which is cost of borrowing, collateral which may not be available in most situations. Entrepreneurs can apply for business loans from commercial banks, which offer funds based on creditworthiness, business plans, and collateral.

4. Government Programs: These are government initiatives to promote entrepreneurship through the Ministry of SMEs. The funding can be in the form of schemes, grants, and subsidies to support entrepreneurship and business development. These programs aim to promote economic growth and empower small businesses. They also

require a business plan to assess the viability of the business.

5. Venture Capital: This is when a well-established company comes in as a partner with the entrepreneur for a share of profits. Venture capital firms provide funding to high-potential startups in exchange for equity. They often offer expertise and guidance alongside financial support.

6. Crowd funding: The type of financing allows entrepreneurs to raise funds on online platforms by appealing to a large number of individuals who can contribute small amounts collectively to finance their projects.

These financing options provide funding, guidance and advice to entrepreneurs and others can even go further to provide training to entrepreneurs. These are the options to secure the capital needed to start and grow businesses, fueling economic growth and innovation.

Mr Chikuni HUDSON, a lecturer at Mutare Polytechnic,

Entrepreneurship Skills Development (ESD).

“ These are the options to secure the capital needed to start and grow businesses, fueling economic growth and innovation. ”

Rise of a young Mutare entrepreneur

By Staff



Entrepreneur Ronald Zengeni

Ronald Zengeni, a young entrepreneur and Mutare Polytechnic Accounting graduate from Honde Valley says Zimbabwe's Education 5.0 heritage based education has encouraged him to make use of locally available resources to solve societal problems.

At age of 27, he is the founder and director of Zeengaz Banana Chips, a company based in Honde Valley.

"I realized that farmers in Honde Valley could not take their bananas to the market which was mainly outside Honde Valley due to COVID-19 restrictions which prohibited intercity travel. This saw bananas getting overripe and rotten as there were no markets and transport to sell the produce," Zengeni said.

Zengeni said he decided to add value to these bananas by making banana chips popularly known as Zeengaz Banana Chips this outwit the transport challenges and market glut.

"The banana chips are made of naturally fertilized and wholly organic bananas which are perennially watered by the Mtarazi spring waters and this is what makes

them unique," he said.

Zengeni said the organic bananas were outsourced from widows, single mothers and socially disadvantaged women.

"The entire production process is staffed with women. This is so because we stand for the advancement of the disadvantaged women," he said.

He said Zeengaz banana chips were already in the market, mainly small shops and tuck-shops.

"My dream is to have customers buying it from big shops like Pick and Pay, Spar, OK among big supermarkets," he said. "I am calling for customers to try our chips and they will never regret and that dollar will help one student from Honde Valley student, saves yet another female farmer weeks of traveling 300km to the nearest vibrant market.



O3 PLUS develops mobile app



Peer educator Ryan Wilisi giving a presentation during the launch of the Future+ mobile app

By Staff

The O3 PLUS project through the engagement of students, staff and various stakeholders has developed a mobile application called the Future+.

Speaking during the launch of the mobile app, Ms Atolia Phiri said the application served as a medium where students would be able to attain information on Sexual and reproductive health, Comprehensive sexuality education and Gender Based violence.

The application also serves as a platform for linking students with counsellors within the institution where they can get assistance should there be need.

"The application is guided by two outcomes which are to increase Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) knowledge levels and also increase uptake of SRHR services by students in Higher Tertiary Education Institutions (HTEIs). By so doing students will be empowered with information, professional counselling, peer counselling and get help services as well," Ms Phiri said.

She added that brand ambassadors would be responsible for encouraging students to download and make use of the application.

"For any activities within the institution these Future+ brand ambassadors should be present marketing the application and these brand ambassadors can be peer educators by virtue of them being the most popular and influential students," Ms Phiri said.

The Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3 PLUS) is a project that seeks to ensure that young people in higher and tertiary education institutions (HTEIs) in the Eastern and Southern Africa region realize positive health, education, and gender equality outcomes through sustained

reductions in new HIV infections, unintended pregnancy, and gender-based violence.

The project seeks to enable Students to reach their full educational potential and contribute more effectively to the development of their countries and region as graduates, professionals, and young leaders.

Working closely with relevant regional structures, national ministries, HTEIs, and key partners, United Nations Education Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) supports innovation in access to life skills-based sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for HTEI students while advocating for policy and practice changes to make campuses safe and inclusive learning environments for students and staff. In doing so, the project institutionalizes health and well-being programs for students while engaging leadership for long-term commitment and sustainability. In its core interventions

The O3 PLUS Project is guided by four objectives, institutional strengthening for sustainability, student health and well-being, safe and inclusive campus environments and evidence-building and knowledge-sharing.



Part of the students that attended the launch of Future+ mobile app

O3 Plus Awareness Campaign GBV, Sexual Harassment.

By Charity Mambondiyani

Just like any college or university, Mutare Polytechnic strives to be safe haven for students. Mutare Polytechnic in partnership with UNESCO O3 PLUS project held a meeting in September this year at the college campus to capacitate staff and students on sexual harassment and Gender Based Violence.

To support colleges and universities in their efforts to address sexual harassment and gender based violence on campus, UNESCO O3 PLUS has facilitated meetings that create awareness on the issues.

O3 PLUS cluster coordinator for Mutare Polytechnic and Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences (MSUAS), Ms Atolia Phiri said the purpose of meeting was to capacitate staff and peer educators on sexual harassment and Gender based violence.

"The purpose of these meeting is to create awareness among staff and students on sexual harassment and Gender Based Violence as well as come up with innovative strategies of strengthening whistle blowing or

complaint mechanisms and referral pathways within the institution," said Ms Phiri.

Speaking during the meeting, Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC), Provincial Marketing and Communications Officer, Mr Daniel Maromo presented on issues of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) being rampant and statistics indicating that more females were the victims of SGBV. Most of these cases, Mr Maromo, went unreported because of the stigma associated with social practices SGBV could also be perpetrated against males too.

"Statistics have shown that females are the main victims of SGBV and because of social practices, women shun reporting such cases in the name of (unorerutsamushawako). Although SGBV can happen to men too, the majority of the survivors are women and girls due to gender inequality between males and females. If any person despite his or her gender has the right to report SGBV," Mr Maromo said.

A peer educator, Pascal Kaporoma

said some students do not reveal cases of sexual harassment or gender based violence because of the extent of the stigma that exists around sexual assault and gender based violence if one makes a report.

"Despite other advocacy and awareness efforts being made by the institution some students find it difficult to reports such cases because they believe that they could be blamed for being sexually assaulted. This stigma plays a major role in their decision to report these incidents. I have observed that students didn't tell anyone about unwanted sexual contact because they feared they would be blamed," Kaporoma said

He added that although the majority of students do not think it was okay to blame someone who had been sexually assaulted, they had less confidence that their peers feel the same way.

"This difference between students' personal beliefs and their misperceptions of what they think can influence students' decisions to not report incidents," Kaporoma said.



Participants of GBV/Sexual Harassment awareness campaign.

Female Students Excel In Male Dominated Fields.



B-Tech student,
Bester Phiri



B-Tech Chairman,
Mr Emmanuel Mutamangira



B-Tech Lecturer,
Mr Obert Maisvoreva

Seven female students enrolled in Mutare Polytechnic's Bachelor of Technology degree in Construction engineering are excelling well in the said male dominated fields.

Speaking during the Industrial Attachment visit to their various workplaces, Mr Obert Maisvorewa, a lecturer in the department said the positive comments from supervisors showed that female students are excelling exceptionally well in the said male dominated fields.

"I was impressed with the comments I got about our students during my attachment assessment visits, especially the female students. I noticed that they were involved in the physical construction and project management.

A Bachelor of Technology degree in Construction Engineering female student, Nester Phiri, is on attachment at Masimba Construction

and is currently working on a five megawatt hydro power station at Lake Mutirikwi which will be injected into the national grid.

"In this project I am in charge of the construction of eleven penstock anchors and twenty supports and being in charge of such a project in a male dominated environment has increased my confidence in my work. I encourage other females to take up the challenge, we can break the gender imbalances that is existing in these fields," said Phiri.

Bachelor of Technology in Construction chairman, Mr Emmanuel Mutamangira said the department is pleased with the performance of female students on industrial attachment as they have demonstrated requisite competences in construction and engineering.

"The female construction engineers have demonstrated abilities in

structural design and analysis, interpretation of drawings, awareness of project impacts on environment. I am happy that some of them have been trusted with leading roles in their line of work just their male counterparts. This has given them the confidence to believe in themselves.

"I am also thankful to our partners who have engaged them on attachment were the female engineers were able to showcase their abilities in industry," said Mr Mutamangira.

The other female students are Tamukudza Bvurume, Prisca Chanaka, Cathrine Chigariro, Joyce Kabunze, Crashell Karimanzira and Precious Musariwa.

Principal, Watema scoops ZNCC Manicaland award



Principal, Poniso Watema, receives the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) Women in Enterprise Award

Mutare Polytechnic Principal, Ms Poniso Watema was one of the sixty-two women who were honoured during the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) Women in Enterprise Awards held in Mutare, early October this year.

Ms Watema emerged the winner under the Women Champion of change category and could not hide her excitement, described the awards as motivation to upscale their efforts.

"I feel very humbled by this

recognition and this really has motivates me upscale my efforts. I am very passionate about driving change, ensuring that no one and no place is left behind in skills training and make the learning environment more inclusive," said Watema.

Manicaland Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Advocate Misheck Mugadza urged all the industrious women in Manicaland to take advantage of the commitment made by the Second Republic under the wise and able leadership of His Excellency, President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

"The ZNCC women awards is one of the most treasured occasions of the calendar year. To all the industrious women here I just want to encourage you that Manicaland is open for business. I urge you all to take full advantage of the commitment made to you by the second republic under the wise and able leadership of President Mnangagwa," said Advocate Mugadza.

Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises, Senator Monica Mutsvangwa, said the women in the province have been successful in business and together we will go very far.

MUTARE POLY IN PICTURES



MUTARE POLY IN PICTURES



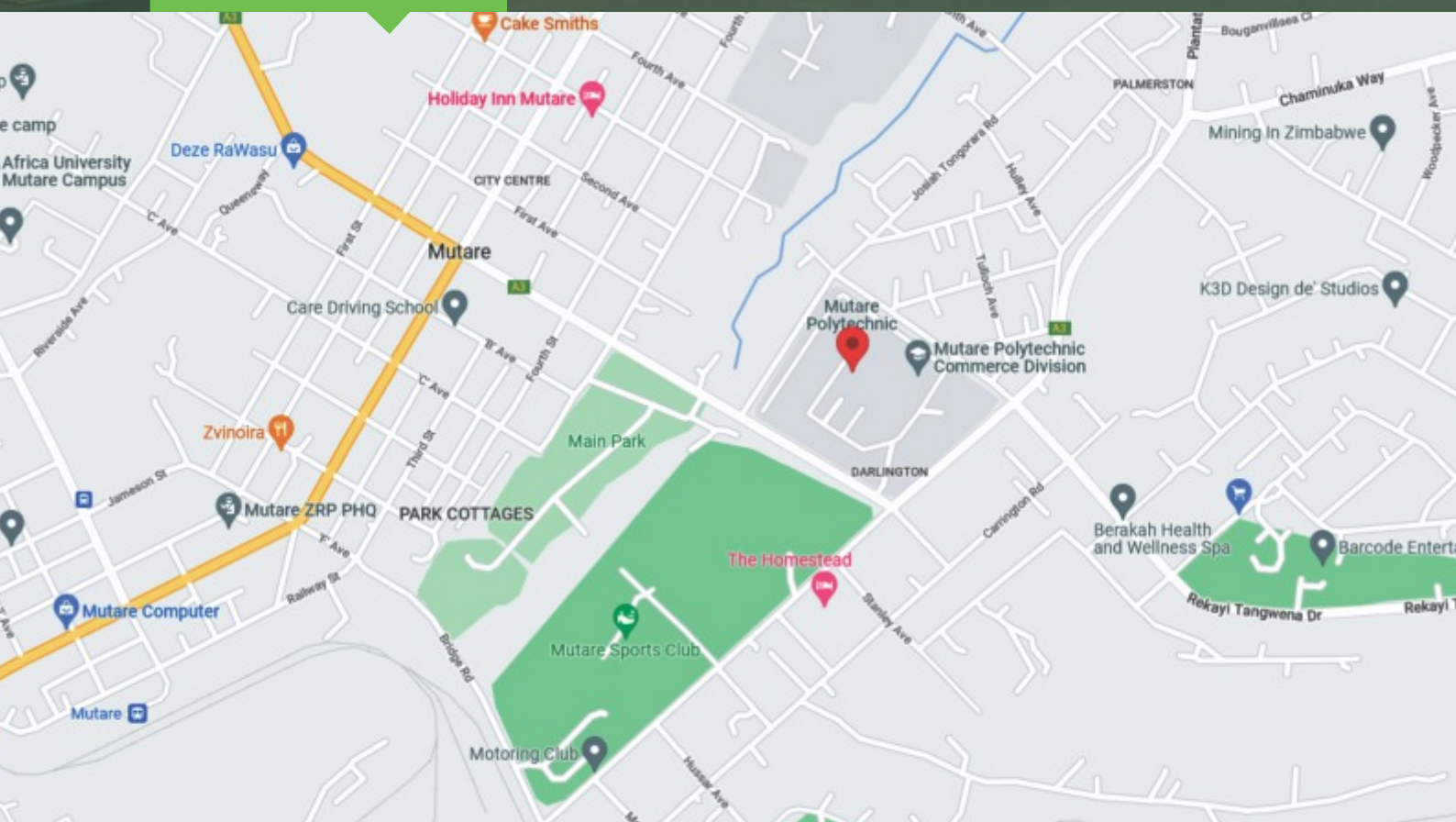
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