



NEW PROJECT TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES



Members of Staff and Stakeholders at the SEED project kickoff meeting

Mzuzu University (MZUNI) will implement a European Union funded research project Capacity Building for Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development (SEED).

The SEED project aims at building the capacity among higher education institutions (HEIs) to support

sustainable community-based enterprise development in the context of changing climate. The project will mainly focus on building and reinforcing the capacity of higher education institutions in transformative climate change research and development. MZUNI's Principal Investigator Dr. Mavuto Tembo said the

development supports MZUNI's Strategic Plan especially Pillar 3 which is Research and Innovation. "At the end of the three years, an accredited, sustainable and accessible teaching and training curricula will be developed based on micro-credentials for HEIs and communities. The micro-credentials will be delivered using traditional, blended or fully online methods," he said.

Dr. Tembo said the delivery of value chain specific micro-credentials will help the communities improve efficiency of their value chains while adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The project will be implemented in Malawi and Zambia by a consortium of Maynooth University (Ireland), IHF European non-profit (Brussels), University of Naples Federico II (Italy), MZUNI (Malawi), University of Livingstonia (Malawi) and Mulungushi and Kwame Nkrumah universities (Zambia).

POSTGRADUATE CANDIDATES DEFEND THEIR THESES



Dr. Brighton Chunga – Dean of Faculty of Environmental Sciences

The Faculty of Environmental Sciences had a busy week as they showcased their expertise and engaged with assessors, each taking turns to present and defend their thesis.

Dean of Faculty of Environmental Sciences Dr. Brighton Chunga said PhD Thesis defence is very important because it promotes the credibility of the university and upholds academic standards.

"The defence process ensures that the work presented meets

academic standards and allows for peer scrutiny. This is one of the most important steps for every candidate to take," he said.

Dr. Chunga said the feedback received during defence can refine a candidate's understanding and improve their work.

"There is always that room for improvement in academic work especially when the assessors have different backgrounds.

Which means the candidate would benefit from a number of professionals and if that is put together, that is the best any candidate would wish for," he said.

The PhD candidates included Minister of Tourism Vera Kamtukule, who presented on Political Economy of Mining: Governance, Community Participation and Labour; David Kumwenda, who presented on Investigating Citizens' Participation Through Information Communication Technology in Community Policing in Muloza, Malawi; Thokozani Chazema, who presented on Role of Civil-Military Relations in Democratisation in Malawi 1994-2024 and former MDF General Vincent Nundwe who presented his Analysis of the Working Relationship Between the Elected Civilian Authorities and the Military in Discharging Their Duties in Democratic Malawi.

DEPARTMENT OF GPSS ORGANISES SECURITY TRAINING



Theodora Thindwa
Head of Department (GPSS)

The Department of Governance, Peace and Security Studies (GPSS) in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has organised a training from April 28 – May 2, 2025. Head of Department, Theodora Thindwa, said the training has been organised to equip participants with professional knowledge.

“ We are targeting industry professionals who want to refresh their skills and acquire new knowledge. Many participants may have graduated long time ago, but significant changes have occurred in the field, making it essential for us to share new knowledge, ” she said.

The customised security training will enhance optimal decision-making and managerial competencies in the handling of security matters both within the participants’ organisations and when in contact with other security personnel on the wider security arena.

The participants will gain both theoretical and practical knowledge related to the deepened and broadened understanding of the concept of security, intersectoral relationships, security sector governance, security sector reform, gender and security, civilian oversight of security forces, community policing, migration and border security (border management), corporate security, private security regulation, intelligence management, human rights in security operations, and conflict prevention/management.

To take part, participants will contribute MK900 000.00 covering training materials, lunch, and refreshments. A Certificate of Participation will be awarded at the end of the training.

MZUNI BUILDS CAPACITY OF ENERGY STAKEHOLDERS



Training participants pose for a group photo.

MZUNI has positioned itself at the forefront of enhancing the capabilities of energy stakeholders in Malawi, demonstrating its critical role in the industry.

Through targeted training and development initiatives, MZUNI is equipping professionals with the essential skills and knowledge needed to address the challenges facing the energy sector and to foster sustainable growth across the country.

Head of Department Energy Systems Dr. Chrispin Gogoda said these tailored training programmes address the unique needs of the energy sector in Malawi.

“These programmes consider the local context, technological advancements, and the specific skills required by professionals to perform effectively in their roles,” he said.

Gogoda said the training enhanced the participants’ skills.

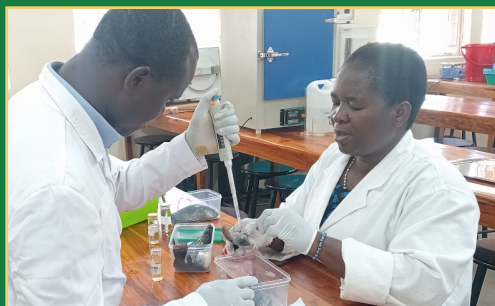
“By building a skilled workforce, we are contributing to the broader economic development of Malawi. A well-trained professional community can drive projects that improve energy access and efficiency, promoting industrial growth and job creation,” he said.

The workshop was attended by officials from the Ministry of Energy, Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA), Electricity Generation Company (EGENCO), Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM) and Presidential Delivery Unit (PDU).

One of the outputs was the development of an Energy Auction framework which the Ministry of Energy is expected to further develop and adopt for use in the upcoming planned energy auction.

The workshop was organised by PDU with funding from Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP).

PG STUDENT CHERISHES NEW EXPERIENCE



Paul Wanjala at work in the lab during his MSc research.

I am Paul Wanjala Fednand, a Master of Science candidate under the African Centre of Excellence in Neglected and Underutilised Biodiversity.

I have had a great exciting experience at Mzuzu University under the supervision of Dr. Elijah Wanda, Associate Professor and Dr. Kamanula, Associate Professor.

I have gained knowledge in different laboratories, during extraction of essential oils, chemical analysis using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and Fourier Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR), antibacterial activity assays at Mzuzu Central Hospital, and shelf-life studies at Mzuzu University Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Laboratory.

The research is based on the application of *Cymbopogon citratus* (lemongrass) oils as an antibacterial agent exhibiting a high activity against Gram-positive vs *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 29213), *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 29212) and Gram-negative: *Escherichia coli* (ATCC

25922), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853) pathogenic microbes and as bio-preservative with a potential to extend the shelf-life of fresh *Oreochromis shiranus* (Chambo) for 18 hours and *Termitomyces titanicus* (wild edible mushrooms) local name bowa for three days under ambient storage temperatures.

Based on the results of the study, *C. citratus* oil from the study areas is of high quality, with high antimicrobial and preservation properties, suggesting that it can be used in pharmaceutical and food industries.

The knowledge and experience I have gained have inspired me to pursue a PhD in the near future.