



DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION ENHANCES INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWAS) has enhanced international collaboration with other institutions to actualise Mzuzu University's (MZUNI) Strategic Plan (2021-2030).

Head of Department, Dr. Brighton Chunga, said there are a number of collaborations in the pipeline which support the strategic plan.

"I am excited that we have been working with a number of international organisations. Once we finalise the Memoranda of Understanding with the institutions, we are going to announce the good news," he said.

The ongoing collaboration with the Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is



Dr. Brighton Chunga
Head of Department

particularly noteworthy. DWAS has been offering advanced training in GIS and Remote Sensing to SADC member states' government officials based on an existing agreement with MZUNI.

However, SADC-GMI has proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focusing on access to the SADC-GMI Groundwater Literature Archive, which is an online platform.

During the discussion between SADC-GMI and MZUNI, which took place on 22nd January 2025, members agreed that the MoU should be extended to the development of joint research projects, publications and student internships.

Dr. Chunga said the collaboration with international organisations will contribute to three strategic pillars which are: Optimum students' experience; Research and innovation, and Internationalisation and cooperation.

MZUNI PARTNERS UNGWERU ORGANISATION

Mzuzu University (MZUNI) has partnered with Ungweru Organisation to enhance the management of access road, waste disposal, and the landscaping of the area between the University and the organisation.

As a result of this engagement on 16th January 2025, the two agreed to undertake several key projects. These include the construction of a drainage system from Tahnet Filling Station to Ungweru, the installation of three waste bins along the access road, and the implementation of a community awareness campaign focusing on waste management targeting the MZUNI community.

It was also agreed that the existing earth road should be upgraded to gravel during the construction of hostels under PPP (Public-Private Partnership). An MoU between MZUNI and Ungweru will be finalised soon.

THES PROJECT ENGAGES FoSTI TO DEVELOP BRIDGING PROGRAMMES



THES Implementation team at MZUNI with members of staff from FoSTI

Dr. Thokozani Bvumbwe, who is the Coordinator for Transforming Higher Education System (THES) Project at Mzuzu University, says a significant number of students have not successfully completed their undergraduate studies in sciences.

To address this challenge, the project engaged staff from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Innovation (FoSTI) from 22nd – 23rd January, 2025, at

Sunbird Mzuzu Hotel to develop bridging programmes.

“Most of these students come from disadvantaged communities with limited exposure to quality science education. We are working with STEM lecturers in the FoSTI to develop remedial and bridging courses specifically designed for STEM related programmes,” he said adding that it was in the interest of MZUNI to find a lasting solution. Dr. Bvumbwe said the remedial

courses aim at strengthening students' skills and resilience in subjects that have previously posed significant challenges.

THES is a project funded by USAID is implemented in collaboration with Michigan State University. At MZUNI, among others, the project is focusing on the high failure rates in STEM programmes.



MZUNI'S MEGA FARM TAKES SHAPE, *BEGINS CHANGING LIVES*

Although only the initial ridging has been completed at Mzuzu University's mega farm in Choma, local communities are already starting to reap the rewards.

“We have been involved in clearing the land and ridging. We are happy that despite the tractors being used, they gave us the opportunity to work here too,” said Rachael Jonathan, a mother of two.

Mzuzu Choma Community Chairperson Raphael Mhang

said he was grateful to Mzuzu University for giving them the opportunity to work in the farm.

“This farm is already benefiting ten villages. We believe that our community will gain valuable experience in sustainable farming practices that we can apply to our own fields,” he stated.

Happy Botha, the Trust Fund Manager, emphasized the vision for the farm to serve as an anchor for the surrounding communities. “We engaged about 100 villagers

to help clear the land, and we are committed to further empowering the community. We plan to involve even more people during the planting and weeding stages, ensuring that the advantages of the mega farm are shared widely,” he explained.

To date, 103 hectares of land have been cleared and prepared for maize planting, marking a promising beginning for both the farm and the communities it serves.

MAJIGA CDSS STUDENTS VISIT MZUNI



Students of Majiga Community Day Secondary School

Majiga Community Day Secondary School students from Dwambazi, Nkhotakota visited Mzuzu University on 23rd January, 2025.

The students were oriented on the programmes offered by MZUNI and the general students' life on campus.

The students were taken to the weather station under the Department of Geosciences, Department of Nursing and Midwifery Skills Laboratory, MZUNI Library and they finally toured the Faculty of Tourism, Hospitality and Management at Dunduzu Campus.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

★ The Vice-Chancellor Professor Wales Singini has appointed members of the Public Lecture Committee based on the outcome of the Management Meeting held on Monday, 20th January, 2025. The following are the members of the Committee: Dr. Lydia Kishindo Mafuta (Chairperson), Dr. Wellman Kondowe, Dr. Russel Chidya, Dr. Mwayi Lusaka, Dr. Precious Madula, Dr. Edna Manda, Ms. Carol Chingamtolo Banda, Ms. Natasha Runganga and Ms. Given Mshani.

★ The Vice-Chancellor has appointed Dr. Rhodian Munyenembe as the new Chairperson of the Students Disciplinary Appeals Committee. Dr. Munyenembe has taken over from Mr. Lusayo Mwabumba.

★ Mzuzu University Students' Representative Council (MUSREC) President Mr. Wesley Malekano has urged students to remain vigilant and support one another. He stressed the importance of students living off-campus to walk in groups, particularly at night. On Friday, 25th January, 2025, students' representatives met officers from Luwinga Police to find ways of enhancing security in the communities surrounding Luwinga.

★ Save Our Generation officials visited Mzuzu University Children's Library on 22nd January, 2025 to explore areas of collaboration with the University. After appreciating activities in the Children's Library, MZUNI and Save Our Generation have agreed to work together. The organisation works with disadvantaged groups in Zolozolo, Chiputula and Luwinga to promote livelihoods through education, art, and community justice.

★ The Vice-Chancellor Professor Wales Singini has, on behalf of the Senate, approved the outcome of the consideration of the applications for change of programme and mode of study in the 2024/2025 Academic Year. The students who applied for change of programme will receive letters from the University while those students whose applications were rejected will receive letters explaining the reason(s) for the rejection.

★ Ms. Hajira Mitumba, a Lecturer in the Department of Education Foundations, has been elected as the new Senate representative to the Council, succeeding Dr. Joyce Mlenga, who is now the Head of Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

★ At its meeting held on Monday 20th January, 2025, Management considered Terms of Reference for the Gender Mainstreaming Committee. Among others, the Committee will ensure that values and principles that foster gender equality and equity are incorporated in all aspects of the university's culture, such as policies, programmes, projects, leadership, staff recruitment procedures, appointments and promotions, terms and conditions of employment, and staff development.

★ The 2025 Old Mutual Mathematics Olympiad started on Saturday, January 25, 2025. Candidates from participating secondary schools sat for the first test at Mzuzu University Luwinga Campus, MZUNI ODeL centres in Karonga, Lilongwe, Balaka and Mulanje, Blantyre Secondary School and Likangala Secondary School.

★ Management would like to inform all Heads of Department, Heads of Section and Supervisors that according to the PMS calendar, the 2024-2025 performance cycle is ending on 31st March 2025. As such, all Heads of Department, Heads of Section and Supervisors are required to ensure that all employees under their charge who have not yet submitted duly completed performance management contracts, which are overdue, should do so by Friday, 31st January 2025, following the necessary procedures.