



# MZUNI WEEKLY Bulletin

## NBM awards outstanding students

By Annie Kayira



Awardees and scholarship recipients pose with NBM and MZUNI officials

National Bank of Malawi's (NBM) Mo Excellence Programme has awarded top-performing students and needy scholars at Mzuzu University (MZUNI).

Speaking at the event on 5th June, 2026, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Simeon Gwayi said the awards foster a competitive environment that encourages students to strive for high academic standards.

***“By rewarding students who perform well in various academic programmes, National Bank of Malawi is promoting excellence and quality education.*”**

We want our programmes to produce graduates with relevant skills, attitudes and values when they enter the job market,” he said.

He said the Bank's support also builds a culture of quality among students.

“Today we have awarded a number of students from various departments and programmes, but next time another set of students will also benefit,” he said.

NBM Plc Director Bessie Nyirenda said the bank has increased the number of students receiving awards and scholarships to 100 and has increased funding to almost K365 million.

“We have been supporting students, but we also realised that there are students who are needy yet brilliant,” she said.

Emma Masache, one of the top-performing students, thanked NBM for the award.

“It is a great motivation to be recognised in this special way. The award would help me to remain focused on my studies, and when I succeed, I will surely contribute to my community too,” she said.

In the Mo Excellence Programme, five students with outstanding academic performance were awarded K1 million each. Five more students from disadvantaged backgrounds received full scholarships worth K1.7 million each, covering tuition, accommodation, healthcare, laptops, solar lamps and learning materials.



Kutemwa Band performing during the Mo Excellence Programme

MZUNI's School of Arts has not yet been established; if it were, it would be an endorsement of the many talents within the student community.

On Friday, during National Bank's Mo Excellence Programme, it was a huge opportunity for talented artists, and the audience was left amazed by the outstanding performances on display.

Few would have guessed that the artists captivating the stage were students from diverse academic disciplines; they are yet to pick music as a career.

One would note that Prince Kaliu, a poet, is no stranger to these spaces. But what followed from the rest was a marvel to watch.

Alexander Ngwira's performance was inspiring. His originality was unquestionable when he played a rendition of Lucius Banda's 'Paulendo.' The song probably sums up students' journey, which at times is unpredictable, but the focus on the big academic prize remains.

In addition to awarding top-performing students, National Bank of Malawi handed over scholarships to some needy students. This is why the song 'Paulendo' resonated with everyone. In the original song, Lucius Banda sings: "Tsopano mwana iwe wafikapo tachewuka ku mbuyoko, kuli ambiri omwe akuthandiza sasowa thandizo lako ... kuwabwenzela kwake uthandize amphawi ambuye adzakudalitsa". Indeed, when the awardees achieve their goals someday, their proper appreciation for NBM's support should be directed to others seeking similar support.

Ngwira started playing the violin in 2019 under the mentorship of Fancy Mumba, who was the music principal of the New Apostolic Church. "As an artist, I am inspired by the power of music to express emotions, connect people and make a positive impact on audiences," said the Level 2 Bachelor of Education (Sciences) student. Capping the afternoon of performances was Kutemwa Band. The band, comprising Angel Grace Naho, Irvin

Maigwa, Sharon Banda and Ephasia Kumwenda, is prominent among the students.

Spreading the message of compassion and purposeful living, the young musicians have been at the centre of MZUNI Hope Initiative activities. The band's songs promote compassion, action and hope among students at a time when mental health challenges among university students are becoming more visible.

Providing the platform for the students to express themselves is the University's priority.

"We encourage students to be creative and make a difference. What we are witnessing is a group of responsible students who are contributing to the welfare of students through art," said Dr. Agnes Hara, the Dean of Students. Going by what was on display on Friday, it is evident that the youth are taking their place, not only on stage but also in improving the lives of others, and there is no better way of doing that than music and poetry.

# MZUNI students excel in Huawei ICT competition

By Cliff Kawanga



MZUNI student (in white ) pose with Minisiter of Information Dr. Shadric Namalomba and Huawei officials

Two Mzuzu University (MZUNI) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) students have been recognised among the top 3 performers in the National Huawei ICT Competition 2025.

The two Level 3 students, William Soko and Richard Mnthali, excelled in the Networking and Computing Track, demonstrating the talent and excellence nurtured at MZUNI.

Head of ICT Department Dr. Chimango Nyasulu said in an interview that the excellence displayed by the two students is a reflection of the relevance of the courses offered at MZUNI.

“The achievement of these two students is not a coincidence but a clear demonstration of the quality and relevance of the programmes we offer at MZUNI. Their excellence reflects the practical knowledge, technical skills, and innovative mindset that our courses are designed to instil,” he said.

Dr. Chimango said the students’ success confirms that MZUNI’s curriculum is aligned with the demands of the modern technological landscape and prepares graduates to compete effectively in both local and international environments.

“When our students distinguish themselves through remarkable achievements, it validates the relevance of the education they receive at MZUNI. Their accomplishments showcase the strength of our teaching, the dedication of our lecturers, and the determination of the students themselves,” he said.

The Department offers Bachelor of Science (Information, Communication and Technology) and Bachelor of Science (Data Science).

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# Alumnus spotlight: Meet Simeon Lwafwa Kaunda

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Simeon Kaunda

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Simeon Kaunda is a proud alumnus of the BSc (Honours) in Parasitology and Disease Vector Control at Mzuzu University. Graduating with an Upper Second-Class in 2023, he earned a Commonwealth Scholarship in 2025, one of the most competitive awards for international research training, to pursue an MRes in Parasite Control at Aberystwyth University in the UK, one of the world's leading centres for parasitology research.

His MRes project develops innovative multiplex PCR assays for malaria and Anopheles mosquito analysis, providing frontline malaria control programmes with faster, more sensitive diagnostic tools.

***Simeon's research has already earned international recognition for its public health impact.***

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He was among only 25 Commonwealth master's scholars worldwide selected to present his research at the "Maximising the Commonwealth Scholarship's Development Impact" conference.

His work was further distinguished when his abstract was selected for a poster presentation at the 2026 Learned Society of Wales Early Career Researchers Colloquium, a prestigious forum in Wales that connects outstanding emerging researchers with fellows, policymakers, and research leaders across sectors. He has also presented at several conferences at Aberystwyth University.

Simeon's achievements reflect the strength and relevance of the BSc in Parasitology and Disease Vector Control at Mzuzu University, a programme that equips students with cutting-edge scientific skills, fosters research excellence, and enables them to address pressing global health challenges through innovation.