



MZUNI committed to provide solutions



Vice-Chancellor Professor Wales Singini

The transformative agenda advanced by the University Council and MZUNI Management will see the university generating electricity from the solar farm that will be integrated on the grid.

Speaking on Wednesday 12th February, 2025, after receiving a report from Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM), Vice-Chancellor Professor Wales Singini said the University was ready to utilise knowledge from the departments.

“There is a growing demand for electricity and we realise that universities have a huge role in providing solutions. The bigger picture we all must see is that our Strategic Plan is aligned to the country’s development goals therefore every innovation or investment is contributing to the country’s development,” he said. Professor Singini said within the University, the faculties and departments offer programmes that are addressing the many

challenges the country is facing therefore it was important to go an extra mile and utilise such knowledge.

“We have a Department of Energy Systems which has been involved in teaching and research responding to the current trends in the sector. We are glad that what started as a little dream will soon be a reality,” he said.

According to ESCOM, the integration of the Solar Farm will increase the limited available generation currently installed on the system compared to existing load and future demand. This will also have a far much greater impact on the grid as a whole since it is being installed in the Northern Region where there is only one generation plant to date.

ACENUB registers success

The African Centre of Excellence in Neglected and Underutilised Biodiversity (ACENUB) has registered success in various areas.

Speaking during the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the African Centres of Excellence in Salima on Wednesday February 12, 2025, Dr. Elijah Wanda said despite some challenges, there has been a number of positive results.

“We have done a lot in the disbursement of funds, verification of data and research output. We have also signed a number of partnerships with organisations with similar interests as ACENUB,” he said.

The achievements include the US\$3,578,617.02 which has been verified and disbursed to date,

representing 62 percent disbursement; data submitted for verification and expecting 100 percent on the following performance-based contracts: research and innovation through PhD and MSc programmes, exchanges, short courses, partnerships, resource mobilisation, and national accreditation.

Mzuzu University established ACENUB to provide a platform for high level research and postgraduate training for Malawi and the region. The centre is contributing to the training, collaboration, academic and research outputs of Malawi and the region in agri-food and nutrition systems, agri-business and entrepreneurship, risk management and climate

change proofing, and rural innovation and agricultural extension.

ACENUB directly contributes to MW 2063 which challenges universities in Malawi, including MZUNI, to catalyse National Transformation from poverty reduction to “spearheading wealth creation for all”.



Dr. Elijah Wanda

MZUNI PhD students attend conference

Two PhD students under the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, attended a conference in Lusaka, Zambia which was organized by Wageningen University, Netherlands and University of Zambia.

The students, led by African Centre of Excellence in Neglected and Underutilised Biodiversity (ACENUB) Director Dr Mabvuto Tembo, had poster presentations during the conference on Traditional Foods for the Future.

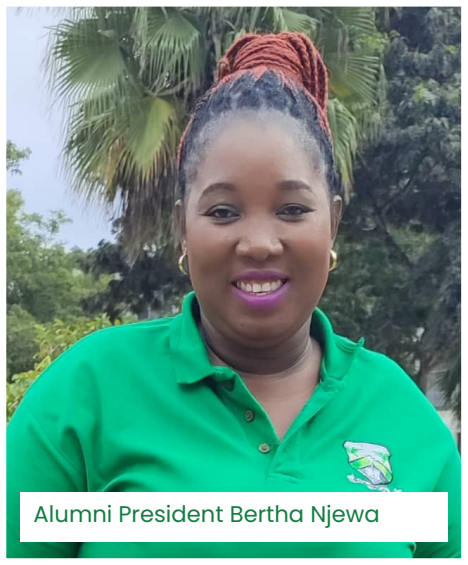
George Munthali’s presentation was on Variations in Distribution of Uapaca kirkiana and Casimiroa edulis in Kazomba and Mpherembe, EPAs of Malawi while Kokou Kokouvi Bruno, an

international student from Togo, presented on Climate Change Reduces and Shifts Suitable Habitats of Uapaca kirkiana Müll.Arg. to Higher Altitudes in Malawi.

The conference was aimed at promoting traditional foods specifically on local traditional (fermented) foods in Southern Africa.

The conference brought together more than 150 researchers across the world. Pillar 4 of MZUNI’s Strategic Plan (2021– 2030), Internationalisation and Cooperation is aimed at strengthening academic and senior administrative staff with global knowledge and the ability to interconnect from a global perspective by 2030.

MZUNI Alumni to work with communities



Alumni President Bertha Njewa

After successfully planting 1,000 trees in its four chapters, Mzuzu University Alumni Association will implement sustainable strategies to ensure survival and growth of the trees planted.

The association’s President Bertha Njewa said in the past few years, members have planted trees but caring for the trees has been a challenge.

“After evaluating our initiative over the past few years, we found out that while planting trees is a significant achievement, ensuring the trees’ growth requires more

effort. To address this, we are collaborating with local communities and have established a schedule for regular meetings to discuss and implement effective strategies for the survival and growth of the trees,” she said. Njewa said the members were impressed with the impact they have made so far.

“We have influenced so many communities by planting more trees. As responsible citizens, we will continue working with the communities to make our environment better,” he said.



CELEBRATING MZUNI ALUMNI’S ACHIEVEMENTS

Meet Kondwani Chimatiro



Kondwani Chimatiro, an accomplished entrepreneur and the founder of GiantPlus, stands as a beacon of entrepreneurship and innovation within Malawi’s growing tech sector.

His venture, GiantPlus, specialises in providing cutting-edge IT services such as website development, VPS hosting, dedicated servers, and software solutions tailored to local and international businesses.

GiantPlus has been operational for over five years, and during this time, it has had a profound impact on various communities by improving access to quality digital services. Kondwani’s work has empowered many small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs) in Malawi, providing them with the technological infrastructure to grow their businesses. He has facilitated the digitisation of local businesses, non-governmental organisations, and government entities, contributing to economic growth and social development.

By providing affordable digital solutions, Kondwani has enabled companies to adopt digital platforms for e-commerce, improve their visibility through websites, and streamline business operations. His company has also led to job creation within the ICT sector in Malawi, helping to reduce the high levels of unemployment among the youth by offering them the opportunities in software development, system administration, and technical support.

Kondwani also actively participates in mentorship programmes and shares his knowledge with budding entrepreneurs, encouraging innovation and supporting the growth of Malawi’s tech ecosystem. Through GiantPlus, he has demonstrated a profound and lasting impact on the local and national economy. His contributions embody the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation that is vital for the future of Malawi and Africa at large.



EVENTS AND UPDATES



MZUNI Alumni Association has launched the #PaintMyRoom initiative, designating July 4 every year as Paint My Room Day. This initiative aims at giving back to the university.



With support from SAVE Project, MZUNI has organised short courses in green skills at Nkhatabay Technical College starting on Monday, 17th February, 2025. The green skills courses comprises Renewable Energy and Eco-Tourism. The short courses will be co-delivered with the Faculty of Tourism with support from the Save the Children International Project. There are 190 youths in total to be trained under this project in Mzimba and Ntcheu. After the initial rounds of training in Balaka and Nkhatabay, the trainings will continue in the respective districts and at MZUNI Main Campus.



MZUNI will host Intellectual Property (IP) Roving Seminar for Academic and Research Institutions from March 25–27, 2027. The seminar, themed Fostering Creativity and Innovation for Economic Growth and Development in Africa, has been organized by the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) and the The Registrar General in cooperation with MZUNI.



Acting Director of CODEL Dr. Lydia Kishindo-Mafuta made a presentation on 'Mentorship' at the Northern Education Division Female Headteachers Association Annual Conference in Mzuzu on Friday 14th December, 2025.



MZUNI Leos continued their tree planting service to the community as they planted 500 fruit and pine trees at Mchengautuwa CDSS, sponsored by Mzuzu Lions Club.



University of Livingstonia (UNILIA) played against MZUNI on Saturday 15th February, 2025 and the following are results: Football (UNILIA 3, MZUNI 1) Ladies Basketball (MZUNI 45, UNILIA 13), Men’s Basketball (MZUNI 51, UNILIA 34), Netball (MZUNI 42, UNILIA 11), Chess (MZUNI 18, UNILIA 2), Volleyball (MZUNI 3 sets, UNILIA 2 sets).