

MZUNI WEEKLY Bulletin

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION IMPRESSED WITH MZUNI PROJECTS



Dr. Kabwila and Prof. Singini listening attentively to the presentation

Minister of Higher Education Dr. Jessie Kabwila has expressed her satisfaction with Mzuzu University (MZUNI) projects which are important in the country's development.

On Tuesday March 12, 2025, Dr. Kabwila toured the construction site of the Entrepreneurs Training and Incubation Centre (ETIC) under the Skills for a Vibrant Economy (SAVE) Project.

"Perhaps just to say I am happy is an understatement. I must confess I am very excited with the progress of the construction despite the rains. The contractors are doing their best to finish this in time," Kabwila said.

Mzuzu University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Wales Singini, said the project was evidence of the government's commitment to transforming public higher education in Malawi.

"Modern facilities will improve provision of higher education in Malawi considering that innovation and research are now at the centre of tertiary education," he said.

According to SAVE Programme Manager, Grenard Mkwende, 31 institutions are benefiting from the initiative, including nine public universities.

The National SAVE Project has allocated 33 percent of its funds and aims to impact 45,000 university students and 65,000 technical and vocational students before its June 2026 completion date.

Upon completion, the ETIC will feature artificial intelligence laboratories, business incubation space, a 500-seat lecture theatre, 16 laboratories, two workshops, and four classrooms.

Other development projects at MZUNI include a 5,500-capacity library, a postgraduate centre, and a 2,000-bed student hostel.

ACENUB STRIVES TO CREATE ECONOMIC VALUE

The African Centre of Excellence in Neglected and Underutilised Biodiversity (ACENUB) at MZUNI is striving to engage the communities more and spread the benefits of the centre to innovative Malawians.

Speaking on Tuesday, March 12, 2025 after touring the construction site of ACENUB to appreciate the progress made so far, ACENUB Director Dr. Mavuto Tembo said the centre exists to promote research and innovation.

"It is the expectation that universities and knowledge centres should create value in the economy through translation of research and innovations into products and services. We are on the right path to achieve that and our aim is to engage more with the communities," said Dr. Tembo who said there were a lot of opportunities to collaborate with the local communities.

The centre intends to engage the local communities to address the needs and constraints of specific community groups, including the youth, women, farmers, and consumers.

With funding from the World Bank's Africa Centres of Excellence in Agriculture (ACEs) II AF, Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence Project, MZUNI established ACENUB with the aim of strengthening linkages with local, regional and international

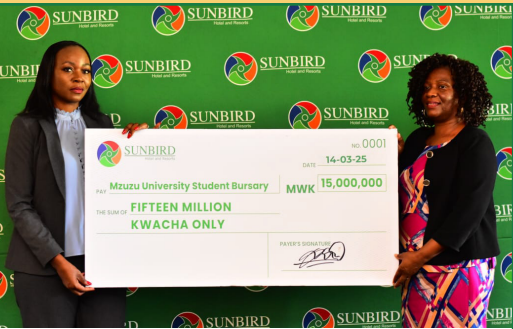
universities, agriculture knowledge institutions and agro-based industry in agri-food system skills development.

ACENUB contributes to high level postgraduate training, collaboration, academic and research outputs of Malawi and the region in agri-food and nutrition systems, value addition, product development, agri-business, risk management and climate change proofing, and rural innovation and agricultural extension.



MZUNI members and workers on the construction site pose for a group photograph

SUNBIRD TOURISM PLC, MZUNI SIGN MOU



Kanjadza and Dr. Hara pose with the dummy cheque

Sunbird Tourism plc has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mzuzu University, with support of K15 million which will go towards funding full scholarships for the 2024/2025 academic year for less privileged students in good standing enrolled at MZUNI as undergraduate students in the six faculties.

Speaking on Friday, March 14, 2025 in Lilongwe after the signing ceremony, Sunbird Tourism PLC’s Head of Sales, Marketing and Distribution, Temwa Kanjadza, said the scholarship under this MoU aims to motivate students academically and foster a pool of talented and skilled professionals for the industry.

"We support efforts aimed at enhancing academic quality and thereby contributing to the development of the next generation of leaders of the country. She said Sunbird Tourism Plc and MZUNI have a long-standing tradition of collaboration for the tourism industry’s advancement.

“Through an existing agreement, Sunbird Hotels and Resorts provides internships to MZUNI students annually, while our team members also receive continuous training from the university. We currently have 23 students in our hotels and resorts for internship under this collaboration,” she said.

Dean of Students at Mzuzu University Dr. Agness Hara expressed her gratitude to Sunbird Tourism PLC saying the scholarship is an investment in the future leaders.

"We are grateful to Sunbird for the scholarship. The collaboration with Sunbird started way back, by hosting our interns who have studied tourism and hospitality management.

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This is a transformative partnership which will have lasting impact on both Mzuzu University and Sunbird. This partnership is going to foster the growth and development of our future leaders. By lifting this burden off the students, now they will have to focus on their studies instead of moving about begging for funding," ---she said.

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Faculty of Tourism Hospitality and Management, Faculty of Environmental Sciences (Bachelor of sciences in forestry, Bachelor of sciences in Fisheries & Aquatic Science) Faculty of Science, Technology and Innovation (Bachelor of Science in Biodiversity and Conservation Management, Bachelor of Science in Renewable Energy Systems Engineering).

MZUNI IMPARTS ENERGY SKILLS



Some of the participants in a practical session

MZUNI’s Department of Energy Systems conducted a short course on Planning, Design, Installation and Management of Renewable Energy Systems from 17 February to 14 March 2025 in Lilongwe.

Head of Department of Energy Systems Dr. Chrispin Gogoda said the training equipped the participants with knowledge in energy systems. “We focused much on the practical aspect which is vital in bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, and preparing individuals for their careers. We realise that practical training significantly enhances the overall effectiveness of learning experiences,” he said adding that the approach not only equips learners with necessary competences but also prepares them to meet the demands in the energy sector.

Dr. Gogoda said the participation of females in the training was encouraging.

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We strive to bridge the gap between male and female technicians. We are making huge progress in what was previously deemed a male-dominated sector, he said.

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There were 40 participants where 20 were sponsored by REIAMA with funding from the Scottish Government through the University of Strathclyde, 10 sponsored by Helios Towers, and BNG Electrical while the rest sponsored themselves.

BIOTOPE PARTNERS VISIT MZUNI

On March 12, 2025, MZUNI welcomed Professor Joe Gallagher from University College Dublin, Ireland, to appreciate the BIOMarker TO Diagnose Pneumonia 3 (BIOTOPE 3) project's implementation and further strengthen the institutions’ partnership.

The project is an innovative project aimed at developing a host response-based diagnostic tool and a machine learning application for diagnosing and classifying pneumonia in children.

Dr. Saul Mwale said the project’s phase 1 has been successfully implemented.

“We are confident that the next phase will be equally impressive because we work as a team. We learnt a lot in phase 1 and the knowledge we gained will be important going forward,” he said.

In phase 1, the project enrolled 984 participants across eight districts nationwide and phase 2 is set to commence in April 2025, during which the developed diagnostic tools will be piloted.

BIOTOPE 3 is a two-year project (November 2023 – October 2025), with the potential for extension.



Prof. Gallagher poses with MZUNI members from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Innovation

CHIMBONGONDO CDSS STUDENTS VISIT MZUNI

Chimbongondo Community Day Secondary School students on Friday, 14th March, 2025 visited MZUNI to appreciate the programmes offered which will motivate them to work hard in their studies.

Executive Officer (Student Affairs and Hostel Supervision) Christine Makamo said educational visits are important for students.

“We receive numerous requests from schools in the Northern Region, and we have successfully accommodated them. As a public university, we recognize our responsibility to serve all members of our community. We understand that educational visits offer invaluable learning opportunities for these students, enhancing their academic experience and fostering a greater appreciation for education,” she said.

The students were briefed on the programmes offered at MZUNI. They also visited the Library, Physics Lab, Optometry Lab and Renewable Energy.

Educational visits are encouraged by MZUNI to engage with the communities. The students who visit the University gain insights into academic programmes, campus life and career prospects.



Students listening to the presentation at the Children’s Library

MZUNI EXCELS IN NURSES AND MIDWIVES LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS



Nurses and Midwives trained at MZUNI are ready to serve

Mzuzu University continues to shine in the recently released November 2024 Nurses and Midwives Council of Malawi Licensure Examination, reaffirming its commitment to excellence in training professional nurse midwives.

Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr. Ellemes Phuma-Ngaiyaye, said the impressive 99 percent pass rate upholds MZUNI’s motto of service, perfection and self-reliance.

“We have upheld our high standards because we are committed to providing students with the best possible experience,” she said.

A total of four institutions participated in the Professional Nurse Midwife licensure examination. In Part I – Nursing, the highest-scoring candidate was an upgrading student from MZUNI, achieving 79 percent, while in Part I – Midwifery, an upgrading MZUNI student led with 91 percent. Similarly, Part II – Nursing and Part II – Midwifery saw strong performances, highlighting MZUNI’s continued excellence in both disciplines.

Dr. Phuma-Ngaiyaye said while some MZUNI candidates recorded

lower scores, the overall results demonstrate the university’s dedication to producing competent and skilled healthcare professionals.

“This outstanding performance follows a consistent trend, as MZUNI also excelled in the June 2024 and November 2023 licensure examinations, where its students secured top scores across multiple papers. This is not just by chance—it reflects the university’s strong commitment to academic excellence,” she said.

Striving to be a leader in nursing and midwifery education, MZUNI remains committed to offering high quality training to improve Malawi’s healthcare service delivery.



EVENTS AND UPDATES



With support from Skills for a Vibrant Economy (SAVE) Project under World Bank and the Government of Malawi, Mzuzu University (MZUNI), through the Department of ICT under the Faculty of Science, Technology and Innovation, is extending 50 partial fees scholarships of K100,000.00 to interested school leavers to pursue a Professional Certificate in ICT Level 1 and Level 2. The programme will be delivered through Blended Mode (online and face-to-face during weekends only and per fortnight). For further details, contact the Head of Department on 0999857286 or email ict@mzuni.ac.mw



Mzuzu University Council, Management and Staff extend their best wishes to Eng. Dr. Maxon Lexon Chitawo, former Dean of Faculty of Science, Technology and Innovation, on his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Electricity Generation Company (EGENCO). Dr. Chitawo was on secondment and has since applied for leave of absence.



The examinations being conducted at the MZUNI main campus in Luwingu, Dunduzu Campus, and the satellite learning centres in Karonga, Lilongwe, Balaka, and Mulanje have commenced smoothly. However, the examinations in Mulanje and Balaka were rescheduled due to a cyclone alert issued by the government.



Students went to polls on Saturday to elect student leaders. The full list of the elected leaders will be published in due course.