



MZUZU UNIVERSITY 18th Congregation

Special
REPORT

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READY TO SERVE THE NATION



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To Mzuzu University's 18th University Congregation Awardees

We greet and congratulate you for persevering to gain the quality higher education you desired, and for which you worked and studied so hard.

We have no doubt that 24th March 2017 will be a day you will remember for a long time to come. It is the day when you stepped up to the podium and received your well-deserved and earned awards.

Some of you paused as you received your award to reflect on the journey you had taken, the long hours of studying, the anxiety before exams, the joy of seeing your name on the pass list and the future that lies ahead of you. You possibly remembered the many friends you made at MZUNI, the lecturers and professors who mentored you.

The world will be expecting a lot from you. Your parents, guardians and loved ones, who cheered you as you received your award, will all be looking up to you. Do not let them down.

We urge you to tackle the world and the future with the same zeal and attention that you give to your academic studies. It is our prayer that the University's motto will motivate you to reach summits of the highest mountains, and complete arduous marathons that may lie ahead of you.

We hope the wait was worth it and look forward to your future success. We salute you all and welcome you to the Mzuni Alumni.

Dr Rex Harawa
Chair: Mzuzu University Council



Dr Robert Ridley
Vice Chancellor



Rising from the ashes

MZUNI witnessed its biggest ever disaster in December 2015 when the University Library burnt down. The University was forced to convert its hall, which also served as a student recreation space, into an interim library to ensure that students were not too greatly inconvenienced and could use it for study purposes. Many supporters from inside and outside Malawi have since assisted with the re-establishment of a functional library at MZUNI.

University of Strathclyde in Scotland were first to step in and lend a helping hand by donating shelves, desks, chairs and books for the interim library. University of Strathclyde students and staff liberally rallied together to compile the donated items – a living example of the value and importance of forging international academic partnerships and collaborations.

Virginia Tech in the USA, another long-standing partner of MZUNI, have also stepped in to assist with the library project and recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MZUNI. Virginia Tech have donated thousands of books and e-readers and will also, through their School of Architecture, help design MZUNI's new state of the art library.

The Chancellor, His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika also personally donated resources for the renovation of the library and Government has additionally provided MK200 million in 2016/17 to assist library reconstruction.



Students help to offload a truck load of books and equipment donated by Virginia Tech

The Management, staff and students of MZUNI extend their deepest gratitude to all the organisations, individuals, local and international educational institutions, and strategic partners for the support they have given the University as it rebuilds its new library collection. Some of those who reached out to us and donated numerous library resources when we most needed them include World Vision, UNESCO Malawi, Standard Bank Malawi, Anglia Book Distributors, Book Aid International, Lamp & Light, US Embassy (Book Africa), Irish Aid, Chancellor College,

College of Medicine, Kamuzu College of Nursing, The Polytechnic, Komuzu Academy, various international colleges and universities, MZUNI Alumni and MZUNI Staff.

Having lost over 50,000 books in the December 2015 fire, MZUNI has acquired over 30,000 books from the above-mentioned and other donations. The University still has a long way to go to match the original collection and is appealing to well-wishers to continue donating books and monetary donations for library reconstruction.

Embracing the future

One of the major roles of Higher Education is to produce human resources for national development, to drive economic development. Mzuzu University (MZUNI) is playing its role in this by graduating significant numbers of employment-ready students in a wide variety of disciplines that address the vocational and development needs of the country.

One of the ways in which the University ensures relevance as well as the quality of its programmes is by regularly reviewing its curricula. In the last two years the University has engaged in an extensive curriculum review exercise of all its programmes, in part through funding from the African Development Bank.

This has involved stakeholders, such as the private sector, government and alumni, who have enhanced the University's curricula by sharing their practical experience of industry and business. This engagement will help MZUNI produce highly competent individuals that are ready to serve, innovate and meet the development goals of Malawi.

This shared intellectual activity also helps encourage scholarly collaborations with local and



Mzuni and Old Mutual Management Teams after a successful Mathematics Olympiad

international partners through research projects, joint funding and maintaining quality assurance. Some of MZUNI's major funders, often channelled through the Government of Malawi, are the African Development Bank,

European Union, USAID, DFID and a number of Diplomatic Missions and NGOs. They do this through the funding of research and consultancies, staff and student scholarships, grants and infrastructure development.

One of the major multi-country research projects in which MZUNI is currently involved is the Urban Africa Risk Knowledge (Urban Ark) project which is funded by DFID, UK Aid and other donors, and involves five African countries and the UK, 12 institutional partners and six cities in Africa. This global network is researching the core urbanisation, and risk relationships and challenges that hinder informed and effective responses to disaster risks and building capacity for resilience in cities and rural areas.

The EU-funded regional forum for institutional development (RUFORUM) and capacity building has helped train 43 Masters and 20 PhD students for 12 collaborating African partner institutions to enhance agricultural productivity and assure food security for Sub-Saharan Africa. Some of the other focus areas include climate change mitigation, global sanitation and low cost energy technologies.

MZUNI's Biomedical Sciences Department was recently selected as a partner research institute with a Chinese research institute to carry out a project on control and elimination of Schistosomiasis under the China-Africa Institutional

Cooperation for Schistosomiasis Elimination Research. In addition, the Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Luke International Norway (LIN) who are supporting level four students with funds for their dissertations.

Most of the infrastructure in Malawi's Higher Education institutions is up to 5 decades old, thus the recent injection of infrastructure development and rehabilitation at MZUNI by the World Bank and AFDE has significantly boosted the ability of the institution to deliver quality programmes.

To improve its relevance and responsiveness to national priorities MZUNI has decided to restructure its faculties for the 2017/18 academic year from five to six, namely Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Health Sciences, Science, Technology and Innovation; and Tourism, Hospitality, and Management Studies. This new faculty structure will be operational from September 2017.

In all this, MZUNI recognises that strategic partnerships are important for academic and economic development.

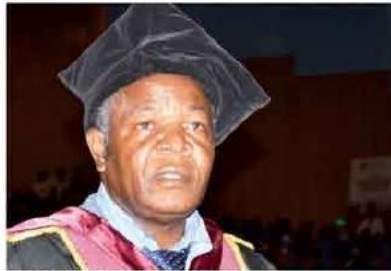


Honouring Outstanding Achievers



Dr FELIX MLUSU

Awarded a MZUNI Honorary Doctorate in Business Leadership for an exemplary illustrious business career in insurance and other Leadership. With this award, MZUNI proudly honours Dr Mlusu for his ability, pioneering spirit to champion initiatives and take them to fruition; focused determination to achieve; intellectual contribution to a wide range of boards, businesses and financial services sector; and for having reached the pinnacle of his career in the four decades he has been in the insurance industry.



DR NAPOLEON DZOMBE

Awarded a MZUNI Honorary Doctorate in Entrepreneurship for an enduring spirit of dedication and inherent desire to use his resources to serve, uplift and empower people including the vulnerable. With this award, MZUNI proudly honours Dr Dzombe for his enterprising and generous spirit; for his ability to create jobs; and for being an "entrepreneur with a heart".



DR CLAUDE BOUCHER CHISALE

Awarded a MZUNI Honorary Doctorate for his true missionary work couched in education, training and ethnology, and for making religion accessible. With this award, MZUNI proudly honours Dr Claude Boucher Chisale for his selfless immersion into the Malawian culture and traditions without reserve and promotion of these locally and abroad; for his research into Malawian culture and sharing the history of Malawian people; the development and growth of Mus Mission; and simply for his love of Malawi and its cultural traditions.



MZUNI Vice Chancellor Dr Robert Ridley receives the 2016 Chartered Institute of Customer Management Award for Service Excellence

Mzuni Trailblazing Alumni Where are they now?



Rachel Sibanda (L) receiving a prize from Minister of Education Science and Technology Emmanuel Fabiano. Sibanda is the Founder of mlub and Deputy Chief of Party; Politician Group Graduated from Mzuni with MSc Information Theory, Coding and Cryptography, 2002

Mbata: A summons for action

In Saha Village, in the area of Traditional Authority Jatakwiba Muthali in Mzimba district lives a man by the name of Lusungu Mkwandawire. He is no ordinary man amongst his peers. He is a Mbata man.

Mbata is a traditional wind instrument made from the horn of a cow which is blown in order to summon people to a village gathering place.

This is where the chief would address his people regarding developments in the village, be it the coming of development projects that would require participation of the whole community; to listen to visiting government officials from the Boma who want to communicate to the villagers or indeed war as was the case in the olden times.

Lusungu is the man who blows such an important instrument whenever the need arises.

Mbata is therefore a symbol of urgency to find out what, why, who and probably how; The urgency for action. This perhaps is the reason Mzuni University (MZUNI) adopted this cultural vestige as their symbol during graduations.

Mkwandawire has not only managed to earn himself an enviable position in his village but also amongst the learned and learning as he is the one who blows the Mbata during the MZUNI graduation ceremonies.



Mbata man Lusungu Mkwandawire

During the recent Mzuni graduation ceremony that was held at Bingwa International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe, Mkwandawire said that he feels honoured to be the one to blow the traditional wind instrument for the school.

"Traditionally, whenever the sound of the Mbata is heard, everybody comes to hear what the chief wants to communicate to his people; usually it is communication about development projects or some developments in the community but in the past, the issues included war as such when coming the people, especially men had to come prepared for anything in case of advancing enemies," Mkwandawire said of the importance of the Mbata.



Vivemi Chawula, Deputy Country Director, National Democratic Institute, Graduated from Mzuni with BA Education, 2002



Hastings Chilumba Assistant Director Clinical Services; Ministry of Health Graduated from Mzuni with BSc Health Sciences, 2004



Maxwell Ng'ambi Marketing Manager, ABL Group Graduated from Mzuni with Bachelor of Arts, 2003



Alfred Ganda, Chief Executive Officer, Football Association of Malawi, Graduated from Mzuni with BA Education, 2003



Mary Chisalo, District Coordinator, Save the Children Graduated from Mzuni with Bachelor of Arts, 2005



Lieutenant Colonel John Isaac Misseko Deputy Chief of Staff; Malawi Defence Force Graduated from Mzuni with BSc Security Studies, 2009



— PICTORIAL FOCUS —

MZUZU UNIVERSITY GRADUATION CEREMONY



MCU officials and dignitaries sing the national anthem to mark the beginning of the Ceremony



Venerated guests receiving their Master's degree awards



Several graduates were awarded first class degrees and distinctions



Dr. James Mawemwana being congratulated by MZU officials and Vice-Minister Basana



Vice-Chancellor Dr. Robert Riley and Hon. William Fabisio observe the proceedings



Jackie Muzema, Minister of Education with distinction



Some of the graduates who were awarded Masters in Leadership



Dr. Amos Mawemwa, Key Founder of MZU, Honorary Academy and previous MZU Honorary Doctorate awardee



Hon. Winston Kankole



Members of MZU Council observe the proceedings



Some of the MZU staff and dignitaries



Dr. Elio Mweya being congratulated for his PhD award by dignitaries



MZU staff procession - HPL LIBRARY



Dr. Amos Mawemwa, Key Founder of MZU, Honorary Academy and previous MZU Honorary Doctorate awardee



Flag bearers lead the procession



Members of MZU Council observe the proceedings



Some of the MZU staff and dignitaries



Dr. Elio Mweya being congratulated for his PhD award by dignitaries



MZU staff procession - HPL LIBRARY



Dr. Amos Mawemwa, Key Founder of MZU, Honorary Academy and previous MZU Honorary Doctorate awardee



Flag bearers lead the procession



Dr. Amos Mawemwa, Key Founder of MZU, Honorary Academy and previous MZU Honorary Doctorate awardee



Hon. Winston Kankole

