



"Service and Excellence"

PRESIDENT EDGAR LUNGU GRACES GRADUATION OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY OFFICERS

The University of Zambia (UNZA) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, congratulated the graduating students of the Defence and Security Studies (DSS) programme.

Prof Mumba did so at UNZA's 1st Session of the 49th Graduation Ceremony that was held on the 28th November at the Chamba Valley, Zambia National service Mess.

Delivering his speech at the ceremony, Prof. Mumba expressed pride saying, "The University of Zambia is honoured to present today 56 graduands who will be conferred with the Diploma in Defence and Security Studies of The University of Zambia. I take great pleasure in recognising that this year, eight (8) of the 56 graduands were allied students coming from Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania, Lesotho, Kenya and Rwanda".

He dispelled the common notion associated with this part of the world that says universities produce graduates that do not possess the skills that are fit for the demands of the industry. And he reassured all present at the ceremony that UNZA was in fact leading the way to change this narrative.

"In this programme, the horizon of the military service has increased and, as a result, military personnel become more available to serve society better. For example, this programme equips students with an understanding of issues from various fields such as economics, peace and conflict resolution, development, public administration and public policy, sociology, political science, psychology, ethics, history, law, among other professional fields," he said.

He further noted the DSS programme, and several others being offered at UNZA, are tailor-made for industry, and have been developed in close collaboration with the necessary stakeholders, ensuring graduates to have the necessary skills for their respective fields.

Professor Mumba added that The University of Zambia has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Zambia Police Service to introduce a program tailored for service and that a Bachelor of Arts in Police studies program is in the works.

The Vice Chancellor thank all parties involved and in attendance and also commended the graduates on their achievement of the DSS Diploma and solemnly urged them to be great ambassadors of UNZA as they go out to serve their countries.



President Lungu gracing the UNZA DSS graduation ceremony



President Lungu Awarding the DSS graduands



The graduands celebrate after being awarded their diplomas

2020 AETFAT Congress Launched

The University of Zambia (UNZA) recently won the bid to host the 22nd Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa (AETFAT) and the prestigious Pan-African Congress was officially launched on 17th October 2019 ahead of the 2020 Congress which will take place in Livingstone under the theme: ***“Diversity and Conservation of African Plants: Challenges and Opportunities”***. The theme is aligned with the African Union’s Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy as well as the Zambian Government Policy on Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of Higher Education, Eng Dr Brian Mushimba said the Government of the Republic of Zambia has prioritised the need to strengthen the role of science, technology, and innovation as key drivers of economic development as highlighted in Zambia’s Seventh National Development Plan.

Dr Mushimba said that Government recognized the contribution of the AETFAT congress towards sustainable development of Zambia in particular and Africa in general.

He added that the African Union’s Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2020 recognised the ever-growing urgency to collectively address the global, social, economic and environmental challenges across national boundaries.

“The African Union is convinced that science, technology, and innovation can play an essential role in meeting these challenges through large-scale transnational collaborative approaches which pool together competences and available resources,” Dr Mushimba said.

Dr Mushimba emphasised on how plants were important for carbon sequestration and oxygen production, climate stability, soil integrity, among others, and called for concerted efforts in preserving the environment as well as sustainable utilisation of plant resources.

“I am delighted that Zambia was given the mandate to host this prestigious Pan-African Plant congress. I have no doubt this congress will bring out detailed knowledge of many plants of Africa, and their diversity.”

“On behalf of the Zambian Government, I pledge to remain committed to supporting the 2020 AETFAT Congress by bringing stakeholders together to network and provide the scientific advice that helps in tackling the many challenges that the Government faces. And, therefore, wish to call on cooperating partners, corporate institutions and individuals to support the 2020 AETFAT Congress to ensure it achieves its objectives,” he said.



Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Eng. Dr Brian Mushimba, with UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, at the official Launch of 2020 AETFAT Congress to be held in Livingstone in March 2020.



Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Eng. Dr Brian Mushimba, UNZA VC, Prof. Luke Mumba and officials pose for a photo after the 2020 AETFAT Congress launch.

And UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, said the University was honoured to host the 2020 AETFAT Congress in partnership with a number of other institutions and was hopeful that the Congress would stimulate interests in plant biology among young people to create opportunities as well as access to financial resources to promote networking among plant researchers.

The launch of the 2020 AETFAT Congress marks the beginning of the final preparations of the event which will take place in Livingstone in March 2020 and is meant to raise awareness among the various stakeholders and members of the public.

PRIORITISE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, URGES DR MUSHIMBA

The Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Eng. Dr Brian Mushimba, says that increased access to science, technology and innovation in higher education is the key driver in reshaping the African narrative.

Speaking at the recent Regional University Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) meeting, which took place at the University of Cape Coast in Accra, Ghana, Dr Mushimba said prioritising Higher Education, Science and Technology was Zambia's top agenda as it was a key to achieve regional and continental development.

"All of us are called to action in placing a premium on higher education. The basis for real development that impacts society is an investment in education. However, to create a pool of thinkers who are the epicentre of socio-cultural and developmental needs of a country, more investment in higher education is needed. This higher education should be at the centre of research, innovation and a generation of new thinking which, in turn, positively impacts industry and society in general," he said.

Dr Mushimba said that Zambia has introduced several programmes to promote Science, Technology and Innovation which had been linked to the development agenda of the sectors such as Health, Agriculture, Energy, Mining, Manufacturing, Industrialisation, Tourism, Information and Technology.

He said that in order to implement the regional and continental initiatives, Zambia was working to partner with other stakeholders and hoped that the involvement of the institutions of higher learning in such programmes like RUFORUM was going to open doors for more collaborations.

Dr Mushimba commended the initiative to set up RUFORUM and pledged that Zambia would support and participate in any initiatives that promote the collecting, packing and sharing of knowledge for stronger and smarter partnerships, advocacy and decision making.

And the University of Cape Coast Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Ghartey Ampiah, called on delegates to work towards developing the education system that would re-shape African narrative. In his address to the delegates, Prof Ampiah outlined the five characteristics of high performing institutions namely: autonomous institutions that can respond positively to national and supranational development challenges; systems that are less complex and more comprehensive and discipline-oriented; Systems with the right balance between freedom of academic entirety and managerial competence. Systems that can define the community they are



Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Dr. Brian Mushimba



University of Cape Coast Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Ghartey Ampiah.

in and; lastly educational systems that have the capability for partnership and diversity.

Nevertheless, Prof Ampiah gave the negative side of the types of universities that would not succeed being those that refuse to change and remain stuck in their ways and advised that to succeed, universities must aspire to attach importance to reputation, quality of services, collaborations, as well as strive for constant innovation.

UNZA ENTERS INTO A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH XJTU OF CHINA

On Tuesday 17th December 2019, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Higher Education, Ms Kayula Siame, led a delegation drawn from the Ministry of Higher Education and the University of Zambia (UNZA) to Xian City in Shaanxi Province where UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, on behalf of the University signed an overall strategic cooperation memorandum of understanding with Xian Jiaotong University (XJTU) one of the top universities in China.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ms Siame stressed the importance of the partnership between the UNZA and XJTU and urged UNZA to seek out human capital development opportunities aimed at enhancing the University's strategic position in addressing some of the challenges the Country was facing.

She said, "As we build on the journey of working together which we are embarking upon today, there is need to take action in equipping our people with skills required for national transformation which include artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum data analytics, automation, robotics, Nanotechnology and biotechnology."

And UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, said that this collaboration would create more capacity for the University through the Belt and Road Joint Research Centre to strengthen postgraduate training, staff exchanges, joint research and joint professional workshops and conferences across the 13 Schools.

XJTU is a comprehensive research University with an international reputation for research in science and technology. The said university has 10 major categories of disciplines namely Science, Engineering, Medicine, Economics, Management, Humanities, Law, Philosophy, Education and Art. XJTU has nine university colleges for undergraduate programmes and has twenty affiliated teaching hospitals. XJTU now has 40,346 full-time students, including 19,629 postgraduates and 2,800 international students from over 136 countries. It is also noteworthy that XJTU has since 1956 won 78 national-level awards for excellence in teaching.



Ministry of Higher Education Permanent Secretary, Ms Kayula Siame (left) receiving a brief from the Xian Jiaotong University Vice-President, Prof. Xi Guang (right).



Xian Jiaotong University Vice-President, Prof. Xi Juang (left), and the University of Zambia Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, display the signed memorandum of understanding.

Ambassador donates to UNZA Main Library

Zambia's Ambassador to Germany and author of the book "Against All Odds: Zambia's President Edgar Chagwa Lungu's Rough Journey to State House", Ambassador Anthony Mukwita, has donated 600 copies of his book to the University of Zambia (UNZA) Library.

Speaking when he handed over the books to the Library Ambassador Mukwita said he was inspired to write the book because he wanted not only to tell the Zambian story but also President Edgar Lungu's immense humility for a man of influence in a country where people often get over consumed by their own self-importance that set him several paces apart from other politicians or national leaders.

The book donation was made possible by a businessman, a supporter and friend of Ambassador Mukwita that bought 1200 copies that were shared into half as a donation to Mulungushi University and UNZA.

Ambassador Mukwita also encouraged students countrywide to be creative because the future was bright and that they could achieve everything they desired if they worked hard.

And University of Zambia, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Mulenga, in a speech read on his behalf by Chief Librarian of UNZA, Ms Christine Kanyengo, said knowledge creation, access and preservation were some of the cornerstones of existence for the University and that the book spoke to two of those ethos of knowledge generation and knowledge preservation.

He added that the book recreated some of the cardinal moments of Zambia's political history and the ascension to the presidency of the Republic of Zambia by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu.

Dr Mulenga, further said the book provides political history which would be preserved for posterity.



Zambia's ambassador to Germany Anthony Mukwita with UNZA Librarian, Ms Christine Kanyengo at the donation ceremony at the University of Zambia Library



Ambassador to Germany Anthony Mukwita UNZA Librarian Ms Christine Kanyengo and the UNZASU president Shadreck Mumba after the book donation ceremony

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UNZA LAUNCHES RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND FRAMEWORK

The University of Zambia (UNZA) has launched the first ever Risk Management Policy and Framework which aims at addressing the risks that the institution is facing.

Speaking at the launch of the Policy, which was held on 2nd December, 2019, UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, in a speech ready on his behalf by the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Michael Mulenga, said that the absence of a Risk Management Strategy had resulted in financial loss of millions of Kwachas to the University over the years.

“The risk control will allow budget holders in Schools, Units, Institutes and Directorates in the University to take responsibility for risks and feel more confident about their decisions,” he explained.

Prof. Mumba added that this would help the University to establish procedures to avoid potential threat and minimise their impact should they occur as well as cope with the results.

Prof. Mumba also said that Risk Management Unit shall be put in place to implement the institution’s Risk Management Policy and Framework.

“Considering the various potential risk management and event before they occur the University can save money,” he said.

He further explained that the use of strong corporate governance principles that focus specifically on risk management can help the University attain its aspirations for 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

Prof. Mumba also said that the University face various risks such as operational and business risks due to its environment in which it operated in.

“Some of the risks the University faces are non-students accessing the academic services and agency risks where employees use university time to pursue their own goals which only add personal value to them,” he said.



Acting UNZA Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Mulenga, speaks during the launch of the first ever Risk Management Policy and Framework.



Acting UNZA Bursar, Mr Norman Kamanga, speaking during the launch of the Risk Management Policy and Framework

Overseas Seminar on Agriculture Production Techniques for Zambia 2019 Launched

The University of Zambia (UNZA) in collaboration with Jilin Agricultural University (China) recently held the third Overseas Seminar on Agriculture Production Techniques for Zambia aimed at empowering Government officers with skills designed to meet the local technology needs.

The seminar, which drew participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, focused on enhancing agricultural, fisheries and livestock productivity in order to improve the household, national food and nutrition security.

Officially opening the seminar, Director in the Department of Agriculture, Mr Peter Lungu, urged participant to take advantage of the rich content of the training in order to enhance agricultural productivity in their respective societies around the country.

Mr Lungu said high productivity in the agricultural, fisheries and livestock would help to enhance national food and nutrition security which would further increase the income of the individuals at household level.

"This will further enhance income and improve the standard of living of our people in line with the Government's National Agricultural Policy's vision in the country," he said.

And the Chinese Embassy Counsellor, Mr Lai Bo, said that Zambia was endowed with favourable natural conditions for the development of agriculture as the land was fertile, with abundant sunlight as well as rich in water resources.

He said working was best option for Zambia because China had a cutting edge in capital technology and experience which would make the two countries highly complementary for agricultural cooperation.

He further said that the Agricultural Technical Demonstration Centre, which was set up and run by Jilin Agricultural University (JAU) was one of the first 14 agricultural technical demonstration centres that China has established in Africa.

Mr Bo revealed that in 2018, the Chinese President, Mr Xi Jinping, announced that China would provide Africa with 50 thousand training opportunities from 2019 to 2021 which would help create a mutual relationship between China and African countries.



Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Mulenga, with officials from Jilin Agricultural University during the Third Overseas Seminar on Agriculture Production Techniques for Zambia.



Officials at the 3rd Overseas Seminar on Agriculture Production Techniques for Zambia.

"So far, more than 6,000 Zambians from different faculties are currently undergoing training in China," Mr Bo added.

He appealed to the participants to cherish the training opportunity and apply the knowledge appropriately in their respective community.

And JAU representative, Prof Bao said the institution was one of the key and earliest provincial university in China to offer Bachelors and Masters' degrees as well as Doctorates since 1948.