

## UNZA INDUCTS 608 MEDICAL AND HEALTH GRADUATING STUDENTS

*By Mary M. Maambo*

The University of Zambia (UNZA) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, observes that Zambia is operating at less than 50% of the required skilled human resource for various health and medical professions. He said that without new interventions to increase the number of graduands, it would take Zambia 20 years to meet human resources required to address the current health care professional shortage in some of our hospitals.

Prof. Mumba was speaking at the 2018 Induction Ceremony at UNZA Ridgeway Campus on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018. At this colourful event, graduates took Oath of Allegiance and Loyalty to their professions before the main Graduation Ceremony in order to facilitate their registration with various health and medical professional bodies and await deployment to health institutions where their services will help alleviate the critical shortage of human resource and improve health care service delivery.

Prof. Mumba presented a total number 608 graduating students broken down as follows: Nursing - 252, Bachelor of Medicine/ Surgery - 117, Pharmacy - 66, Bachelor of Science - 67 (offered through the Chainama College), Biomedical Sciences - 52, Environmental Health - 29 and Physiotherapy - 25. This is a remarkable increase as compared to a total of 389 graduating students in the last academic year. He commended both the teaching Staff and students for their hard work without which the performance recorded would have not been achieved.

He also highlighted the challenges faced by the four schools at Ridgeway campus such as such teaching space, training equipment and inadequate funding to support training. Despite the various challenges, UNZA has continued to make progress in a number of areas such as the introduction of a new Midwifery training programme in the School of Nursing Sciences. Students of this programme will be expected to take up various teaching positions upon graduation in both public and private schools of Nursing which will in turn increase the number of graduating nurses and midwives in the country.



*University of Zambia Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, speaking during the Induction Ceremony of graduating students which was held on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Ridgeway Campus in Lusaka while Prof. Kumar Baboo listens.*

Prof. Mumba said that UNZA would to continue strengthening collaboration with the Ministry of Health as continued support from the Ministry was very important for the schools at Ridgeway Campus in the training of health professionals. Thus, he called upon the Ministry of Health to continue facilitating engagement of lectures across the four schools and appealed to the Ministry to actively plan for required numbers of doctors and all the health professionals as well as

assisting in lobbying government for creation of positions for their posting. Prof. Mumba further thanked everyone who contributed to the schools' significant achievements, namely the members of Staff at University Teaching Hospital, Levy Mwanawasa Central Hospital and Chainama College who, under very difficult conditions considering the high patient turnover in their health care facilities, took time to teach, guide and mentor graduating students.



## UNZA MANAGEMENT WELCOMES NEW UNZASU EXECUTIVE



*UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba (4<sup>th</sup> from left, front row) and UNZA Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Enala Tembo-Mwase (3<sup>rd</sup> from left, front row) with principal officers and senior staff pose for a group photo with new UNZASU Executive being led by its President, Mr Warran Hamusunga (3rd from right, front row) on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in the Senate Chamber.*

**By Mary M. Maambo**

The University of Zambia (UNZA) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba, urges the new University of Zambia Students Union (UNZASU) executive to embrace dialogue as the amicable way to address challenges affecting students and the University. He said this during the official introduction of the new UNZASU executive to Management on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in the Senate Chamber.

Prof. Luke Mumba further said the new Students leadership should sober up after elections euphoria and come to terms with reality as Management was willing to work with the new team. He encouraged the new UNZASU Cabinet to follow proper channel of communication which would help in preventing tension stakeholders.

And UNZA Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Enala Tembo-Mwase, appealed to UNZA executives to not only concentrate on UNZASU affairs but to also pay attention to their studies as it is the primary reason they came to the University. She said that it was disheartening to see some students failing examinations due to paying more attention to UNZASU matters than their studies.

Meanwhile, new UNZASU President, Mr Warran Hamusunga, said the union would work with Management in ensuring that student's interests were prioritised and pledged to have a riot free University during his reign.

The union raised issues of registration, examinations, accommodation and communication from Management to student populace.

## ACEIDHA BRACES FOR 2019 AS IT DEVELOPS ITS ANNUAL WORK PLAN



*UNZA Africa Centre of Excellence of Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals team lead by Prof. Aaron Mweene, poses for a group photo during the 2019 Annual Work Plan preparations workshop in Chisamba at Fringilla lodge on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.*

**By Damaseke Chibale**

The Africa Centre of Excellence of Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) at the University of Zambia (UNZA) in the School of Veterinary Medicine held an Annual Work Plan preparation workshop from 21 - 23 November 2018 with the following objectives:

1. To come up with the 2019 ACEIDHA annual work plan
2. To come up with two strategic memoranda of understanding with Copperbelt University (public partner) and Hokkaido University of Japan (private partner).

### FOCUS

The ACEIDHA team managed to develop the annual Work Plan for the year, 2019. The focus was on postgraduate students enrolment and research output.

Moreover, in 2019, the project will expend its efforts on developing and accrediting of all masters and PhD degrees. In the Work Plan, attention was drawn to the construction of the facility to house offices, lecture rooms, and research equipment.

### BRIEF BACKGROUND

As a way to increase capacity to tackle increasing challenges of emerging infectious diseases affecting both humans and animals, the Government of Zambia obtained a loan from the World Bank for the creation of the Africa Centre of Excellence of Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animal at the University of Zambia and anchored in the School of Veterinary Medicine. These infectious diseases include Ebola, pneumonic plagues, anthrax, trypanosomiasis and other neglected tropical diseases.

So ACEIDHA was launched on 25 April 2018 by Minister of Higher Education Prof. Nkandu Luo, MP, at Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka. ACEIDHA will develop research capacity and improve training of academic staff and students with the focus centred on research into infectious diseases which affect both humans and animals, such as bird flu, Ebola, tapeworms, Brucellosis, Anthrax and others.

**VISION:** To become a leading centre for generating knowledge and skills for infectious disease prevention and control.

**MISSION:** To conduct high level training through cutting edge research.

**CORE VALUES:** Excellence, innovativeness, integrity, collegiality, transparency and equity.



## UNZA DON RECEIVES HONOURARY FELLOWSHIP AWARD FROM THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

*By Damaseke Chibale*

The University of Zambia senior lecturer, Prof Bishal Upreti, Head - Department of Geology in the School of Mines, has brought honour to the University by being awarded with the Honorary Fellowship by the Geological Society of America (GSA). Currently, Prof. Upreti is in the USA.

The GSA Honorary Fellow Award is presented to an international geoscientist who has distinguished him- or herself in geoscience investigations, promoting environmental awareness, linking science and society, providing notable service to implementing public policy in natural resource managements, or otherwise making outstanding contributions to science.

The program was established by the GSA Council in 1909, and since then, except during a few war years, one or more Honorary Fellows have been elected annually.



*Prof. Bishal Upreti, Head - Department of Geology in the School of Mines of the University of Zambia giving his acceptance speech.*



*Prof. Bishal Upreti (right), Head - Department of Geology in the School of Mines of the University of Zambia receives the award.*