



MUBAS Newsletter

Oct to Dec
2022 Edition



MUBAS VC

Hails 2022

RUFORUM

Meeting

**MUBAS
Establishes
Technology
Transfer
Office**

**MUBAS
Partners with 3
Universities
for Capacity
Building in
Architecture**

**CEC and
ICAM
Partnership:
Hope for Future
Accountants**

MUBAS LIVING ITS MOTTO

It is quite evident that MUBAS has managed to live to its slogan “Innovate Create Generate”. The increase in innovations and innovations awards being won by MUBAS students and the setting up of the Technological Transfer Office (TTO), among other similar efforts, testify to the notion that MUBAS’s slogan is not just a mere dummy catchphrase, but a condensed statement of how MUBAS is making an effort to contribute towards MW2063, Malawi’s long-term vision.

One of MUBAS’s core values is entrepreneurship. The so many innovations that are being produced by MUBAS students and staff testify that MUBAS is focusing on its vision as it has proved that it is indeed an entrepreneurial university. Innovations spur entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship has a high potential of creating jobs.

As a nation, Malawi has a challenge that it consumes more than it produces; hence, relies more on imports than locally produced materials and finished products. Most technological resources are imported. MUBAS is making an effort to close this gap through, for instance, training and producing innovators and business incubators. MUBAS has centres and infrastructure like the Innovation Hub, Design Studio, Business Incubation Centre, laboratories and human resource that support the generation and improvement of creativity.

A number of innovations by students, which is a reflection of the ability of MUBAS to generate creative minds, have already been published and more are yet to be publicised through MUBAS Innovation Monday, published through MUBAS’s Facebook page. Other innovations will be made public by TTO after the innovations undergo different stages before disclosure.

Some of the students’ innovations already publicized are inter alia, the Helmet Detection App for Miners by Patrick Nyasulu, Tollgate Android App by Emmanuel Nangwiya, and Study Time Planner App by Gehazi Jenda. In terms of awards, Mbewu App by Emmanuel Nangwiya won the AGRITECH category of the 2022 Information and Communication Technology Association of Malawi (ICTAM) Innovation Award while Martin Manyozo scooped the Voluntary Services for Organization (VSO) Award for the Creative Minds Initiative.

The MUBAS TTO is set to facilitate innovations’ maturity processes, to determine the patentability of the innovations produced by universities’ staff and students and to mediate between inventors/innovators and the industry. The office will not only solicit projects and promote unsolicited projects but also facilitate transferring of research results and technology into new or improved products or services for manufacturing, marketing, and sales. The office will also protect intellectual property through facilitation of licensing for the same. Taking the new technologies to the industry and commercializing the innovations will enhance the socio-economic impact of the innovations.

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MUBAS Newsletter is a quarterly publication which serves as a platform for updating the MUBAS community and the public through stories on the University activities.

Let us tell MUBAS stories because stories matter; many stories matter!



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MUBAS Establishes Technology Transfer Office



Tsakama: TTo will facilitate the transfer of technological research and innovations to society

As part of its efforts to enhance the impact of research and innovations generated at the university and safeguard intellectual property, the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) has established a Technology Transfer Office (TTO) whose mandate is to transfer products of intellectual and technological research and innovations to the society.

The TTO has been established in partnership with the United Nations Development programme (UNDP).

MUBAS Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Nancy Chitera, said the office will act as a link between researchers and innovators on one hand and the industry on the other.

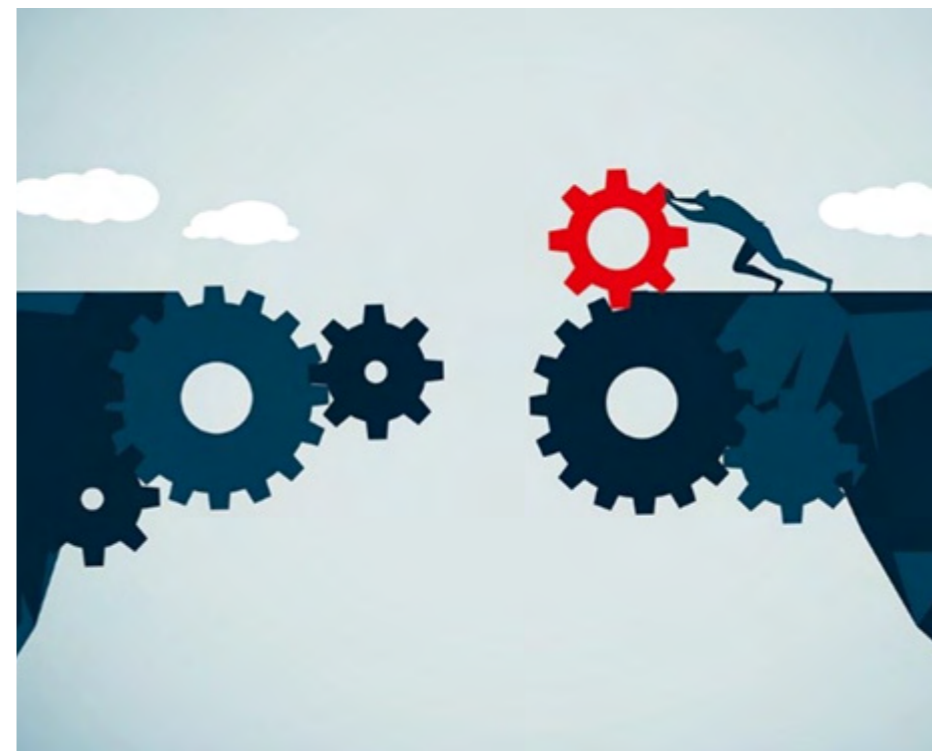
“We want to take innovations to the marketplace. This is in line with one of our core values of Discovery and Innovation in which the university seeks to provide space to pursue knowledge that is based on individual and collective intelligence, curiosity, ingenuity and creativity. Through the TTO, we shall provide a conducive environment for our stakeholders to develop and translate ideas and inventions into goods and services that create value for both the university and society,” Chitera explained.

The Vice Chancellor said that since October 2022, a steering committee made up of members drawn from the five Schools of the University has been developing the systems, standards and operating model for the TTO.

Chairperson of the TTO steering committee, Dr Madalitso Tsakama, said the committee has conducted a rigorous benchmarking process against advanced TTOs across top universities around the world.

“TTO, among other responsibilities, will be involved in assisting researchers, students and faculty not only with disclosure of innovations but also their attendant patent prosecution processes, identifying market potential for the inventions, facilitating patent protection, assisting in securing industry partners for commercialization of the university innovations, and providing business assistance for

“We want to take innovations to the marketplace. This is in line with one of our core values of Discovery and Innovation in which the university seeks to provide space to pursue knowledge that is based on individual and collective intelligence, curiosity, ingenuity and creativity.”



early stage start-up companies,” explained Tsakama.

The TTO steering committee Chairperson further indicated that the office will also facilitate the transfer of technologies to the society, thereby addressing societal problems and improving the quality of life not only locally but also globally.

MUBAS TTO is expected to cover all intellectual property that may be created within the university such as inventions, tangible research materials, software, books as well as multimedia and audiovisual materials, and other artistic works. ■

TECHNOLOGY

TRANSFER STEPS

- 01 Technology Identification
- 02 Predisclosure
- 03 Innovation Disclosure
- 04 Assessment
- 05 Protection
- 06 Marketing
- 07 Identifying start-up vs existing company
- 08 Commercialisation
- 09 Licensing

TTO VISION

To be an entrepreneurial and professional centre that transforms MUBAS and public discoveries into products and services for public benefit through the protection and responsible licensing of intellectual property.

TTO MISSION

To ensure that MUBAS creates an environment that will connect innovators and discoveries with industry and community partners, commercialise discoveries and transform early-stage technologies into new products and services for extensive dissemination and public benefit.

TTO CORE VALUES

i. Integrity: The TTO shall strive to be honest, ethical and professional in all interactions, inculcating the highest ethical standards in all stakeholder engagements and services.

ii. Promptness: The TTO shall ensure that it reduces impediments that hamper the pace of transactions.

iii. Innovation: The TTO shall provide a conducive environment for continuous development and translation of ideas and inventions into goods or services that create value to the society.

iv. Collaboration: The TTO shall strive to leverage and integrate collective intellect.
v. Excellence: The TTO commits to outstanding delivery of its services in line with its vision, mission, and objectives.

vi. Inclusiveness and Diversity: The TTO shall be impartial to diversified needs of stakeholders irrespective of gender, tribe or race, among others, in the delivery of its services.

MACRA Boosts MUBAS Innovation and Entrepreneurship Drive

Hands over studio equipment worth K400 million



Chitera: We will train more content producers **Suleman:** We want to monetize content



The official hand over: Suleman, Menyani, Ndenguma and Chitera (left to right)

”
The equipment will help MUBAS train more local content producers and equip them with knowledge and skills for producing high quality content that can compete at international level.

As MUBAS repositions itself as a centre for innovation and entrepreneurship in Malawi and globally, the K400 million content production studio equipment that the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) has donated will enhance the university's profile in the two core areas.

This was the message from MUBAS Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Nancy Chitera, when she received the donation from MACRA at a colourful handover ceremony held in the ICT, ODeL and Business Centre Building Auditorium on December 29, 2022.

The Vice Chancellor said that since the digital economy is now the major driver of the global affairs, the equipment will help MUBAS train more local content producers and equip them with the knowledge and skills for producing high quality content that can

compete at international level.

“This equipment will allow MUBAS to play a pivotal role in MACRA space to ensure high quality local content production for radio and TV stations,” said Chitera.

The donation follows a content production agreement signed between MACRA and MUBAS through the Department of Journalism and Media Studies under the School of Education, Communication and Media Studies.

The project is an intervention by MACRA, having noted that the content service licensees are failing to meet the 60% minimum local content threshold and lack the technical capacity to produce local content that meets the required standards.

Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Dr Jolly Ntaba, was glad that the equipment was finally handed over to MUBAS.

“The equipment comprises different aspects including, sound, lighting, video cameras, tripods, intercom, teleprompters, head phones, studio microphone, dolly base stands, drones, editing computers for both radio and TV productions and others.

“The camcorders that we have been given are six Panasonic AG-UX90 UHD 4K professional Camcorder and four Sony FDR-AX1 Digital 4K Video Camera Recorder. These cameras are capable of recording up to UHD 3840 x 2160 video and 8-mode gamma,” said Ntaba.

MACRA Director General, Daud Suleman, observed that the equipment would contribute significantly towards the efforts to improve content production which is the future of the digital economy.

Suleman added that in many countries, content producers make a lot of money; hence the need for more and well-trained media content producers.

“We are in the process of discussing with Facebook, Google and other platforms with the aim of monetizing the content created in Malawi,” disclosed Suleman.

A member of the MACRA board, Alekeni Menyani, intimated that local content production is being promoted to help broadcasters in Malawi to meet the 60 percent local content requirement.

Menyani also said that MACRA began implementing the project after noting gaps in local content production among broadcasters. According to Menyani, the equipment will go a long way in improving local content production and training of media professionals in Malawi.

Apart from donating the equipment, MACRA will also refurbish the production studio in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies. In addition, MACRA will facilitate the provision of training in content production at MUBAS. ■

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We are in the process of discussing with Facebook, Google and other platforms with the aim of monetizing the content created in Malawi.

MUBAS VC Hails 2022 RUFORUM Meeting

Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) Vice Chancellor Associate Professor Nancy Chitera has hailed the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) as an important platform for developing collaborations and networks crucial for strengthening innovations and the university's overall agenda.



Chitera: We want our students to compete for innovations awards at the next RUFORUM conference

Chitera made the remarks during RUFORUM's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Zimbabwe from 12th to 16th December, 2022.

During the AGM, the universities shared knowledge, expertise, innovations and achievements that will shape the future of African universities and make them more relevant in solving problems being faced by African nations.

"We have seen a number of innovations that have been awarded which are similar to what our students are developing at MUBAS. Moving forward, we want to create an enabling environment that will help our students compete with innovators from other countries at the next RUFORUM conferences," said Chitera.

In her Vote of Thanks, on behalf of the 900 delegates who attended the meeting, Chitera observed that the 2022 RUFORUM AGM was a

clear demonstration that Africa is on the rise in advancing university education. She also applauded the leadership of the consortium for the steady growth of the forum in the past 18 years which has seen the membership increasing from 10 to 163 universities from 40 African countries.

MUBAS Head of Deans, Associate Professor Mphatso Kamndaya, described the AGM as an invaluable meeting point that will help MUBAS increase its visibility at regional and international forums.

According to Kamndaya, such opportunities and collaborations help to improve the status of the university on the international level. The MUBAS Head of Deans acknowledged that the RUFORUM Principals and Deans meeting generated key insights for managing universities in the ever-changing operating environment for institutions of higher learning.



The universities shared knowledge, expertise, innovations and achievements that will shape the future of African universities and make them more relevant in solving problems being faced by African nations.



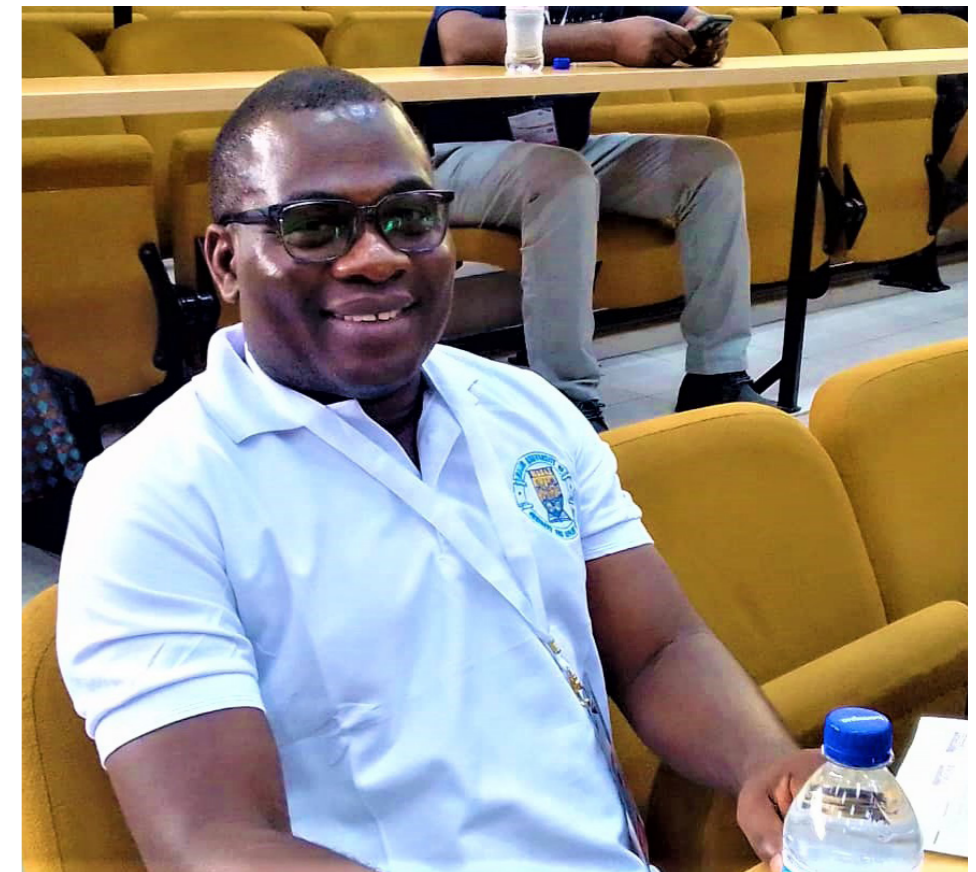
RUFORUM Vice Chancellors meeting at University of Zimbabwe Innovation Hub Auditorium

"We shared a lot of insights on digital learning technologies in African universities, problem-based learning for improved quality of learning, access to digital infrastructure for research and innovation, commitment to business incubation for job creation and community engagement for increased impact of universities," said Kamndaya.

The meeting also gave MUBAS the opportunity to showcase its work and learn from other universities.

"We have established networks with different universities across the region. We also had a pavilion where we had displays and promoted our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to the delegates at the conference and people of Zimbabwe," added Kamndaya.

Giving a key note address at the closing ceremony, Malawi Minister
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Kamndaya: We have established networks with different universities



RUFORUM Brings Together African Universities

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of Education, Agness NyaLonje, called for an increase in efforts and practical innovations that can emancipate Africa from its current problems.

“We must find African solutions to African problems, in particular, the food and nutrition problems,” said NyaLonje.

According to NyaLonje, African Universities need to collectively take control of their situation and engage the youth in research, innovations and entrepreneurship in advancing the universities’ development agenda.

During the AGM, the RUFORUM Board Meeting made a number of resolutions that included the need for intensified efforts to ratify the RUFORUM Charter, increased relevance of universities in national development, intensified engagement between policy makers and the academia at the national and continental levels, increased engagement of universities in the network activities, and enhanced collaborative capacity building and sharing of resources among member institutions.

The meeting, held under the theme ‘Strengthening Africa’s Agri-Food System in the Post COVID-19 Era: Opportunities and Challenges’,

RUFORUM Board Meeting called for:

1. Intensified efforts to ratify the RUFORUM Charter.
2. Increased relevance of universities in national development.
3. Intensified engagement between policy makers and the academia at the national and continental levels.
4. Increased engagement of universities in the network activities.

was opened by the president of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Mnangagwa called for Africa to come to terms with the reality that no foreigner will develop Africa but its own citizens; hence, the need for universities to produce human resource, research, and innovation outputs that add value to society.

RUFORUM is a network of African universities focused on human capacity building and institutional strengthening in agriculture and food systems.

The 2022 AGM saw 14 new member universities joining the network. ■

MUBAS Partners with 3 Universities for Capacity Building in Architecture

Capacity building and collaborations have been described as integral to the improvement of teaching and practice of architecture in Malawi and across the world.

This was the key theme during a two-day visit to the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) by the Institute of Architecture (Austria), University of Limerick (Ireland) and ENSAP Lille University (France).

The three European universities of architecture visited MUBAS from 22nd to 24th November, 2022. The aim of the visit was to strengthen collaboration between the Department of Architecture at MUBAS and the three universities in capacity building in higher education through the Erasmus grant project.

Head of the Department of Architecture at MUBAS, Terrence Namaona, remarked that the collaboration will help in addressing the funding gaps the department is experiencing and support the School of Built Environment, in particular, and MUBAS, at large.

“The collaboration will help the Department of Architecture enormously since the department is currently at a stage of building capacity as well as improving the quality of service delivery,” said Namaona.

Professor Michelle Howard from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna echoed Namaona’s sentiments saying the collaboration will help MUBAS architecture programme especially in producing architectural works of international standards.



Namaona receiving a book from Howard during the visit

Through the programme, architecture professors from the three prestigious universities will also be delivering lectures to MUBAS students.

Among the activities during the visit was a presentation on the status of architecture in Malawi as well as the need for partnership which was delivered by MUBAS Dean of School of Built Environment, Gilbert Chilinde.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Architecture also exhibited architectural designs much to the delight of the visitors who, in turn, offered various expertise on how students can improve their designs to match international standards.

The visiting officials were taken through a tour of La Caverna at Mandala and St. Montfort Church at the Catholic Institute (CI) in Blantyre. The officials also visited Manje – a densely populated semi-urban township in Blantyre – to appreciate local architectural

design challenges.

MUBAS is the only university in Malawi that offers a degree programme in architectural studies. ■

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Through the programme, architecture professors from the three prestigious universities will be delivering lectures to MUBAS students.



Chikoti addressing the participants at MUBAC CEC and ICAM Recruitment Seminar in Salima

CEC and ICAM Partnership: Hope for Future Accountants

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) Continuing Education Centre (CEC) will be offering Institute for Chartered Accountants in Malawi (ICAM) programmes at its Centres in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu, and Salima from January, 2023.

The introduction of the programmes follows a memorandum of understanding signed between MUBAS CEC and ICAM which will see prospective accountants studying for ICAM professional qualification through MUBAS.

The ICAM's programmes to be offered through MUBAS CEC are Certificate in Financial Accounting and Diploma in Financial Accounting programmes.

CEC Acting Director, Victor Chikoti, described the partnership as a

great opportunity for aspiring accountants to get best accounting education from MUBAS lecturers and accounting qualification by ICAM.

"As MUBAS CEC, we are geared to offer quality teaching services at our facilities in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Salima. As a prestigious public university, prospective ICAM programmes students should expect to get best services that would ease their acquisition of the ICAM qualification," said Chikoti.

Chikoti highlighted that MUBAS CEC is also geared to provide teaching and learning environment that will bring out the best in the students.

The Acting CEC Director further explained that ICAM diploma holders will qualify to be enrolled into a degree at MUBAS at third year as he disclosed: "Studying for ICAM programmes with MUBAS CEC

“

The partnership is a great opportunity for aspiring accountants to get best accounting education from MUBAS lecturers and accounting qualification by ICAM.

offers a milliard of benefits. The students will be using MUBAS infrastructure and resources such as classrooms and libraries just like any other MUBAS student”.

Chikoti added that the MUBAS CEC and ICAM partnership is also in line with MUBAS's plan to expand access to university education which resonates with Malawi 2063.

Andrew Nyirenda, Senior Training Officer for ICAM, urged those that have been dreaming and indeed aiming high of becoming accountants to exploit the partnership opportunity as it will bring ICAM programmes to all the regions of Malawi.

Nyirenda explained: "We wanted quality delivery of our programmes hence our association with MUBAS that has been training accountants at degree level for so many years.

As ICAM, we always want to be associated with quality and we issue quality professional certificates of international standard."

Nyirenda added that the partnership is a clear demonstration of quality as he said: "MUBAS offers quality university education and ICAM gives quality certificates of international standard."

The MUBAS and ICAM team conducted a series of recruitment seminars in November and December 2022 to provide information about CEC and ICAM partnership and the ICAM programmes that will be offered through MUBAS CEC.

The sensitization clinics were conducted in Blantyre, Zomba, Mangochi, Salima, Lilongwe, Mzimba, Karonga, and Mzuzu. During the recruitment clinics, the prospective students were taken through all levels of ICAM programmes and how they can be enrolled for upgrading to a degree through MUBAS mature entry. The seminars also helped in addressing key questions on fees arrangement for the programmes and study period. ■





Kanyoma, Mikeka and Chimimba (seated in Graduation Regalia) in a group photo with the graduates after certificate presentation

MUBAS Business Incubation Centre Graduates 110 Incubates

The graduation of 110 business incubates under the MUBAS Business Incubation Centre on November 30, 2022 was further evidence that universities can make important contributions towards skills development to spur individual and national development.

Opened in 2020 as part of a skills development project for the youths, the incubation centre has seen young people from different backgrounds undergoing trainings in soap making, metal work, audiovisual media production, food processing and tailoring.

MUBAS Business Incubation Centre Manager, Ulemu Chimimba, said the aim of the centre is to train and help incubates to become entrepreneurs.

Chimimba said following the training, the graduates are expected

to establish businesses that would enhance individual, community, and national development.

The Centre Manager appealed for stakeholders' support to help the graduates translate their ideas into businesses. According to her, the graduates were trained using funding from MUBAS.

Dr. Kizito Kanyoma, Dean of the School of Business and Economic Sciences, encouraged the graduates to be ambassadors for the MUBAS business incubation programmes and the national source of social and economic development.

Director of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Ministry of Education, Dr Chomora Mikeka challenged the graduates to utilize the skills acquired during the training to contribute towards the objectives of the Malawi Vision 2063. ■



The Creative Minds Initiative's activities included organising and facilitating 500 online and physical training sessions with university students and youths in Malawi in entrepreneurship, financial literacy and mind-set change.



Manyozo: I am grateful for the support i received from the MUBAS Students Union and fellow students

MUBAS Student, Manyozo, Scoops VSO Award for Creative Minds Initiative

Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) student, Martin Manyozo, has walked home with the Voluntary Services Organisation (VSO) award for a project called 'Creative Minds Initiative' which focused on promoting the welfare of needy students.

The project also sought to create employment and internship opportunities for students at MUBAS and other universities in Malawi.

Manyozo, a fourth-year student pursuing the Bachelor of Business Administration, received the award at an event marking the 2022 commemoration of the World Volunteers Day held on December 8, 2022 at the Crossroads Hotel in

Lilongwe.

"When I was nominated by the MUBAS Students Union to compete with other universities in Malawi for the award, I took it as a challenge but I had all the courage to compete for the award," explained a smiling Manyozo.

Manyozo said he was grateful for the overwhelming support he received from the University through the students union, University students and Malawian youths who patronised the training sessions in large numbers, leading to the success of the initiative.

The Creative Minds Initiative had a number of activities that included organising and facilitating 500

online and physical training sessions with university students and youths in Malawi in entrepreneurship, financial literacy and mind-set change.

The awards event was organised by VSO in collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Malawi Red Cross Society.

The ceremony was graced by UNDP representative, Shigeki Komatsubara, who pledged that UNDP will continue to support young students, volunteers and initiatives that have value and contribute towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ■

MUBAS Intensifies Secondary School Career Talks

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) marketing team conducted career talks in 10 secondary schools from 2nd to 5th December, 2022. The team visited both private and government secondary schools.

The team also conducted a four-day exhibition at the Bingu National Stadium where the Region Five Games were being held. The games, held under the theme 'Ignite the African Dream,' were patronised by athletes from South Africa, Lesotho, Eswathini, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles and Namibia.

MUBAS Deputy Registrar responsible for Marketing and Communication, Ellius Chizimba, said at the Region Five Games the University seized the opportunity to engage with the international delegates on the programmes the institution is offering.

"This outreach was aimed at taking beyond the borders awareness about MUBAS as an institution that provides alternative and comparable international standard tertiary education, as we press on to reach



out to international students through internationalization of our programmes," said Chizimba.

The Deputy Registrar (Marketing and Communication) added that the University also took advantage during the four days to showcase some of the artefacts of its innovations in line with the drive towards positioning MUBAS as the centre of innovation and entrepreneurship.

During the same period, the MUBAS marketing team also took time to visit some schools under the Central West Education Division as part of its ambitious career guidance programme covering all schools across the country.

A member of the MUBAS marketing team, Mtisunge Malemia, who

“ We showcased some of the innovations inline with the drive towards positioning MUBAS as the centre of innovation and entrepreneurship. ”

” Special emphasis was on promoting science education for the girl child in schools. We intend to reach out to more students, especially in community day secondary schools.

is also a Lecturer in Information Technology, described the career talks as a progressiveway of enlightening students about the new programmes on offer at MUBAS and the multiple entry opportunities set by the University.

“Special emphasis was on promoting science education for the girl child in schools. In 2023, we intend to reach out to more students, especially in community day secondary schools,” said Malemia.

The schools the team visited were Palm Tree Private Secondary School, Kabwabwa Community Day Secondary School, Dzenza Christian Secondary School, Chipasula Secondary School, Lilongwe Girls Secondary School, William Murray Secondary School, Dzuka Girls Private Secondary School, Mlanda Girls Secondary School, Umbwi Secondary School, and Dedza Boys Secondary school.

The university also took advantage of the career talks to provide information on the programmes offered by MUBAS under the Continuing Education Centre (CEC) and Management Development Centre (MDC) as alternative entry points into MUBAS. ■



My Story

Nancy Chitera, MUBAS Vice Chancellor



Can you briefly explain who you are?

I am Nancy Chitera, the Vice Chancellor of MUBAS. My career fields are two: Pure Mathematics, which is what I teach, and Mathematics Education for Research. I studied Mathematics and majored in Pure Mathematics. When I joined The Polytechnic in 2000, I was employed as a Staff Associate in Mathematics. I did my masters in Pure Mathematics at Chancellor College. Thereafter, I studied for a PhD at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.

What has been your career progression?

I started as a staff associate in mathematics. In 2004, I was confirmed as a Lecturer after obtaining a Master's degree in Pure Mathematics. Then, I studied for a PhD from 2006 to 2009. In 2010, I was promoted to senior lecturer following the publications I made in my study for PhD. In 2012, I was promoted to Associate Professor.

”
I am a mother. At work, I have to teach and I am also an administrator. So, when it comes to time management it is always a challenge but it is an art that I have slowly learnt and mastered.

My promotion on the academic side coincided with my promotion on the administration side. In administration, I started as a manager for a TEVET reform programme. On January 1, 2011, I was elected Dean of Applied Sciences. In 2013, the office of the Vice Principal fell vacant. After going through interviews, I was appointed Vice Principal for The Polytechnic, an office I served from 2013 to 2020. The then principal had retired on the position in 2020, and I was appointed as Acting Principal for The Polytechnic in November, 2020. Finally, The Polytechnic was delinked from the University of Malawi. After the delinking, it pleased the Council of MUBAS to appoint me as Acting Vice Chancellor and, then, later on, in February 2022, I was appointed Vice Chancellor of MUBAS.

What can you cite as your key achievements as an administrator?

On the administration side, there are quite a number of things that



Chitera: Sometimes I go to a certain village and look for the elderly that are in need of assistance.

I have done together with the management team. I will begin with my tenure as as Dean of Applied Sciences. I introduced a number of guidelines that would stir the faculty to another level such as Quality Assurance Policy or Guidelines for the faculty, the research teams, and the PhD programmes. When I came into the office of Vice Principal, my key achievements included bringing innovative ways of conducting exams so that we curb issues of cheating. We introduced 68 Bachelor's Degree programmes and 14 diploma programmes during that period.

What was the impression like being a female Vice Chancellor?

It was quite challenging, but with the support from male colleagues, my interaction with other managers and some role models, and team work, confidence was built in me and eventually fortified. It is through that experience gained through the interaction with models,

and the team work that has and continues to sustain me.

What are some of the key challenges?

First of all, as a woman, I have a number of hearts: I am a wife and, together with my husband, we have a son; this means that I am a mother. At work, I have to teach and I am also an administrator. So, when it comes to time management it is always a challenge but it is an art that I have slowly learnt and mastered.

Within and outside your work any church, humanitarian or charity work that you do?

At church I am part of the women's group. Sometimes, I go to a certain village and look for the elderly that are in need of assistance. Other times I just go to hospital to cheer the sick, especially the ones that are sick but do not have relatives; I go there to share the word of God and to keep them company. ■

Nangwiya's Mbewu App Wins ICTAM Innovation Award



Nangwiya: The award will motivate me to develop more applications

Emmanuel Nangwiya has entered the elite group of technology movers and shakers after developing a seed fraud detection android application known as Mbewu App which has won the AGRI TECH category of the 2022 Information and Communication Technology Association of Malawi (ICTAM) Innovation Award.

Nangwiya is a fourth year Bachelor of Information Technology student at MUBAS.

Here is an overview of the App:

The Problem

Farmers are sold counterfeit seeds by unscrupulous vendors. Normally, farmers are supposed to be sold certified seeds that have been well treated for germination and growth as well as appropriately packaged by certified seed suppliers such as SeedCo Malawi.

Unfortunately, some notorious vendors collect certified suppliers' used packs and re-package seeds that have not been treated and sell them to farmers.

The Current System

The Seed Services Unit at Chitedze Research Station in Lilongwe and SeedCo Limited introduced a Scratch Card System. In this system, a unique number is attached to every certified seed pack. Before buying a pack, a farmer has to send this unique number as a text message to 3015 for verification. If the number is found in the database, which means the seed pack is certified, a response of seed pack details is sent to the farmer on spot. If the number is not found in the database, which means the seed pack is not certified, the farmer is also notified through a message.

However, farmers have complained that the current system is laborious and time consuming when one is

buying many packs. For example, buying 35 packs means sending 35 text messages.

The Solution: Mbewu App

Mbewu App scans QR codes, verifies them with the database and gives proper results as to whether the seed pack is certified.

Instead of printing a unique number on a certified pack, the supplier prints a QR Code, and all a farmer has to do is to have the App when going to buy the seed pack.

Scanning the QR code and getting the results takes about 500 milliseconds (half of a second), and the verification is done automatically after scanning. ■

My Profile

Emmanuel Nangwiya, Applications Developer

I am Emmanuel Nangwiya, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology degree at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS). I did my elementary education at Nanjiriri Full Primary School in Machinjiri, Blantyre. Thereafter, I went to Pius Xii Minor Seminary, Soba PVT, then HHI Mission (all in Blantyre) for my secondary education. Later on, I did an advanced diploma in ICT Systems Support (City & Guilds) at Soche Technical College, which qualified me to enroll at MUBAS as a mature entry student.

I developed an interest in technology from the Sci-Fi movies I used to watch back in the days.

I am passionate about solving real-life problems This is why my other innovations have hundreds of Real People Users.

The ICT field is broad; hence, one has to target a particular niche or just a few on which s/he can concentrate. Thus, when I got into the field, I looked for an area that was less developed so as to increase my marketability and relevance. This niche was mobile



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Apps development. Most people do not like this field because of its novelty, and complexity. My love for adventure prompted me to go for this area of technology development.

In my mobile App development journey, I have developed about 16 Android Apps so far, 14 of which have been generated within last year (2022). Amongst the Apps is an accounts App generated for Malawi College of Accountancy's accounts department, which won position three at a coding competition organized by INQ (Skyband) and Malawi Telecommunications Limited (MTL). The other applications are four Kanema TV Apps, RFA Tollgate App, Hustle Vacancies App, SeedCo Mbewu App. The remaining six applications will be released this year, 2023. ■

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MUBAS and FDH Bank officials during the Launch of Rise and Shine Private Primary School

FDH Bank Ignites MUBAS Graduates Entrepreneurship Drive

FDH Bank has lived up to its pledge to support the entrepreneurship efforts of the best MUBAS graduates by funding the establishment of the Rise and Shine Private Primary School in Mulanje with a loan of MK48 million.

Following the support, provided under the Graduate Startup Programme, the school was officially launched on November 29, 2022.

The journey began in September, 2021 when FDH challenged the graduands to shift focus from getting employed to creating employment. In an effort to drive the mindset change, the bank offered to sponsor the best five business ventures.

From the initial set of 10, the groups of students with business ideas

were eventually whittled down to five groups which proceeded to finalise business plans. By November 2022, one group had completed the exercise and was awarded a loan of MK48 million that saw the birth of Rise and Shine Private Primary School owned by graduates from the Department of Technical Education.

MUBAS Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Nancy Chitera, was very grateful to FDH for spearheading the innovative way of creating a new culture of entrepreneurship among MUBAS students.

“As a University, we are embracing innovation and technology by and for the youth, promoting investments in assets that build youth resilience and creating employment opportunities. The point am trying to convey is that the harnessing of productive capacity and the achievement of the Malawi 2063

will require an integrated approach to development at the community and national levels,” said Chitera.

The MUBAS Vice Chancellor also said that the FDH programme feeds well into the MUBAS innovation and entrepreneurship drive.

“The Malawi 2063 and its implementation plan, MIP-1, talks of creating an inclusively wealthy and a self-reliant nation, meaning that everyone must be involved in creating the Malawi that we want to see by 2063,” added Chitera.

Dean of the School of Education, Communication and Media Studies, Dr Dickson Ndenguma, said the school is delighted to see its graduates getting the loans and realizing their entrepreneurship dream after a rigorous process of developing the business plans and setting up the school.



Pupils of Rise and Shine Private Primary School during the Launch in Mulanje

Ndenguma urged the school owners to run it with quality and professionalism so that it becomes one of the best schools not only in Mulanje but also Malawi as a whole.

FDH Bank Plc Deputy Managing Director George Chitera said the bank is happy to be part of the MUBAS graduates’ entrepreneurship drive. He described the banks Graduate Startup Programme as a way of giving back to society and supporting entrepreneurship and business set-up for the growth of the economy in Malawi.

The other four groups of graduates are finalising their business proposals and are expected to benefit from the programme. ■



Chitera: The FDH programme feeds well into the MUBAS innovation and entrepreneurship drive.



The PUSSAM netball team won a bronze medal at the 2022 SAUSSA games

Mixed Bag Results for Malawian Athletes at 2022 SAUSSA Games

It was a mixed bag of results for Public Universities Sports Association of Malawi (PUSSAM) at the Southern Africa Sports Games (SAUSSA) hosted by the Botswana International University of Science and Technology from 4th to 9th December, 2022.

Malawi won a gold medal in darts following a splendid performance by our MUBAS seasoned players, Associate Professor Benard Thole and Leonard Gondwe. The Malawian netball team won a bronze medal while the volleyball team exited the competition in the quarter finals.

PUSSAM Secretary General Thoko Bodza Mbewe said the performance of the football team was not good enough following a string of poor results.

The Malawi football team was branded the “weeping boys of the tournament” after losing with big margins all four matches played.

The games featured the following sporting codes: football, netball, volleyball, pool, darts, athletics and walk race. The games were attended by universities from South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswathini, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

PUSSAM had 79 athletes from Malawi’s five public Universities: 18 from Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS); 9 from University of Malawi (UNIMA); 20 from Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST); 22 from Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS); and 10 from the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). ■

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