

VICE CHANCELLOR'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE



Eng. Q.C. Kanhukamwe
HIT Vice Chancellor

On behalf of the Institute Board and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, - hoping that you had a restive and festive holiday season, and that you come back refreshed and invigorated to take 2018 head on.

It gives me immense pleasure to announce that following the inauguration of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Commander in Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa, as the second President of the Republic, - that consequently, we as HIT have a new Chancellor. We embrace and support the leadership of our President and Chancellor, Cde E.D Mnangagwa and look forward to his guidance as we set out to continuously fulfill our mandate which is to develop, incubate, transfer and commercialise technology for Zimbabwe's rapid industrialisation.

Attendant to our new leadership is a new policy shift in the higher education arena which beckons us to compound our efforts and to become more result-oriented in our work. Our government is making commendable efforts in ensuring that Zimbabwe regains its former status through various reforms and interventions in education, health, agriculture, finance, and other facets of social and economic life. The new policy statement that "Zimbabwe is open for business," beckons us to create more efficient, innovative and effective operational standards so as to attract and retain investment. As a higher education institution, we are called upon to engage in meaningful and productive work; that is through relevant and focused research which provides solutions to problems bedeviling industry, agriculture, commerce and other spheres of

economic endeavour.

We are also called upon to act on our mandate through the incubation and commercialisation of technologies which will lead to Zimbabwe's industrialisation and modernisation. Our existence as a University is not in isolation, but rather should be congruent with the national development agenda as espoused by our President and Chancellor. We should remain cognisant of the fact that we are a national institution whose role is clearly spelt out in our mandate; and whose duty is to support and execute all policies of the government of the day.

In line with the new political and economic dispensation is the charge for us to embrace a new work ethic which shuns complacency, dereliction of duty and corruption. This new work ethic places a premium on the all-important role that all must play in our individual and collective efforts if the Harare Institute of Technology and Zimbabwe are to become a beacon of transformation and good fortune in the not so distant future.

I would like to outline our milestones and achievements in 2017 and let me also reinforce that these achievements were made possible by your hard work and commitment to HIT. Students and staff alike, contributed in their distinct and collective capacities in raising the HIT flag high and promoting the name of the institution.

We started the year 2017 with the appointment of a Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr Maxwell Chanakira, a first in the history of the institution. Dr Chanakira is a seasoned

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INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

MINISTER SETS POLICY DIRECTION, COMMITS TO SUPPORTING HIT MANDATE



Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Prof. Murwira and his delegation addressing HIT Senior Management.

Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Professor Amon Murwira has said HIT is an embodiment of STEM; pledging to support the work of the University in STEM programmes, - by fully supporting the establishment of a Technopark.

"We will support the innovation hubs, and the translation of knowledge into goods and services-but we want to see products," he quipped. "We will support infrastructural development programmes through the Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) model; as well as student funding for University fees," he added.

He said this on his inaugural visit to HIT. He also took the opportunity to pronounce government policy on higher education.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dr Desire Sibanda said the Minister's visit was to give HIT the broad national vision following the inauguration of His Excellency, President Emmerson Mnangagwa; an opportunity for the Minister to state his expectations and to acquaint himself with the work of the Institute; as well as to facilitate the exchange of ideas pertaining to the development of the

nation.

In his address, Professor Murwira said the new Presidency had ushered in an era of happiness, equality, freedom, hard work and patriotism- the bedrock of Zimbabwe's fundamental values, fought for during the war of liberation. Professor Murwira added that the new dispensation provided a unique opportunity for Zimbabweans to recommit to these founding values; with the knowledge that we are ultimately responsible for our destiny.

Professor Murwira emphasized the need for a programmatic approach to research, based on our culture and heritage; and innovation. "Our research culture should be based on what we have, ie minerals such as platinum, diamond, gold; agriculture. Don't be removed from your reality," he said, adding that relevant and contextual research was likely to attract funding; as opposed to research that was divorced from a nation's realities. "If research is not programmed, it is not supportable," he said. He also pointed to the importance of applied research and its central importance in feeding into national needs and aspirations.

He challenged HIT to develop a systematic

industrialisation programme, which would lead to economic growth.

He gave examples of research outcomes which had revolutionised agricultural productivity and minerals exploration respectively; such as the mapping of Zimbabwe's five geographical regions in the early sixties; and the discovery and categorization of the Great Dyke.

Professor Murwira highlighted the nations' past achievements in the improvement of social services such as education, health, water and sanitation; adding that the initiatives were community-owned, and executed in a systematic way. He said such gains had been invalidated by corrupt practices, but the new dispensation offered an opportunity for Zimbabweans to introspect and forge ahead with a renewed sense of purpose geared towards national development.

Minister Sets Policy Direction, Commits to Supporting HIT Mandate Pointing to the preminent role of economics in national development, Professor Murwira said "We need to take seriously His Excellency's statement on the relationship between economics and politics for the country to flourish. Politics alone will not lead to the country's development. Populism which is not accompanied by hard work is useless. We must defend the economy of this country through knowledge. The purpose of this university is to fight ignorance and poverty. The nation needs to promote the values of productivity and hard work, and to ensure that our systems in the higher education sector work for the benefit of national development. We need that consciousness - of upholding our national values through our national institutions. And merit and reason must reign supreme in those institutions," he said.

The Minister conducted a tour of the Institute's engineering workshops and laboratories.



Prof. Murwira during a tour of the Institute's engineering workshops and laboratories.



ZIMPAPERS CAREER GUIDANCE EXPO



HIT Exhibiting at the Zimpapers Career's Expo.

The Harare Institute of Technology participated in the Zimbabwe Newspapers Group inaugural Career's Expo on Friday 26 January at the Harare International Conference Centre.

The expo was held to provide a platform for high school students to receive information on degree options and to explore career opportunities. The departments of Industrial and

Manufacturing Engineering, Computer Science, Information Security and Assurance and Communications and International Relations attended the event.

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academic and practitioner in the areas of strategy and innovation and has served the institution well in his capacity as Acting Director in the Technopreneurship Development Centre. The University also saw the appointment of a nineteen member Board, appointed to serve the institution at policy level. Dr Gibson Mandishona was retained in his chairmanship, and is deputized by the Chief Executive Officer of the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority, and distinguished engineering practitioner, Dr Eng. Gloria Magombo. The Board is made up of distinguished academics and practitioners in the fields of medicine, information and telecommunications, engineering, law, finance, biotechnology, among others. Our relationship has been characterized by our mutual quest to see the institution grow and develop.

Verify Engineering became an integral part of HIT as a strategic business unit, focusing on Coal and Coalbed Methane to Liquid Fuels and Chemicals (XTX) Projects. The relationship was formalized under a Memoranda of Agreement with the engineering firm and our parent ministry.

The University made great strides in its internationalisation programme through the signing of a landmark agreement with the

University of Transilvania, Brasov, Romania. This agreement will open channels for the University to tap into the knowledge and expertise of the Romanians, as we develop our own skills set through training in doctorate programmes. The visit by the delegation from Transilvania University was also historic because it was the first re-engagement by the two great nations in more than twenty years! We pray for the continued sustenance of this strategic relationship.

On the local front, the University also entered into various agreements, chief of which was the agreement with telecommunications giant, TelOne and the Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe. The agreements are focused on knowledge-sharing, nurturing of student talent; as well as other areas of mutual interest. Exciting to note is the implementation of the TelOne agreement which saw HIT young innovators taking head-on and solving complex telecommunications and engineering problems. We are indeed proud of such endeavours which go on to buttress our signature appeal of providing practical and hands-on training for our graduands setting them apart from the usual mill.

In the training arena, we once again successfully hosted the second edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Training programme

in Bulawayo, an outcome of our agreement with Handong Global University of South Korea. We also hosted another training programme with Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe subsidiary Home link, in providing entrepreneurship training to women.

Our students continue to be a source of great pride, and last year, our students were ambassadors at both national, regional and global level. We came second at the National Engineering Students Awards Competitions, held in August, we had students visiting China on learning visits under the Huawei Seeds for the Future programme, and the ENACTUS team also served us well at the national competitions by the Digital Technology Award.

This outline, - while certainly not exhaustive highlights our achievements, and serves as a basis for our work in this New Year. Let us press on to achieve our goals with a renewed sense of hope for the future, and with the belief that we can do it!

I thank you.

Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe

SECURITY SUPERVISORS' SYMPOSIUM HAILED ...AS HIT CSO VOTED INAUGURAL CHAIR OF UCASO



Delegates at the Security Supervisor's Symposium.

The Harare Institute of Technology recently held a Security Supervisor training symposium from 24 to 26 January 2018, at the University campus.

The symposium aimed to impart critical leadership skills to security supervisors within the higher and tertiary education sector, and other allied organisations, and was held under the theme: "Leadership- A Tool for Effective Campus Security Services." Dr Moses Abnory, Director for the Legal, Consular and General Services, from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana served as the Guest Speaker and moderator at the event.

Speaking in the aftermath of the programme, Harare Institute of Technology Chief Security Officer, Mr Emmanuel Nyandoro said the event had surpassed initial expectations.

"The turnout was good, as we had over seventy participants, from various institutions of higher and tertiary learning descending on HIT for this event. I am also glad that this programme managed to successfully market the HIT brand. Our main goals were to equip security supervisors with critical skills in areas such as leadership, public relations and communications, case management, risk management, handling emergencies, among others.

He added that an emergent theme from the symposium was the need for security departments to be more capacitated, -to assist them in delivering their mandate of protecting life and property.

At the same event, Mr Nyandoro was voted as the inaugural Chairman of the Universities and Colleges Association of

Security Officers, (UCASO.) "The vote was unanimous," he said and I believe it was because of the trailblazing role that we played in organizing this historic symposium which brought to the fore pertinent issues in security management in our sector.

The objectives of UCASO, among others will be to professionalise the security industry and provide a platform for officers to deliberate on issues affecting the industry.

Vice Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology, Eng.Q.C. Kanhukamwe officiated at the closing ceremony of the symposium and in his remarks, commended the critical role of security services in organisations.



Vice Chancellor Eng. Q.C Kanhukamwe presenting certificates to delegates.

HIT BOOST ENACTUS SCOOPS SECOND PRIZE AT 2018 BOOST FELLOWSHIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



HIT Boost Enactus Team.

The HIT Boost Enactus team was awarded second prize at the 2018 Boost Enactus Fellowship Leadership Conference held from 25-27 January at Batanai Gardens in Harare.

The team devised a new mobile application system, Infra-fix mobile that allows users to identify facilities in need of repair and maintenance. The application then classifies them into critical and non-critical infrastructure; depending on their state.

The case study focused on Sustainable Development Goal 9 which emphasises building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation. The students were tasked to formulate the best strategy to avoid decay of infrastructure and prove the sustainability of the strategy.

The Boost Enactus Fellowship Leadership Conference was aimed at training students to create community development projects that improve people’s livelihoods and to also develop students into becoming more effective, value-driven future business leaders. It was also meant to equip team executive committee members with the necessary skills required in executing their duties and responsibilities in the implementation of Enactus projects.

All university teams were paired to promote team spirit and were assigned case studies to research and apply what was being taught. The HIT team was paired with the Africa University team.

Invited speakers from the business world gave presentations focused on team administration and operations, project

ideation and formulation, innovation and technology management, community research and development (monitoring and evaluation), United Nations Sustainable Development Goals implementation in Zimbabwe, community engagement and participatory approaches, presentation skills, financial management, business canvas model for social enterprises, team dynamics and team building.

Commenting on this achievement, the Coordinator Mr. Joshua Simuka from the Technopreneurship Development Centre (TDC) said the department is very excited about the team’s achievement, as it has demonstrated creativity, innovation and a technopreneurial culture; clear evidence of the thorough training that our students are receiving.

