

MEETING POINT

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"AI NOT
FOR
FUTURE,
IT'S FOR
NOW!"



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SADC Urged to Embrace Artificial Intelligence

Farirai Machivenyika Herald
Reporter

ADOPPTION of Artificial Intelligence by SADC's Parliaments will enable them to effectively discharge their mandates, experts drawn from some of the country's universities told the ongoing 57th SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly in Victoria Falls.

Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) Vice Chancellor, Professor Eddie Mwenje, said AI was a transformative development that could enhance parliamentary work.

"AI can aid SADC Parliaments' legislative work in the analysis of Bills, amendments, trends, and oversight functions, including comparisons of drafts with existing laws," he said.

Prof Mwenje urged the MPs to come up with AI legislation and policies that suit their environments as individual countries and as a region.

Dr Shakemore Chinofunga



from the Chinhoyi University of Technology also called for due diligence on AI systems before their adoption.

"There is a need for robustness in current parliamentary procedures before AI integration and to develop

cybersecurity measures for AI systems," Dr Chinofunga said. He also urged SADC Parliaments to come up with

programmes to promote AI literacy among employees and legislators, exhorting them to create an AI architecture for the region.

Mr Liberty Dandira from Midlands State University said they had developed AI systems that could aid parliaments in their work.

"We have the social media sentiment tracking system that gathers posts across social media platforms, processes multiple languages and dialects, suggests response strategies, and displays sentiment trends," Mr Dandira said.

University of Zimbabwe representative Dr Tarisai Mutangi acknowledged the multiple benefits brought by AI but also stressed the need for regulating its adoption.

"It is necessary to address potential risks and ensure its responsible deployment and development," Dr Mutangi said. "Without regulations to enforce accountability, AI systems could pose dangers to human life, privacy, and ethical standards."

- TheHerald





BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

4TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

THEME: Redefining Science and Technology Education for Innovation, Industrialization and Global Commerce

DATES: 21-23 AUGUST, 2025

VENUE: Elephant Hills, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

We invite the submission of abstracts on original research, case studies, or theoretical explorations related to the conference subthemes.

SUBTHEMES:

1. Curriculum & Pedagogy for the Future: Explores the design and implementation of curricula and teaching methodologies that prepare students for a rapidly evolving technological landscape.
2. Science, Technology, Sustainable Development, & Economic Growth: Examines how STEM education can be leveraged to achieve innovation, sustainable practices, and robust economic development.
3. Equity, Inclusion, and Collaboration in Science and Technology Education: Focuses on strategies to promote diversity, equity, and collaborative learning environments that ensure access to science and technology opportunities for all learners.
4. Leadership, Transformation, & the Future of Education: Explores best leadership and systemic change strategies to transforming education systems adaptation to global change.
5. Quality Management, and Science and Technology Education
6. Artificial Intelligence and Education

Submission Guidelines

- i. Title: Concise and reflective of the content.
- ii. Abstract: Maximum 250 words, clearly outlining the study's objectives, methodology, results, and recommendations.
- iii. Keywords: Up to 5 keywords that best represent the focus of your research.
- iv. Presenter Information: Name, affiliation, contact details, and a brief biography



SCAN ME

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/cKRDiro7C3gHHCqL6>
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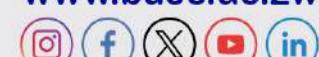
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Abstract Submission Deadline: July 31, 2025

Notification of Acceptance: August 8, 2025

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Shaping and Creating the Future: Building Zimbabwe

AI Strategies Must Be Rooted in Local Realities: Prof Manhibi

At the 57th Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) Plenary Session, Professor Ronald Manhibi, Director of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE), delivered a powerful and timely call for Southern African parliaments to urgently embrace localized Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategies anchored in the continent's realities and priorities.

Speaking under the banner "Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Parliaments in the SADC Region: Insights from the Zimbabwean Context," Professor Manhibi emphasized the imperative for SADC nations to start where they are and to establish enabling policy and data environments that can power sustainable, sovereign AI ecosystems.

"SADC cannot meaningfully participate in the global AI renaissance while Africa remains largely a consumer of external technologies, with no serious data sovereignty or local AI production," said Manhibi. "China dominates global production data, while the United States holds the reins on consumption data via platforms like Google, Facebook, and Instagram. Africa owns neither—yet AI



depends on reliable data to function meaningfully."

Drawing from his experience in leading a university-level AI initiative that collaborates directly with the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Manhibi illustrated how AI can transform legislative operations—from document digitization to automated bill tracking and intelligent decision support. However, he cautioned that without structured national strategies, adequate skills

development, and a shared regional vision, the SADC region risks being sidelined in the 21st-century AI economy.

Key talking points from the presentation included:

- The urgency of drafting country-specific AI parliamentary strategies: Legislatures were urged to act now, even with limited resources, using what is locally available.
- The foundational role of education: AI must be

embedded across curricula—from Early Childhood Development (ECD) through to tertiary education—to prepare digitally literate generations. Reskilling and upskilling of the existing workforce are also critical.

- The need for data sovereignty: To build useful AI systems, African nations must invest in producing and owning their data—not relying on foreign-controlled datasets that don't reflect local contexts.

• Capacity building within Parliaments: A recent Zimbabwean parliamentary AI survey revealed an 85% AI skills gap among Members of Parliament and support staff. Manhibi called for a region-wide AI capacity-building programme as a "first-order business."

• Opportunities for collaboration: He proposed regional initiatives such as a SADC-wide AI knowledge portal, a legislative AI accelerator, and formal academic-parliamentary forums.

In closing, Professor Manhibi reiterated that AI is not a futuristic luxury but a present-day necessity.

"AI does not wait for us to be ready—it is already transforming how the world works. If SADC does not position itself now, it risks permanent technological dependency," he warned.

His presentation followed remarks by the Zimbabwean Minister of ICT, Honourable Dr. Tatenda Mavetera, and preceded contributions from other leading AI scholars in the region. The session's theme, "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Effective and Efficient Parliamentary Processes," provided a regional platform to examine how emerging technologies can improve legislative governance and oversight across Africa. -

SpikedMedia



BUSE Champions Staff Wellness Through New Sports Initiative

Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) introduced a transformative wellness programme—Wednesday Afternoon Sporting Activities — designed to enhance staff productivity and foster mental and physical well-being. The initiative mandates weekly participation in a variety of sporting disciplines and marks a bold step toward institutional support for employee wellness.

The decision to implement a dedicated wellness day reflects the University's recognition that members of staff are its greatest asset. By making staff well-being a top priority, BUSE reaffirmed its commitment to creating a supportive working environment where individuals can thrive both professionally and personally.

BUSE Registrar, Mr Jairos Makunde informed members of staff in a memo saying:

"All staff members are required to participate in sporting disciplines of their choice on Wednesday afternoons."

The programme has been hailed by staff as a positive development.

Professor Oby Okonkwo from the Department of Sports Science said, "This programme is very important for personal wellness, productivity, and overall University development."

With mental health issues increasingly affecting workplace dynamics in Zimbabwe, BUSE's initiative is both relevant and timely. A national study conducted in 2025 revealed that 35% of young adults

in Zimbabwe reported experiencing suicidal thoughts, underscoring the urgency of proactive wellness measures. Physical exercise has long been recognized as a natural safeguard against stress, anxiety, and depression.

Regular participation in sporting activities improves concentration, memory, and job performance. It also lowers the risk of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. According to the International Diabetes Federation 2024 estimates 1.5% of Zimbabwean adults aged 20–79 are affected by diabetes—approximately 106,500 individuals.

BUSE's programme enables staff to choose from a diverse range of sports, encouraging physical movement that promotes resilience and self-care. In

integrating such routines into the workweek, the University champions sustainable health habits.

The programme also serves as a catalyst for community building and interpersonal connection. Sporting activities provide opportunities for colleagues to interact informally, establish relationships, and collaborate in new and dynamic ways. This environment enhances motivation, job satisfaction, and team spirit—key components of institutional success.

By introducing Wednesday Wellness, BUSE sets a precedent in institutional wellness strategy. The programme not only aligns with global health trends but reflects the University's holistic approach to achieving long-term organisational goals through a healthy and engaged workforce.

Muzarabani Masawu Plant Nears Completion



Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eddie Mwenje, recently led a delegation of Council Members and Senior Executive Staff to assess progress at the University's Muzarabani Masawu Production Plant, now 85% complete.

Once operational, the facility is expected to produce 5,000 bottles of Masawu juice per hour and launch a suite of innovative products, including Masawu energy bars, yoghurt, and wine.

This venture forms part of BUSE's broader rural industrialisation strategy, aimed at enhancing value addition from locally available resources and improving livelihoods for at least 2,500 residents through sustainable employment.

The project aligns with Vision 2030's mantra of "leaving no one and no place behind" and highlights BUSE's commitment to economic empowerment and sustainable development.



It also echoes the principles of the Heritage-based Education 5.0 model, pioneered by President Mnangagwa, which calls on higher education institutions to foster national development using

indigenous resources.

During the tour, Professor Mwenje emphasised the significance of utilising the region's abundant masawu fruit, noting that, "This province is rich in masawu, yet the fruit often goes to

waste. Our initiative seeks to empower local communities and unlock commercial value in historically overlooked areas."

He likened the situation to Mutoko's mangoes and tomatoes, which face similar

post-harvest losses.

Plans are underway to construct housing units for plant staff near the site to improve living standards and attract skilled workers from urban centres, thereby helping to curb rural-urban migration.

To support sustainable production, BUSE has begun cultivating masawu nurseries to replenish natural forests and secure future supply. Masawu (botanical name: *Ziziphus mauritiana*) is one of the region's most underutilised food resources, boasting high nutrient density and resilience in dry climates.

For years, excess wild fruits have gone to waste, depriving locals of potential income. With growing climate uncertainty, masawu offers communities a nutritional and economic buffer against poverty.

The initiative brings renewed hope that Muzarabani will shift from food wastage to meaningful food beneficiation and conservation, benefitting present and future



Beauty, Bravery, and Belonging

Miss, Mr BUSE Pageant Celebrates Diversity, Student Leadership



BUSE Connects with Chiweshe Community



The vibrant communities of Glendale, Gweshe, and Nzvimbo Growth Point recently experienced a dynamic blend of talent, education, and entertainment as Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) launched its much-anticipated Chiweshe Road Show.

Spearheaded by the Advancement and Public Affairs Department and supported by an enthusiastic team of University staff, the event marked a significant step in promoting academic programmes, strengthening community ties, and inspiring future scholars.

The Road Show was designed to bridge the gap between the University and the Chiweshe community, offering direct access to information on BUSE's diverse academic offerings and innovations.

Through this community engagement initiative, BUSE sought to demystify higher education and ignite aspirations in learners across the region.

Festivities began with an advertising truck pumping lively local music, drawing crowds from surrounding areas. The atmosphere was electric as community members flocked to the BUSE tent to engage with staff and join in the day's activities.

Highlights included spirited dance and lip-sync competitions, which allowed locals to showcase their creativity and talent in front of a cheering audience. BUSE staff, supported by energetic DJs, introduced attendees to university programmes and services, while spotlighting the recently launched BUSE Radio Station Abiyangu, widely lauded for broadcasting in the local language and fostering inclusive communication.

To deepen engagement, interactive question-and-answer sessions were held at Gweshe Business Centre and Nzvimbo Growth Point, enabling community members to converse directly with university representatives.

Beyond the entertainment, the Road Show also served as a strategic recruitment drive. Branded items—including caps, rulers, pens, and exercise books—were distributed, while the Registry Department shared comprehensive pamphlets outlining degree programmes and short courses. These efforts yielded immediate results, with several applications submitted on the spot and many prospective students making promising enquiries.

Local leaders, including Headmen Gweshe and Negomo, expressed strong support for BUSE's outreach. They emphasised that expanded access to tertiary education could curtail youth delinquency by equipping young people with the skills to become responsible, productive citizens.

More than just a two-day spectacle, the Chiweshe Road Show represented a meaningful collaboration between BUSE and the community.

Its success underscored the University's commitment to inclusive development and set the stage for future engagement initiatives that will continue to shape Zimbabwe's educational landscape.



CHIWESHE OUTREACH IN PICS





Final Years Applauded, Ready to Lead

By Tinashe Chuma

"Education is not a destination but a continuous journey," said Bindura University of Science Education Vice Chancellor, Professor Eddie Mwenje, in remarks delivered during the Final-Year Students' Exit Dinner recently hosted by the Student Affairs Department.

His speech, read on his behalf by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Christmas Denhere, encouraged graduates to embrace lifelong learning as they transition into professional careers or further academic pursuits.

"As you prepare to embark on your careers or continue your studies, remember the lessons learned in your lecture rooms. Remember the importance of lifelong learning — for education is not a destination but a continuous journey," he emphasized.

Professor Mwenje acknowledged the rigors of university life, noting, "The journey you embarked upon here has at times been demanding, rigorous, and challenging, but it has helped you hone your critical thinking skills, develop your problem-solving abilities, and cultivate perseverance that will be invaluable in the years to come. You are now well-



grounded individuals, ready to contribute meaningfully to society."

Similar sentiments were echoed by BUSE alumnus and First Capital Senior

Relations Manager Corporate Banking Mr Nigel Gwanzura, who urged students to take full advantage of the opportunities ahead. "Success is the result of opportunity meeting preparation.

"Be ready to seize opportunities in society, because BUSE has prepared you to lead," he said.

Student Representative Council President, Ms Brita Gwezere, reflected on the unique challenges of beginning their academic journey during the Covid-19 era.

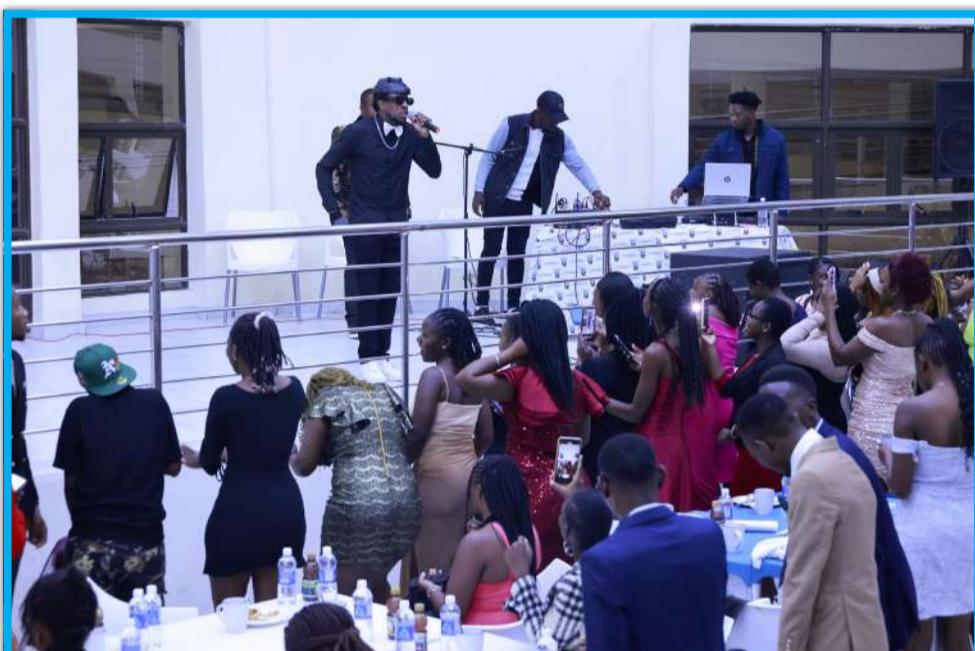
She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the University for its role in shaping her personal and leadership growth: "I entered as an ordinary student but leave as a student leader and societal contributor."

Fellow student, Ms Tariro Mudoti, also shared her reflections. "Despite being a long and trying journey, I'm elated to have sailed through. We celebrate this milestone with both tears and smiles. Thank you to the University for investing so much in us," she said.

The event culminated in a special performance by urban grooves artist Trevor Dongo. Attendees, dressed in their finest attire, celebrated with joy and a shared sense of accomplishment.



DINNER IN PICS





Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) Vice Chancellor Professor Eddie Mwenje delivered a thought-provoking presentation at the Education Expo 2025, which underscored the critical need to align academic programmes with industry demands, ensuring graduates are equipped with the skills to thrive in a dynamic workforce. The Expo was held under the theme, "Bridging the Gap: Partnerships Between Higher Education and Industry," and BUSE showcased some of its groundbreaking innovations.



BUSE proudly participated in the National Disability Expo in Victoria Falls. This year's theme was "Accelerating Disability Inclusion Now: A Collective Responsibility." #BUSE is committed to fostering an ideal living and learning environment for individuals with special needs.



Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) made a strong impression at the SADC Joint Meeting held at HICC, where the University's exhibition stand captivated delegates with cutting-edge innovations. Hon. Amb. Dr. Frederick Shava several ministers and distinguished guests, commended the University's groundbreaking research and innovative solutions.



BUSE Champions Cultural Heritage

Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) continues to affirm its commitment to national identity and cultural preservation through a landmark initiative — the launch of Mashonaland Central Province Culture Month.

Spearheaded by the University's Department of Culture and Heritage Studies, the event celebrated Zimbabwe's rich cultural heritage and empowered local artists with training in cultural preservation.

The training programme was conducted in collaboration with the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe and the Ministry of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, bringing together key stakeholders in the country's creative sector.

Addressing the diverse traditions, customs, and artistic expressions that define Zimbabwe's cultural landscape, the initiative sought to strengthen artists' capacity to promote and protect national heritage.

During the launch ceremony, participating artists received certificates recognizing their newly acquired skills and reaffirming their role in sustaining Zimbabwean cultural identity.

"This initiative marks a significant milestone in preserving our heritage," said

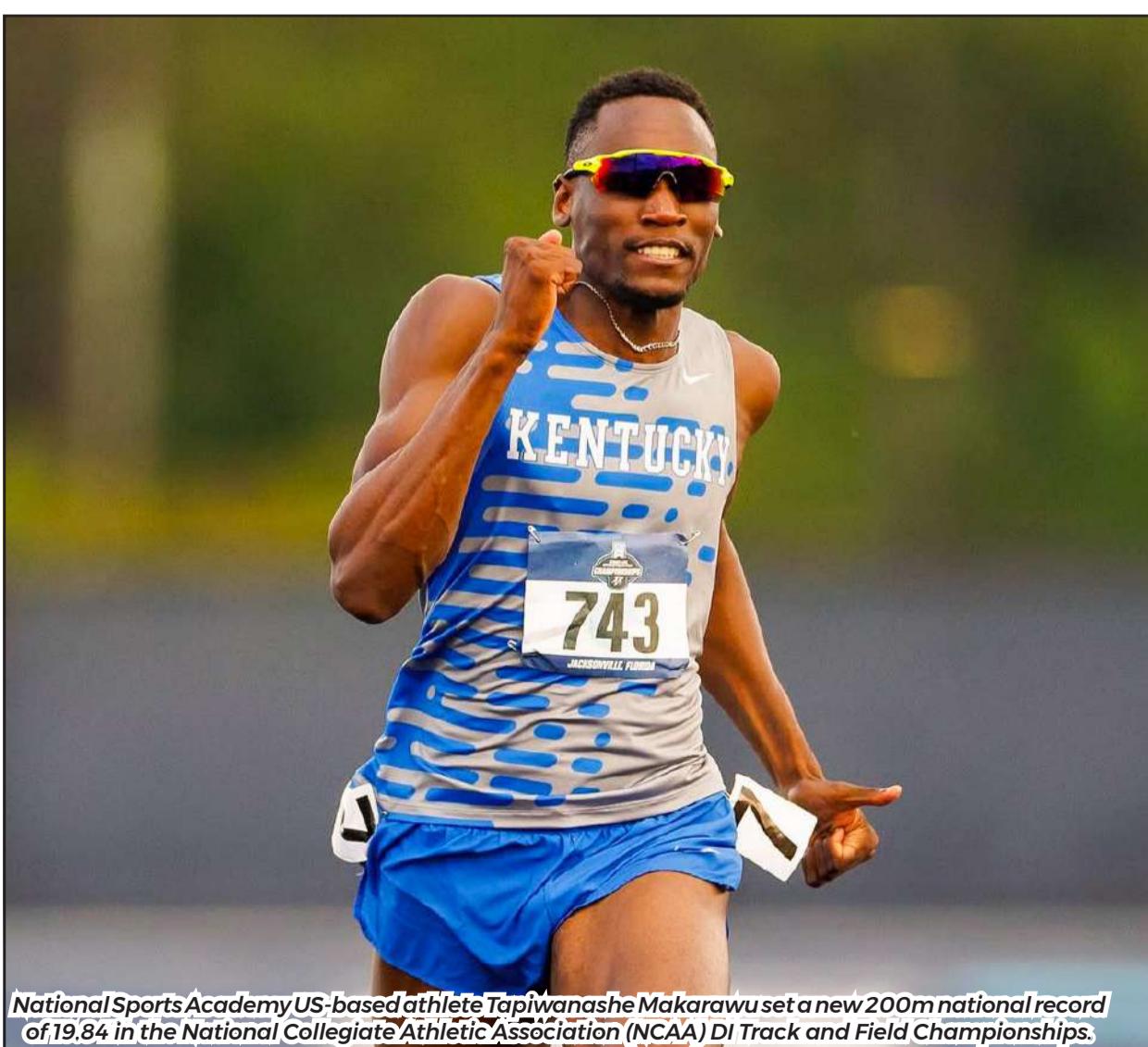


Dr Mavesere.

"By equipping artists with the tools to safeguard our traditions, we are also shaping the cultural consciousness of future generations," she added.

The celebration featured performances, exhibitions, and moments of reflection on the role of cultural heritage in unifying communities and fostering national pride. BUSE's involvement aligns with the

national vision of promoting culture as a cornerstone of development, and further underscores the university's role in shaping and creating Zimbabwe's future through education and cultural awareness.



National Sports Academy US-based athlete Tapiwanashe Makarawu set a new 200m national record of 19.84 in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) DI Track and Field Championships.

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ARTICLES, FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS ARE WELCOME

SPORT



BUSE WRAPS SEASON WITH MEDAL HAUL



Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) closed out the local collegiate sports season in spectacular fashion by winning several medals at the Zimbabwe Tertiary Institutions Sports Union (ZTISU), which was hosted by the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Bulawayo recently.

BUSE sent a 75-strong team to compete in basketball, soccer, table tennis, pool, karate and athletics.

ATHLETICS

BUSE's dominance in athletics was further asserted with Wayne Nkoma leading the medal haul. Wayne culminated her glittering collegiate sporting career with gold medals in the women's javelin, shotput and discus.

New kid on the block Benison Mangombe announced his debut in collegiate competition with a gold medal in the triple jump and a silver in the high jump. His impressive showing in the high jump had the crowd screaming his name, owing to his rather short stature.

BUSE also won 6 more silver medals in the women's 100m hurdles, 200m paralympics, 100m paralympics, men's 400m and men's 200m paralympics race.

BASKETBALL

The BUSE basketball team, the Panthers, was the crown jewel of BUSE's ZTISU campaign. With a host of the team wrapping up their undergraduate studies, the Panthers

set out to stamp their legacy, and they did just that.

The regular season's MVP, Innocent 'Skiddie' Zhomwa, cemented his legacy as arguably the best basketball star in the last decade in collegiate sports. Skiddie powered his star-studded team to the final, where a repeat of the 2025 ZUSA final was set up against arch rivals UZ Stars.

Like the ZUSA finals, the Panthers waltz past the Stars in spectacular fashion to claim gold, completing an unprecedented double over UZ.

TABLE TENNIS

The men's table tennis team proved that their gold medal at the 2025 ZUSA games was no fluke. The boys conjured up their camaraderie spirit to power their way into the final. Despite a shaky start in the opening round of the matches, they encouraged each other and powered their way to an impressive gold medal. More is expected of the team as it is composed of first and second-year students.

KARATE

Sasha the Bully bullied her way to a gold medal in the women's heavyweight category. She impressed the judges in the individual skills display of choreographed movements called Kata.

She finished the tourmenter with 2 medals and the coveted title of national collegiate champions in the women's heavyweight division.

SOCCER

Great was the expectation, massive was the disappointment. The BUSE soccer team, the Lions, was hugely

expected to stamp their mark on the games. They had secured their spot at the game by defeating perennial powerhouse the UZ and were favourites to at least reach the final. Gross indiscipline coupled with arrogance was their Achilles' heel. The boys arrived late for the game, did not do a proper warm-up up and were booted out of the competition on the first day before lunch.

Defeats to Bondolfi Teachers College and Mutare Polytechnic College booted out the Lions Pride, their downfall. They learnt their lessons, and surely they will come back stronger.

POOL

The ladies' pool team was underestimated from the very start of the season, but they have overcome overwhelming odds to write their fairy tale. They qualified for the ZTISU games after coming second at the ZUSA games.

At ZTISU, the ladies reached the semi-finals and fell in their bronze medal contest. They can, however, hold their head high as few expected anything from the team at the start of the season. Greatness is around the corner for this team.

OVERVIEW

Except for the Lions, Team BUSE represented the University well at the ZTISU games. They held their own and carved their names into history. For some, this competition was their swansong, and they truly made it count. Up next is the continental extravaganza set for Nigeria. We wish them well.



SAZ
NO
TO
DRUGS

**DON'T LET DRUGS TAKE
YOUR LIFE AWAY**