



MEETING POINT

BUSE'S SILVER JUBILEE TWENTY-FOURTH GRADUATION CEREMONY IN PICTURES

FROM VISION TO IMPACT



**Celebrating 25 Years of Transformation,
Innovation and Inclusive Development**

VICE CHANCELLOR'S GRADUATION SPEECH

It is indeed a great honour for me to welcome His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chancellor of Bindura University of Science Education, Cde Dr. E.D. Mhangagwa to this 24th graduation ceremony.

Your Excellency and Chancellor, we always look forward to your gracing this occasion, which is the most important event on the University calendar.

The University community and I thank the Chancellor most profusely for his presence and for officiating at this Graduation Ceremony.

Your Excellency and Chancellor, on behalf of the University community and my own behalf, I wish to congratulate you for your very successful tenure as SADC chairman.

Your decisiveness, diplomatic maturity, and unbridled commitment to the development and integration of the region have a few parallels in the history of the regional body's evolution.

Today, the SADC bloc remembers you for your sterling efforts and achievements in maintaining regional peace and stability particularly in regions that were prone to instability, notable among them, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Moreover, your championing of home grown solutions to African conflicts; prioritization of agricultural transformation and climate resilience; revitalization of the regional bloc's industrialization strategy; and promotion of intra Africa trade and infrastructure development have set the launch pad for SADC's transformation, and acceleration of the implementation of its Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063).

I also welcome all of you who are with us today on this momentous occasion. It is indeed a very important day for the University and for the nation for it gives us an opportunity to celebrate the University's achievements in the various areas of its core business, namely teaching, research, community service, innovation and industrialization.

These highly educated men and women who shall receive their degrees today have worked very hard indeed.

It is therefore fitting that we celebrate their success as we commission them to contribute to the development of the nation, the region and indeed, the globe. Allow me to say to the class of 2025 congratulations, makorokoto, amhlope well done.

Your Excellency and Chancellor,

This year's ceremony is extra-special in that it falls in the year of the University's silver jubilee. Bindura University is 25 years old now.

This, therefore, is not just an occasion to celebrate the past year's achievements, but to reflect on the broader role that the University has played in educating the nation of Zimbabwe.

It is also an opportunity to evaluate our contribution to the academic, social, cultural and economic life of our country.

BUSE has evolved from a specialized science education teacher training college into a dynamic and comprehensive public university which is central to Zimbabwe's national development agenda.

The history of the institution is rooted in a strategic response to a critical shortage of science educators, a journey that began with the Zimbabwe-Cuba Teacher Training Programme and culminated in its establishment as a full-fledged university in 2000.

Bindura University's academic offerings are now structured across six primary faculties and schools, that are designed to meet the complex demands of a modern, knowledge-based economy.

The faculties are, the Faculty of Commerce, the Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering, the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Faculty of Science Education, and the Graduate School of Business.

This structure facilitates a multidisciplinary approach to learning and research, and fosters an environment where students can pursue a wide spectrum of intellectual interests.

Bindura University of Science Education has strategically positioned itself at the forefront of Zimbabwe's drive towards a knowledge-based economy, fully embracing the national Education 5.0 philosophy which mandates higher education institutions to be centers of teaching, research, community service, innovation, and industrialization.

This five-pillared mandate informs the University's entire research and development agenda, which are geared towards generating practical solutions, creating new industries, and contributing directly to the nation's economic growth.

The university's commitment is not merely theoretical; it is manifested in the development of tangible products, services, and physical infrastructure that is designed to support this transformative vision.

The University started with an initial enrolment of 113 students in 2000, and now has over 7000 students with 74% of its programme offerings being STEM disciplines.

To date, the University has, since its establishment in 2000, churned out twenty five thousand, three hundred and sixteen (25 316) highly skilled graduates to the service of the nation and beyond.

Among the list of its graduates are luminaries, in the form of government ministers, ambassadors, entrepreneurs, chief executive officers, olympians, world class academics and a host of other high ranking alumni in government, industry and the non- governmental sector.

This is why your Excellency and Chancellor the theme of this graduation ceremony is **"FROM VISION TO IMPACT: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION, INNOVATION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT"**.

We thank Government most profusely for the support it has rendered in the twenty five years that we have existed as Bindura University of Science

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Education.

Your Excellency and Chancellor,

It is with great delight that I inform this gathering that following the establishment of the Innovation Hub in 2022, BUSE has moved a giant step forward this year, in its industrialization drive.

The University established an Industrial Park which was commissioned by His Excellency this morning. The industrial park is situated in the Bindura Town industrial zone and spans 2.6 (two point six) hectares.

The Park is a living ecosystem that exemplifies the University's commitment to transforming Zimbabwe's socio-economic landscape.

By producing market ready goods and services that address national development challenges, the outputs from the Industrial Park align seamlessly, with Government's Education 5.0 philosophy, the National Development Strategies 1 and 2, and ultimately, with Vision 2030.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now present highlights of the path that we have traversed in the year under review as part of efforts to modernize and transform the University for relevance to the achievement of Vision 2030.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024/2025 GRADUATION CEREMONY

1. The Palpo technologies

The construction of an Assembly Plant, a landmark facility that is instrumental in the production of the "Palpo" brand of locally assembled technological devices, including tablets, laptops, and smartphones was completed this year at our Industrial Park.

We thank you, your Excellency for the commissioning of the Industrial Park and the Palpo Technologies plant this morning. Palpo technologies products are a major intervention to the nation in addressing the digital divide that exists in our nation. Such innovations and technologies are stepping stones to our national vision 2030 where we leave no one behind.

This initiative is complemented by a dynamic Software Development Hub. A significant output of this hub is "Titus," a sophisticated, multilingual artificial intelligence tool integrated into the Palpo devices, which come pre-loaded with educational materials, representing a revolutionary step forward for e-learning in Zimbabwe.

The products are already trickling in the market and our initial surveys indicate that the demand is high. The plant is capable of producing 12 000 laptops, 15 000 feature phones, 8 000 smart phones and 8 000 tablets a month.

Your Excellency and Chancellor we are confident that these innovations will transform all levels of our education system and industry in the country.

The innovations represent a practical pathway from research to commercial production and directly addresses national needs for technological sovereignty and enhanced educational access.

Similarly, the venture has created employment for the locals that we have hired for the assembly business. Currently the Plant employs 30 people.

2. Equipping of the Optometry lens production workshops

Your Excellency and Chancellor, last year during our 23rd graduation ceremony, you commissioned the School of Optometry and Audiology which also houses an eye lens production unit.

We are excited to report that the lens production workshops are now fully equipped with state of the art equipment for the production of glass lenses. We celebrate the establishment of Africa's first university-owned lens prescription production facility.

The facility has the capacity to produce 1 200 pairs of prescription lenses per day under a 24-hour economy model.

By producing lenses locally, we are able to slash the cost of prescription glasses by an estimated 30 %, reduce waiting times from months to hours, substantially save the scarce foreign currency that would otherwise be spent in importing the lenses, and make eye care more accessible to all Zimbabweans.

We are not stopping at lenses; plans are underway to establish mass-production of ophthalmic frames for the country and the region, and to set up a state-of-the-art diagnostics and vision-function laboratory that will allow early detection and management of glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration and other diseases.

Our vision for the future of optometry and eye-care in Zimbabwe is that of self-sufficiency through the establishment of a network of optometry clinics across our provinces.

3. Masawu Plant in Muzarabani Rural Industrialization

The construction of the Zambezi Valley Masawu plant in Muzarabani is at 94%. We expect the commissioning of this rural industrialization project to take place early next year. The fabrication of the production equipment is currently underway in China and delivery of the same is expected by year end. We have stocked over 50 tonnes of Masawu fruits and the project is changing the lives of communities in the Zambezi valley as they are the main suppliers of the Masawu fruits.

4. Chiringa

One of our products from the innovation hub "Chiringa" has now been adopted by Government as a Monitoring and Evaluation tool for government projects. This application or dashboard enables data-driven decision making by providing real-time updates on projects' deliverables. It was first tested by eleven of our Ministries under the social services cluster for the 100 day cycle government projects and was highly recommended by stakeholders. To date 115 projects have been monitored under this application. We have already incorporated the economic sector. We are looking forward to the commissioning of Chiringa by His Excellency anytime soon. Your Excellency and Chancellor we believe that "Chiringa" is a significant and timely contribution to the nation for the attainment of vision 2030. With Chiringa, projects can be monitored and essential interventions carried timeously. Your Excellency and Chancellor we are beginning to witness the impact of your vision for innovation hubs and industrial parks in national development. Your Chiringa dash board is ready your Excellency, where you can see the progress of any national project in real time anywhere and anytime.

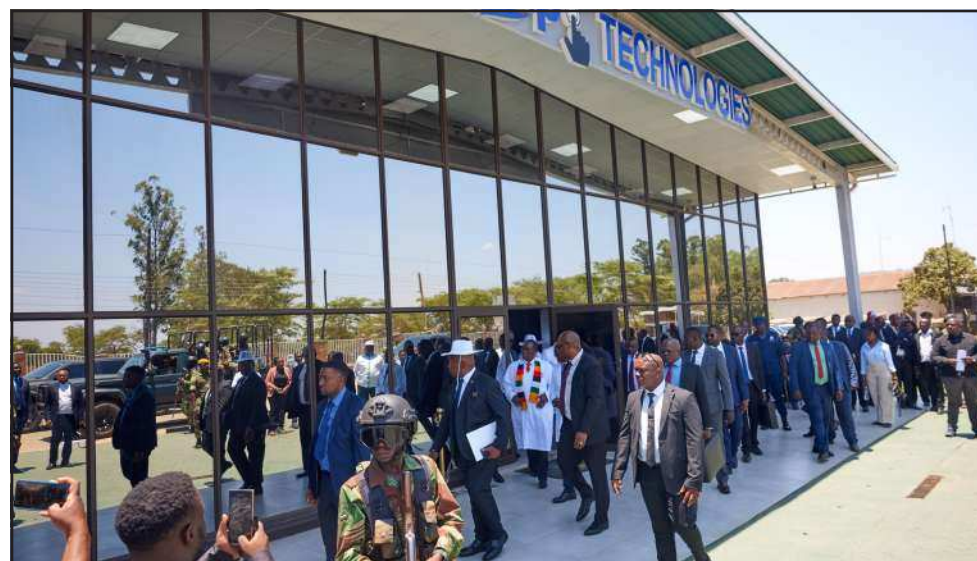
5. The e-tolling system

In a notable collaboration with the Zimbabwe National Road Administration (ZINARA), BUSE designed an e-Tolling and Access Control System that uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and Near Field Communication (NFC) technologies to modernize tollgate operations, reduce congestion and increase revenue collection. The system, now almost ready for stress testing at any one of the ZINARA tollgates, is a testament to how universities and other research related institutions can solve real-world infrastructural challenges. We anticipate that the system should be in use any time from now.

6. Parliament of Zimbabwe

Last year BUSE reached out to numerous public and private sector institutions

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that include the Parliament of Zimbabwe, the Judicial Services Commission, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, our parent Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development and several other ministries to bring them to speed on AI. We are most delighted to report that we have partnered with the Parliament of Zimbabwe on Artificial Intelligence and modernization of Parliament. We worked with our parliament as they hosted the 7th Parliament SADC Forum at the end of May in the resort town of Victoria Falls. Parliament will be one of the deserving beneficiaries of "Titus" the multilingual artificial intelligence tool. We have since signed an MoU with Parliament for the next 5 years. The Parliament of Zimbabwe is already benefiting from some of the applications developed from the innovation hub.

7. Training in AI

We mainstreamed AI in our University functions and research. In a world where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionising every industry and redefining how we live and work, Bindura University of Science Education has taken bold strides to ensure Zimbabwe will not be left behind in this area. Our Artificial Intelligence Centre has taken part in the development of the National AI strategy as well as various trainings. Working with the Judicial Services Commission, we trained 190 magistrates on AI.

8. Celebration of 25th anniversary

We organized and ran a rich mix of celebratory activities from January to date. Some of the activities such as international conferences, public lectures and monthly webinars for example, attracted participation by highly acclaimed international scholars, researchers, industry experts and development specialists. Such participation by, and involvement of this critical mass of experts added to our celebrations, the regional and international flavour which is indeed, part of the life of this University.

9. Student success ENACTUS WORLD CUP

As we gather here today, the nation is still in celebratory mood following the excellent and ground breaking performance by Zimbabwe, represented by the Bindura University of Science Education at the Enactus world cup in Bangkok, Thailand. BUSE, defied all odds to clinch a second place finish overall at the Enactus World Cup championships that ran from 25th to 28th September 2025.

Zimbabwe came second while Canada became the eventual winners of the competition. Enactus is a global organization that empowers university students to make a positive impact on their communities through innovative and entrepreneurial projects.

Emerging the second best in a World Cup that featured the world's greatest such as the United States of America, Germany, Brazil, Netherlands, Nigeria, Morocco, South Africa, Italy, Egypt, The United Kingdom and Ireland, India and many other global greats is no mean feat.

These are just but a few examples of the numerous exploits by our students at national, regional, continental and global platforms throughout the period of our existence as Bindura University of Science Education. We say Congratulations to the BUSE Enactus team for raising the national flag high.

10. A new entrance for the University-Trabablas

Finally we announce the commissioning of our Main Entrance gate by His Excellency, the President and Chancellor today.

The entrance came as a result of remarks by our Minister Hon. Frederick Shava where he noted early in the year that most Universities in Zimbabwe including BUSE did not have proper entrances. We thank you Hon. Minister Shava for the challenge, guidance and support.

After your visit to the institution in May this year, we started digging profusely and worked on your word. Now we have a beautiful entrance. In order not to be out done by Harare, the locals and the students mimicking the great 'Trabablas' interchange in Harare, have already nicknamed the entrance "Trabablas 2".

Your Excellency, we thank you and your government for the great work you are doing to rehabilitate and bring a new face to our roads throughout the country and for the "Trabablas" interchange.

Your Excellency and Chancellor,

With the prevailing positive attitudes reflective of a serious and mature institution of learning, we feel that we are entering a new epoch as a University.

The new era will demand more accountability to the nation and the world. We are also aware that the Bindura University of Science Education brand has over the years, become a very strong one that has gained international acclaim.

We will continue to work all our systems to ensure we remain competitive as a university, both locally and internationally.

We commit to remaining strategically relevant through sustained engagement with our stakeholders and strategic partners in our quest for continuous improvement.

As we set our eyes towards the next 25 years, we desire to be a prestigious centre of creativity, innovation and industrialization.

We are excited that the University has won the International bid to host the Women in Physics Conference in 2027. This will be the first time for Africa to host this prestigious event.

The University will continue to promote science education across the nation and in Africa. Your Excellency and Chancellor, the remarks that you made at the just ended conference of the Zanu PF Party in Mutare relating to the importance of Science Education and the need to build STEM laboratories in provinces is really visionary as always. BUSE greatly supports that most heartedly and will partner with government in the initiative.

We greatly applaud your foresight and far reaching perceptions. Thank you for seeing much ahead for the benefit of the nation.

Your Excellency and Chancellor, I now turn to the main business of the day. We shall shortly be presenting to you two thousand one hundred and fifteen (2115) graduands for conferment of degrees and diplomas of the Bindura University of Science Education.

One thousand three hundred and thirty two (1332) are graduating with first degrees, four hundred and five (405) with masters degrees and three (3) with higher degrees by research (MPhil and DPhil), three hundred and forty one (341) with diplomas and twenty five (25) with postgraduate diplomas.

Of the undergraduate and masters graduands one hundred and eight (108) are graduating with first class passes and seven (7) with distinctions respectively.

Among all the graduands are five hundred and three (503) agricultural and environmental experts; seven hundred and twenty three (723) commercial and business professionals, among them accountants, economists, bankers, marketers and human resources specialists; two hundred and ninety four (294) science educationists; three hundred and eighty four (384) are scientists and engineers and two hundred and ten (210) social scientists.

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As in previous years, females continue to outnumber male graduates. Thus, of the total number of graduands this year, 1098 or 52 % are female while the other 1017 or 48 % are male.

On a very sad note, Your Excellency and Chancellor, one (1) graduand is graduating posthumously.

We once again, extend our sincere condolences to the departed's families, friends and colleagues. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Message to the Graduands

To the jubilee graduands, congratulations for being our special products for our 25th year.

Today you join the roll of honour of this premier institution; you join thousands of other men and women who call the Bindura University of Science Education their alma mater; you join a community of innovators who are shaping Zimbabwe's future.

You have witnessed how research can be turned into products – from smartphones and laptops to prescription lenses and intelligent software. You have learned that science is not confined to laboratories but is applied in factories, farms and clinics.

As you step into the world, carry the spirit of Education 5.0 – be teachers and researchers, yes, but also inventors, entrepreneurs and community leaders.

It is a fact that the global labour markets are undergoing major transformations because of the fourth industrial revolution or the digital age. Artificial intelligence is revolutionising jobs and life.

The skills that may be relevant today are not necessarily the same skills that will be required. It is reported that no less than 54% of employees will require significant reskilling and upskilling. Individuals and organisations will have to invest in skilling and training.

The importance of this is that you have to invest in Lifelong Learning. Your University will always remain your partner even to the unknown future. You should always scan our website to see the courses that will make you competitive in the market place.

Maintain contact with your University and also develop a culture of ploughing back into your former institution as a way of saying thank you. When the time comes, we will be glad to welcome you back to the knowledge community

where you can make your pick once more from the wide array of our excellent and innovative higher degree programmes.

A Message of Gratitude

Your Excellency and Chancellor; Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen
As I conclude, I would like to express once again, our appreciation to the Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation Science and Technology Development for its continued support and guidance.

We are what we are, and are where we are today because of the unflinching support that we have received from Government over the years. Your Excellency and Chancellor, we are most grateful.

I also thank the University Council (s), past and present for providing the policy framework, strategic direction, stewardship and exemplary leadership to propel the University to greater heights.

Our profound appreciation also goes to the graduands' parents, guardians and their sponsors. Without their support these graduands would not be here today.

Allow me Your Excellency and Chancellor, to also extend our sincerest gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, 'friends of the University' and sponsors who have year in, and year out, donated generously toward the organization and running of our activities including the annual graduation ceremonies. We thank you all for your kindness and benevolence.

To the staff at the Bindura University of Science Education, I thank you for your support and co-operation as we continue to run with the vision and mandate of the University.

The organisation and execution of this Ceremony is an epitome of the team spirit in the institution. I also give thanks to the entire leadership and people of Mashonaland Central Province for their love and support to the University.

Finally, and to end my speech, I wish to thank you, Your Excellency and Chancellor for your encouragement to us, your commitment to the nation, servant leadership and the focus that we see in you and, indeed, for gracing our 24th Graduation Ceremony and officiating at it.

May God Bless You All! May God Bless Bindura University of Science Education! May God Bless Zimbabwe.

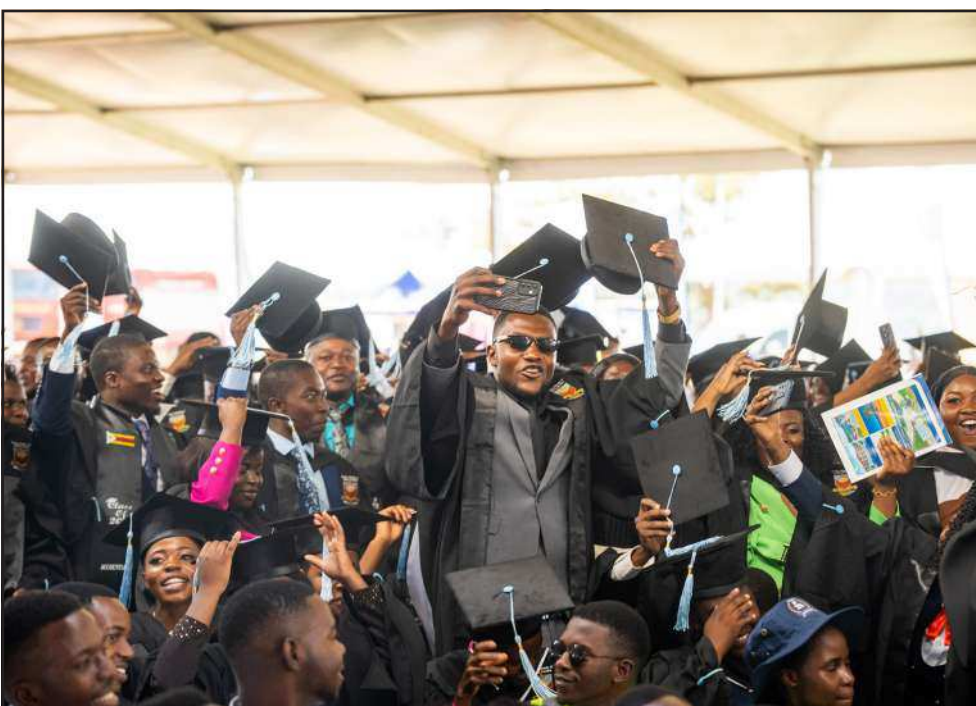
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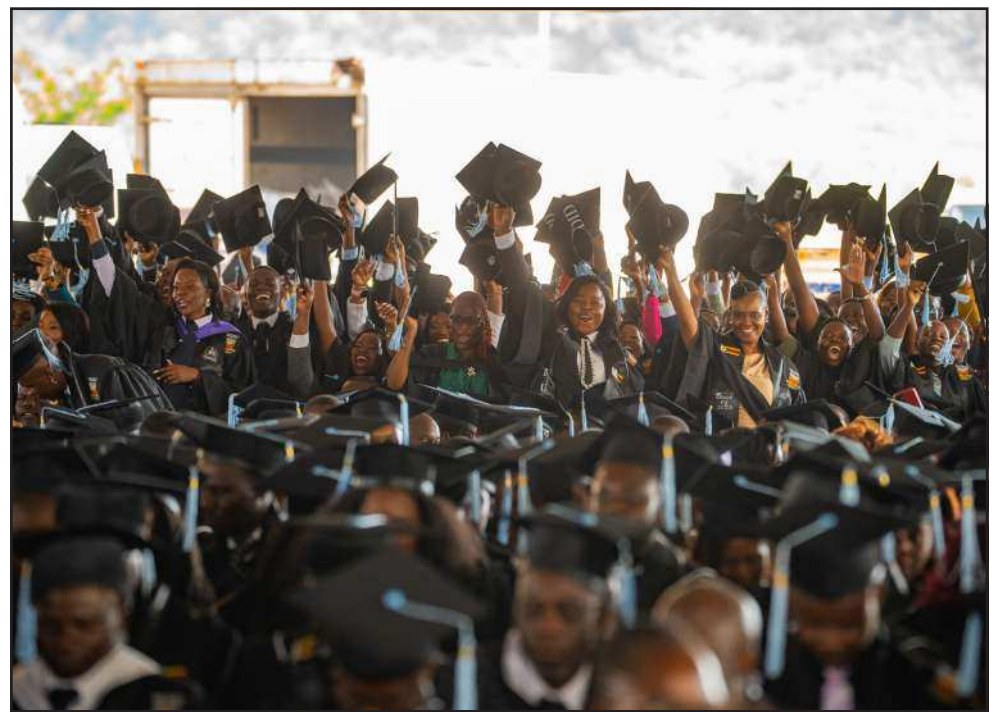














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