We Become What We Think About,
Earl Nightingale

- President Makes Clarion Call for Universities to Rethink their Approach to Research
- Minister Calls for Greater Collaboration Among Universities
- MSU Hosts National Constitution Translation Standardization Workshop
I am delighted and excited to welcome you all to our first issue for 2018. As we look forward to a new year, I am reminded of Heraclitus’s saying that ‘change is the only constant in life’. This is certainly true for Midlands State University, with the year 2018 set to bring about a number of positive changes for the institution.

On the research front, efforts are already underway to ensure that the University’s research responds to the changing needs of its surrounding communities and ultimately contributes to national development. To this end, in this edition of The Pulse, we feature the meeting between His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chancellor of all State Universities, Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa, with vice-chancellors and principals of all universities. The meeting set the tone for the direction that the country’s research as championed by institutions of higher learning should take in order for it to contribute to national economic development.

Elsewhere, in this edition we also feature the inaugural visit to Midlands State University by the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Development, Professor Amon Murwira as well as, take a look at the collaborative work being undertaken to translate the national constitution into 15 indigenous languages. Indeed, if events featured in this edition are anything to go by, 2018 promises to be a very eventful and successful year as it is ‘no longer business as usual’. On a lighter note we conclude this edition by taking a look at practical ways to you keep your new year’s resolutions and see them through.

So until next time, happy reading!

“If everything seems under control, you are not going fast enough”
Mario Andretti

Mrs M Mawere Dir. Information and Public Relations
In a historic meeting with university vice-chancellors, deans, college principals, academics and industry representatives, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chancellor of all State Universities, Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa called on institutions of higher learning to prioritise research that will grow the nation.

In his address, the President, set the tone for the research trajectory that institutions of higher learning together with other research institutions ought to be pursuing, in order for them to become viable vehicles of national development. He further urged universities to focus more on applied research that is aimed at providing real solutions to real life problems, as opposed to research for research’s sake.

‘The education system is the pillar for the incubation of the fundamental solutions for our nation. Institutions of higher learning should not be satisfied with ... the many graduates that have passed through their gates, they should instead harness their collective skills and intellectual capacity within their respective institutions to develop our beloved country. Education should be productive, it should be responsive and relevant to the society’s needs for present and future generations’, said President Mnangagwa.

The interface meeting, which was held on the 9th of January 2018, at the Rainbow Towers, in Harare was organised by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Development to help promote collaboration between Government, universities and industry as part of initiatives to grow the economy.

Midlands State University was represented at the meeting by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor V N Muzvidziwa, the Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor, Ms N P Chibanda, together with deans and directors from the University’s various faculties and departments.
The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Development, Professor Amon Murwira has called on universities to focus on research that will help to turnaround the country’s economic fortunes.

Speaking during his inaugural visit to Midlands State University, on Friday the 12th of January 2018, Professor Murwira said, universities should not be fixated with competing against each other, but should instead focus their efforts on collaborate research that responds to the challenges faced by the country. ‘What we are saying is that our universities themselves have to collaborate instead of using a competition model’, said Professor Murwira.

The Minister also called on universities, to embrace a blue ocean strategic approach to research and reaffirmed his ministry’s support for research and innovation that has national significance.

In his brief with the Minister, Midlands State University, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor V N Muzvidziwa reiterated the University’s commitment to research and informed the Minister of the University’s current and future plans to ensure that the University’s research output contributes to economic development and nation building.

On the sidelines of his familiarization visit, Professor Murwira also met with his counterpart from the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Cde Ziyambi Ziyambi, who was the guest of honour at the National Constitution Translation Committee (NCTC) Standardisation Workshop, also hosted by Midlands State University on the same day. The two Ministers briefly discussed the importance of intellectual property law as well as the collaborative role being undertaken by six universities in translating the national constitution into various minority languages.

Professor Murwira concluded his visit to MSU, with a tour of the University’s grand Chapel and a new Office Block, which were both recently completed, as well as model hostels that are near completion at the University’s Graduate School of Business Leadership and Faculty of Law and Faculty of Commerce Campus. In his parting remarks, Professor Murwira commended the University for the great strides it has made in the development of infrastructure.
The Midlands State University (MSU) in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs hosted a two-day workshop on National Constitution Translation Standardization from the 12th to the 13th of January 2018 at the MSU Main Campus.

The workshop sought to standardize the process of translating the Constitution of Zimbabwe from English into 15 official languages of Zimbabwe namely Chewa, Chibarwe, Kalanga, Koisan, Nambya, Ndau, Ndebele, Shangani, Shona, Sign Language, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda, and Xhosa.

Speaking at the official opening of the ceremony, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi said, “Government is obliged in terms of Section 7 of the Constitution to promote public awareness of the constitution by translating it into officially recognized languages and disseminating it as widely as possible in an effort to increase access to justice.”

“In order for the people of Zimbabwe to benefit from the provisions of the Constitution, by and for whom it was made, it is important that the supreme law of the land be written in a language that they understand. This speaks to the need for Government and other relevant stakeholders to embark on projects meant to translate the Constitution into vernacular languages,” said Hon. Ziyambi.

The Minister also spoke highly of the MSU Faculty of Law saying, the faculty continues to produce development-oriented graduates who are making a great impact on the legal landscape of Zimbabwe. The National Constitution Translation Committee, under the patronage of the Acting Vice-Chancellor of MSU, Professor Victor Ngonidzashe Muzvidziwa, draws expertise from the country’s top linguists, jurists and independent sign language consultants.

In his welcome remarks Professor Muzvidziwa, pledged to support the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs in national development processes saying that MSU, through its vast wealth of knowledge, will remain a dependable partner in expanding the democratic frontiers of the people of Zimbabwe.

The workshop also came at a time when government ministries and parastatals have been tasked to come up with, “Quick wins for the first 100 days,” under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chancellor of State Universities, His Excellency, Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa.

In attendance were the Vice-Chancellor of Reformed Church University, Professor W Magwa, Professor E Chauraya (MSU), Professor E Chabata (UZ), Professor H Chimhundu (CUT), Professor W Chigidi (MSU), High Court Judge, Justice Moses Chinengwa and various top linguists from 6 state Universities.
Minister Murwira Tours MSU Zvishavane Campus

Following a brief tour of Midlands State University’s Zvishavane Campus, the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Development, Professor Amon Murwira, has applauded ongoing infrastructural development and the acquisition of modern teaching and learning equipment as part of continuous efforts by the University to improve the learning and teaching environment.

Professor Murwira commended the University’s administration led by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Victor Ngonidzashe Muzvidziwa for its efforts in trying to create a first-class teaching and learning environment.

In his welcome remarks, Professor Muzvidziwa highlighted that MSU had invited the ministerial delegation to tour the University’s facilities and amenities in order for them to get a first-hand appreciation of the institution’s efforts to improve the learning and teaching environment at its different campuses. Professor Muzvidziwa expressed gratitude to the Minister and his delegation for their visit, saying, it was his hope that the visit was the first of many, and that MSU would continue to benefit from the Minister’s wise counsel and guidance.

Facilities that were toured included the Information Technology (IT) laboratories, Mining and Mineral Processing Engineering laboratories, the Arts and Humanities library, Mining and Mineral Processing Engineering library and the administration block.

The touring party was particularly impressed with state of the art equipment that is set to enhance the teaching and learning of students in the Faculty of Mining and Mineral Processing Engineering.

In his vote of thanks, Zvishavane Campus Director, Professor A. Viriri expressed the institution’s gratitude to the visiting delegation for taking time out of their hectic schedules to tour the Campus. The Campus Director also highlighted that MSU would continue to rely on its line ministry for guidance, in various endeavours aimed at growing the University.
Supplementary and Special Examinations A Success

Commenting on the just ended supplementary and special examinations session, which ran from the 15th to the 19th of January 2018 at the University’s Gweru Main Campus, the Acting Director in the department of Examinations, Mrs M. Mzikamwi, said the examinations run smoothly.

The Acting Director, noted that everything went on well and commended the various University departments and personnel who worked hard to ensure that the examinations were a success.

The special examination session was meant to afford students going for Work Related Learning and final year students who did not get it right the first time or failed to sit for their examinations, an opportunity to go for work related learning as well as complete their studies in the case of the later.

A Future Secured
Taking the Constitution to the People

Access to justice is one of the most fundamental principles of human rights in a democratic society. To step up efforts to increase awareness of the fundamental rights enshrined in the national constitution through its various provisions, the National Constitution Translation Committee (NCTC), under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs has since begun translating the national constitution into 15 local languages, in a move that is set to significantly increase access to justice for the majority of citizens.

Translating the constitution from English into 15 official languages, will make the supreme law of the land more accessible to ordinary citizens as well as increase their knowledge and understanding of its provisions.

Among those that are set to benefit from having the supreme law of the land in vernacular are traditional leaders as well as the communities they lead. Not only will traditional leaders have a better understanding of the provisions of the constitution, but they will also be better positioned and empowered to execute their duties when they preside over cases involving customary law.

Furthermore, translating the constitution allows for inclusivity in the democratic systems of the country. In a country in which, there are at least 15 ethnic groups, the opportunity to read the constitution in one’s native language enables you to interpret, understand and exercise your rights in terms of the supreme law of the land. However, more importantly, it gives one a sense of ownership.

It therefore, goes without saying that it is a good breath of fresh air to see six local universities coming together, to contribute to national development through their knowledge and expertise as they work to translate the constitution.

This collaborative paradigm, will bring together some of the country’s top linguists, jurists, translators, editors and sign language experts as the nation moves to make the constitution more accessible to its citizenry. And indeed, as alluded to, by the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Tertiary Education Development Honourable Professor Murwira, during his inaugural visit to Midlands State University, “it is high time institutions of higher learning are used for national development”.

Consequently, in the same spirit of contributing to national development, Midlands State University through its Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor V. N. Muzvidziwa has promised to continue supporting NCTC’s activities as well as the entire translation process through the provision of seasoned linguists, legal experts and physical facilities.
In a development aimed at empowering communities through research, the Midlands State University is set to establish a multidisciplinary research centre at Tokwe Mukorsi Dam.

The research centre will focus on aquaculture, climate change, tourism, natural resources management as well as management of water bodies. The envisioned resource centre is in line with the Midlands State University, Acting Vice Chancellor Professor V N Muzvidziwa’s vision of enhancing the University’s contribution to national development through relevant and practical research.

The Tokwe Mukorsi dam area, is ideal for setting up the multi-disciplinary research centre as the area has been designated a tourism hub, national game park and a major fishing zone. Government through the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority also plans to open a new mega-national park around Tokwe-Mukorsi dam with wildlife expected to be translocated from other local wildlife sanctuaries.

The University’s department of Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies will partner the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority in the development.

The MSU Executive Dean of Arts, Dr T Mashingaidze commended the University for prioritising research issues, noting that the resource centre is a product of the University’s vision to provide life-saving information and resources, which dovetails with the mandate of the institution, which among other things includes ensuring that students get quality education through demand driven research.

Speaking during a site visit to Tokwe Mukorsi dam by members of the University community on Thursday the 11th of January 2018, Zvishavane Acting Campus Director Professor A Viriri highlighted that as a stakeholder-driven institution, MSU continues to value partnerships aimed at enhancing the welfare of its principal stakeholder, the student.
10 Tips to Help You Keep Your New Year’s Resolution

Chances are at some time in your life, you’ve made a New Year’s resolution — and then broken it. This year, stop the cycle of resolving to make change and then not following through. If your resolution is to take better care of yourself and get healthy, you will have a much better year if your resolution sticks. Here are ten tips to help you get started.

1. BE REALISTIC

The surest way to fall short of your goal is to make your goal unattainable. For instance, resolving to NEVER eat your favorite food again is setting you up to fail. Instead, strive for a goal that is attainable, such as avoiding it more often than you do now.

2. PLAN AHEAD

Don’t make your resolution on New Year’s Eve. If you wait until the last minute, it will be based on your mindset that particular day. Instead, it should be planned well before December 31st arrives.

3. OUTLINE YOUR PLAN

Decide how you will deal with the temptation to skip that exercise class or have that piece of cake. This could include calling on a friend for help, practicing positive thinking and self-talk, or reminding yourself how your “bad” will affect your goal.

4. MAKE A “PROS” AND “CONS” LIST

It may help to see a list of items on paper to keep your motivation strong. Develop this list over time, and ask others to contribute to it. Keep your list with you and refer to it when you need help keeping your resolve.

5. TALK ABOUT IT

Don’t keep your resolution a secret. Tell friends and family members who will be there to support your resolve to change yourself for the better or improve your health. The best-case scenario is to find a buddy who shares your New Year’s resolution and motivate each other.

6. REWARD YOURSELF

This doesn’t mean that you can eat an entire box of chocolates if your resolution is to eat a better diet. Instead, celebrate your success by treating yourself to something you enjoy that doesn’t contradict your resolution. If you have been sticking to your promise to eat better, for example, reward yourself with new fitness clothing or by going to a movie with a friend.

7. TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

Keep track of each small success. Short-term goals are easier to keep, and each small accomplishment will help keep you motivated. Instead of focusing on losing 30 pounds, focus on losing the first five. Keep a food journal to help you stay on track, and reward yourself for each five pounds lost.

8. DON’T BEAT YOURSELF UP

Obsessing over the occasional slip won’t help you achieve your goal. Do the best you can each day, and take one day at a time.

9. STICK TO IT

Experts say it takes about 21 days for a new activity to become a habit and six months for it to become part of your personality. It won’t happen overnight, so be persistent and patient!

10. KEEP TRYING

If you have totally run out of steam when it comes to keeping your resolution by mid-February, don’t despair. Start over again! Recommit yourself for 24 hours. You can do anything for 24 hours. The 24-hour increments will soon build on each other and, before you know it, you will be back on track.
Student Orientation for Harare Programmes

We wish to advise all new students who successfully applied for various Harare programmes, that orientation for all programmes, will be held on the 27th and 28th of January 2018 at the Midlands State University School of Social Work Campus located at the corner of Chinhoyi and Grant Street in Harare. The orientation programme will commence at 0900 hours and will cover important issues such as registration procedures, student conduct and life at MSU.

For more information regarding the orientation programme or Harare programmes in general, please contact our Harare Office on 04 755281 or email infoandpr@msu.ac.zw

2018 University Calendar

Semester One

University Opens 03 January 2018
Online Registration starts 15 January 2018
Orientation of First Year students 15 February 2018
Semester One 19 February – 01 June 2018 (15 weeks)
Mid Semester Break 16 – 22 April 2018 (One week)
End of Semester Examinations 21 May 2018 – 01 June 2018 (Two weeks)

Semester Two

Online Registration starts 02 July 2018
Orientation of First Year students 26 July 2018
Semester One 30 July – 09 November 2018 (15 weeks)
Mid Semester Break 17 – 23 September 2018 (One week)
End of Semester Examinations 29 October 2018 – 09 November 2018 (Two weeks)
University closes 21 December 2018

For more information, visit the Information & Public Relations Office, or email infoandpr@msu.ac.zw, or call the following numbers:
+263 54 260 359, 260 404, 260 568, 260 417, 260 450