



# NEWS @ NUST

A newsletter of the National University of Science and Technology

March 2018

## STAY IN THE COUNTRY AND REVIVE INDUSTRIES, GRADUATES TOLD

**G**RADUATES in the country have been urged to stay and resuscitate industries instead of leaving the country after their graduation, said the National University of Science and Technology (NUST)'s Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Dumisani Hlatywayo.

Speaking at the third workshop of the Enriching Engineering Education Programme (EEEP) driven by the Royal

Academy of Engineering (RAE) which was held at a hotel in Bulawayo, Dr Hlatywayo said graduates have to look for jobs in the country so that the industry can be revived, and simultaneously industry need to recognise local graduates.

“Graduates need to play a part in the recovery of local industries instead of them leaving the country after graduation,” said Dr Hlatywayo,

“Companies as well need to seek or recognise tenders from local graduates because Zimbabwe industries have become a warehouse where materials and services are gathered from other countries to be sold locally,” he added.

Speakers at the workshop said the EEEP has forged industry-academia linkages which need to be maintained to recognise local students and ultimately boost the country's economy.

*<continued on page 2>*

### Inside Stories

- **Second Semester extended** P 2
- **Zimbabwe- British Ambassador Impressed by Nust alumni** P 2
- **Club Expo in Pictures** P 4
- **NUST continues to be internationally recognised** P5
- **TechnoPark Page** P 6



Dr Dumisani Hlatywayo (standing amongst panelists) addressing delegates during a question and answer session at the workshop

# Second Semester Extended

**T**HE National University of Science and Technology (NUST)'s Registrar, Mr Fidelis Mhlanga recently announced the extension of the Second Semester for the 2017/2018 academic year to the 31st of May 2018.

The extension comes after lecturers went on a strike at the beginning of the semester and resumed duty three weeks after. The university has used the extension to ensure that lecturers and students catch up with their teaching and learning schedule.

Lecturers interviewed by the *News @ NUST* said the semester extension was inevitable as the remaining weeks were not enough for them to cover lectures set for the whole semester.

"The extension had to happen and I think it is fair for both lecturers and students because lecturers lost teaching time and students lost learning time, so it will help make up for the time lost," said Mr Thando Nkomo, a Journalism and Media Studies lecturer.

Meanwhile, students have mixed feelings about the extension as some of them said it has added more unplanned expenses for rent and transport, whilst others said it will give them more learning time.

"Academically, the extension is beneficial because we will have more time to study and hopefully get those distinctions we are aiming for, but economically it is expensive because we have to fork out more money for rent, transport and meals," said Ayibongwe Siziba, a part two Chemical Engineering student.

"I think the extension will ease the pressure which we were now under. Lecturers were now trying to make up for time lost during the strike by using our free time," said another student, "Sometimes we would even learn on Sundays, as a result we had no time to work on assignments or projects"

**Please visit the NUST website on [www.nust.ac.zw](http://www.nust.ac.zw) to see the revised calender.**

---



---

## NUST ALUMNI IMPRESSES ZIM-BRITISH AMBASSADOR



*HMA Catriona Laing*

**T**HE British Ambassador to Zimbabwe, HMA Catriona Laing recently said she is impressed by the NUST Alumnus founded TechVillage which has potential to change the world with its innovations.

"We went to see the TechVillage and what we saw is amazing. We saw incredible young entrepreneurs doing all sorts of interesting things," said HMA Laing.

"We have young entrepreneurs coming up with renewal energies, incredible interesting inventions, and young women doing online news services. Another one doing bracelets for children in case they are abducted. The bracelet will detect fear and these are just few examples," she added.

HMA Laing was part of a delegation of ambassadors from EU countries who had a breakfast meeting with six innovators from the TechVillage.

The innovators who are NUST graduates started the following companies: Tipster, Need Energy, Baseline Thoughts, First Source Technology, Ritdev Uni and Imagine Studios.

The founder of the TechVillage who is also a NUST graduate, Takunda Chingozo said they were honoured by the visit of the Ambassadors and they will implement the recommendations they received.

"Having such a highly powered delegation visit our space reaffirms our commitment to build a 100 start-ups by the year 2020," said Chingozo.

"It also gives us that firm belief that we are contributing towards the rebuilding of our city and country. The advice and recommendations that they gave us will help in making progress in the space that we are in," added the TechVillage founder.

HMA Laing and UK Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) representative Sebastian Scott were guests of honour at the recently NUST hosted RAE Workshop held at a holiday in Bulawayo.

At that workshop, Scott encouraged innovators in the engineering field to participate in this year's Higher Education Partnership in Sub-Saharan Africa (HEPSSA) and Engineering Innovation competitions. Last year, three Zimbabweans managed to make it to the finals.

"A new call for funding for HEPSSA is due to open in June 2018, whilst Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation is open as of March 2018," said Scott.

# Graduates urged not to leave the country

<continued from page 1>

“The collaboration between industry and academia helps the academia produce employable students and at the same time industry will get local employees who have the skills they require,” said Eng. T Matangadura, a representative from Zimbabwe Power Company in Harare.

“Joint relations lead to the advancement of the engineering profession and for the betterment of our economy,” he added.

EEEEP is a two year programme sponsored by the United Kingdom Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) which fosters the collaboration of Industry and academia as a measure to curb the mismatch between graduates produced by universities and the skills needed by the Industry.

NUST is the hub for the second phase of this programme as the University of Zimbabwe was the hub in the first phase.

In the first half of the second phase of EEEP, NUST managed to send nine members of staff for secondment and five technical experts were deployed from the industry to the university.

In the ongoing second half of the second phase which will end in September this year, the RAE driven programme has managed to send two lecturers from NUST and Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) for secondment at NatPak and Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC) respectively. It also had a visiting professor in the Faculty of Industrial Technology’s Chemical Engineering Department, Prof. Esther Ventura Medina from the University of Strathclyde in the United Kingdom

Lecturers sent on secondment said the experience they gained on the attachment period would help them in teaching concepts they understand practically rather than imparting knowledge they possess theoretically.

“Joint relations lead to the advancement of the engineering profession and for the betterment of our economy,”

“Exposure to the industry helped us even in the identification of students’ projects on exposed areas. It is easier to supervise a student who is working on a problem that you know rather than the one you are imagining,” said Eng Kelvin Chihota from CUT who was seconded at ZPC.



Attendants at the workshop pose for a picture

# Students' Page



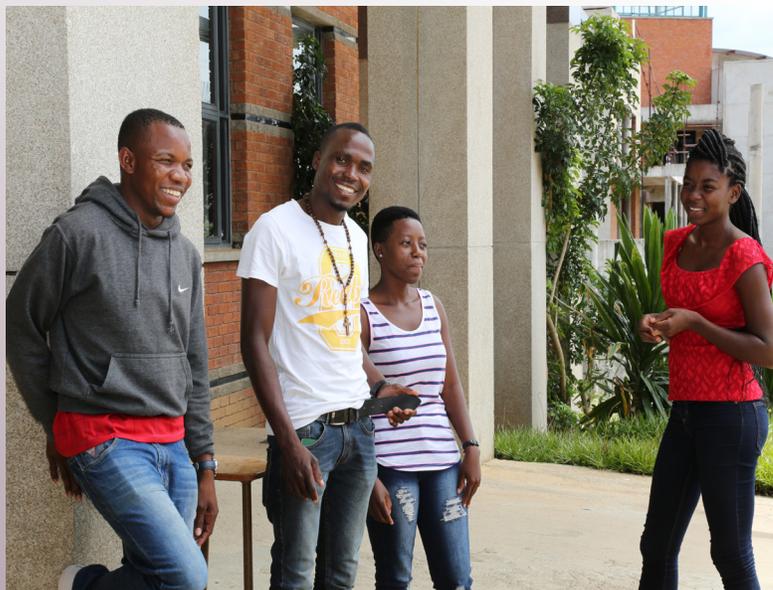
## CLUB-EXPO IN PICTURES

THE students at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), recently held a Club Expo where different clubs showcased what they are about and also to lure new members to join. These are pictures taken from some of the clubs at the Expo.



# Students' Page

## NUST CONTINUES TO BE AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED INSTITUTION



*Some of the Namibian Students soon after their registration*

**T**HE National University of Science and Technology continues to be internationally recognised as it attracts students from all over the world.

Recently NUST enrolled students from Namibia who are studying a bridging course to take them to the Degree programmes they were offered. The University's reputation of producing outstanding graduates attracted the recently enrolled freshmen.

"I saw many engineers in Namibia who were working in big companies and I used to ask them where they did their engineering studies, most of them used to say they learnt at NUST in Zimbabwe so that's why I came here," said Mbabi Gabriel Nghilukilwa, a student doing the bridging programme for the Bachelor of Technology in Education Civil and Construction Engineering.

"At High School I was taught by a few Zimbabwean teachers with NUST Degrees of Education and the way they conducted lessons was just different from the way others did therefore that made me passionate about being a teacher trained in Zimbabwe, that's why I applied for a teaching degree at NUST," said Kanyeumbo Johanna Patemoshela, a student doing the bridging programme for the Bachelor of Education.

The students said they are keen to learn the Zimbabwean culture and way of life. They could not hide the friendly reception they have received since their arrival in the country and at the university as well.

"I would love to learn some of the cultures here in Zimbabwe and way of life, I want to learn how to speak local languages like Shona and also how to cook the staple food here which is Sadza," said Paulus Lydia Ndapewashange.

"The people here have been friendly and I wish to make a lot of friends so that we can learn each other's culture and I expect all of us to make it in attaining the degrees we came here to study for," said Haihambo Ambrosius Mweefeni.

NUST has always attracted students from foreign countries with most of them coming from South Sudan. The first class with South Sudanese students is set to graduate in 2019.

In last year's Student Representative Council (SRC) elections, a South Sudanese student named Ajal Bol Gai Abuok 'Afrca' garnered most votes in the councillors' category making him the first ever foreign student to be part of the students' council.

The Director of Communication and Marketing, Mr Felix Moyo said the university through enrolling foreign students, is playing its role in the international fraternity of universities within Southern African Development Committee (SADC) which encourages universities to enrol international students.

"The SADC education protocol encourages universities within SADC to enrol students from nationalities within SADC, by enrolling international students we are creeping towards that requirement," said Moyo

"We have many students out there who want to come to NUST and we want them to come and that is why we have now intensified our reach to students outside Zimbabwe. Recently our Career Guidance Team was in Botswana and we also want to take part at the Namibian Career Fair where we will be encouraging students to come to NUST," he added.

# Techno Park



*TechnoPark Director, Dr Mtetwa*

## THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION SUPPORT CENTER (TISC)

Technology Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) is part of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to help developing countries with innovation.

NUST Technopark has a TISC office which is where students and the staff members go to in order to inquire about anything relating to intellectual property.

TISCs are designed to provide innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information services and other related services.

Mr Aleck Ncube, the Intellectual Property (IP) Educator, heads the TISC office and oversees activities relating to Intellectual Property. This article seeks to explain the services offered at the NUST as well as other activities within the Centre.

The TISC office is currently operated by a student intern under the supervision of the IP Educator. Its role is to provide support services designed to promote access and effective use of valuable sources of technical and commercial information, such as patent information, scientific and technical journals, trademarks and industrial design information using databases that are found within Patent Scope.

Available services at the NUST Technopark are as follows:

- Access to online patent and non-patent resources.
- Access to industrial property-related publications.
- Assistance in searching and retrieving technology information.
- Basic information on industrial property laws.

The TISC office assists students and academics to navigate the global patent system in order to avoid reinventing the wheel during the selection of projects.

By using TISC services, researchers are able to discover opportunities for inventive and innovative steps in the enhancement of registered patents.

The TISC routinely conducts IP awareness lectures normally delivered to students.

The said lectures have so far been delivered to part five, part three and part two students from the Departments of Chemical and Electronic Engineering.

