MUBAS Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Celebrating Progress, Sharing Our Story

Every quarter presents an opportunity to pause, look back at what we have accomplished and appreciate the people and efforts behind our progress. As I look at the stories in this edition, MUBAS continues to cement its position as a university that is not only committed to teaching and learning but also to finding solutions to challenges facing our society.

The past three months have given us plenty to celebrate. From hosting an international infrastructure conference that attracted delegates from 12 countries to holding our first Research and Innovation Dissemination Conference, we take pride in our ability to create platforms where knowledge is shared, ideas are challenged and new partnerships are formed.

I am particularly proud of the recognition our researchers and innovators have received. The EPIC Air Quality Fund Milestone Award from the University of Chicago is an encouraging acknowledgement of the work MUBAS is doing to support air quality monitoring and policy development in Malawi. Our Agricultural Mechanisation Unit's recognition at the Malawi Engineering Institution Awards is equally worth celebrating. It is always encouraging to see ideas developed within our university translating into practical solutions, particularly in areas where our country has pressing needs.

But this edition is not just about awards and conferences. It is also about people and the opportunities that make our esteemed university what it is. We take a closer look at the journey of Dr. Rabiya Hanif, whose career progression is an inspiration to aspiring academics and women in leadership. We also celebrate one of our own, Mrs Vera Yamikani Zulu, whose impressive career in the financial services sector reminds us of the impact our graduates continue to make long after leaving the university.

As you read through this edition, you will find many more stories covering our partnerships, staff development initiatives, international engagements and sporting achievements. Each story offers a glimpse into the different things happening across MUBAS and the people making them possible.

As the editorial team, we know that there are many more stories worth telling. Some of the most exciting work happening at the university may not always receive the attention it deserves. We therefore encourage our colleagues, students, alumni and partners to share their achievements, experiences and initiatives with us. This newsletter belongs to the entire MUBAS community, and its richness depends on the stories we share.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Happy reading!

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MUBAS Newsletter is a quarterly publication which serves as a platform for updating the MUBAS community and the public through stories on the university activities.

Let us tell MUBAS stories because stories matter; many stories matter!

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From the VC's desk

The third quarter of 2026 has been a remarkable period of growth, collaboration and innovation for our esteemed university. As we continue to strengthen our position as a leading institution of higher learning, we welcomed a second cohort of first-year students, reflecting our continued commitment to fulfilling the government's call to expand access to quality higher education and develop the next generation of professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Our successful hosting of the Infrastructure Development and Investment (DII) Conference, in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, demonstrates our commitment to knowledge exchange and international collaboration. Bringing together professionals in Engineering and the Built Environment from twelve countries, the Malawi edition of the DII conference reportedly reached a record high in participation, reinforcing our growing role as a platform for international engagement, professional networking, and the exchange of expertise in infrastructure development.

The quarter also marked an important milestone in our research and innovation agenda with the inaugural Research and Innovation Dissemination Conference (RIDC), which brought together researchers, policymakers, academics and innovators to share knowledge, showcase research outputs and explore opportunities for collaboration. The conference reaffirmed our belief that research must extend beyond academic inquiry to generate practical solutions, inform policy and contribute meaningfully to the Malawi 2063 agenda.

Further affirming our commitment to impactful research, the University of Chicago Epic Air Quality Fund awarded us for improving air quality monitoring and supporting clean air policies in Malawi. As the only university in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to receive this prestigious award, this remarkable achievement is a powerful testament to the university's technical expertise, innovative capacity, and ability to develop solutions that meet internationally recognised standards. In addition to this, our identity as the Home of Innovation was also affirmed at the receipt of the Engineering Excellence Award for Innovation in Engineering, awarded to the Agriculture Mechanisation Project by the Malawi Engineering Institution (MEI) reflecting the creativity, technical expertise and commitment to innovation that continue to define our university.

As we look ahead, let us remain focused by strengthening strategic partnerships, advancing research and innovation, and translating knowledge into practical solutions that support Malawi's development. I extend my sincere appreciation to our staff, students, alumni and all our partners and stakeholders for their continued dedication and contribution to the University's progress.

Vice-Chancellor
Associate Professor Nancy Chitera



Associate Professor Chikumbusko Kaonga receives an award recognising MUBAS' outstanding contribution to air quality research

MUBAS Receives Global Award for Advancing Air Quality Monitoring in Malawi

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) received international recognition for its contribution to improving air quality monitoring and supporting clean air policies in Malawi.

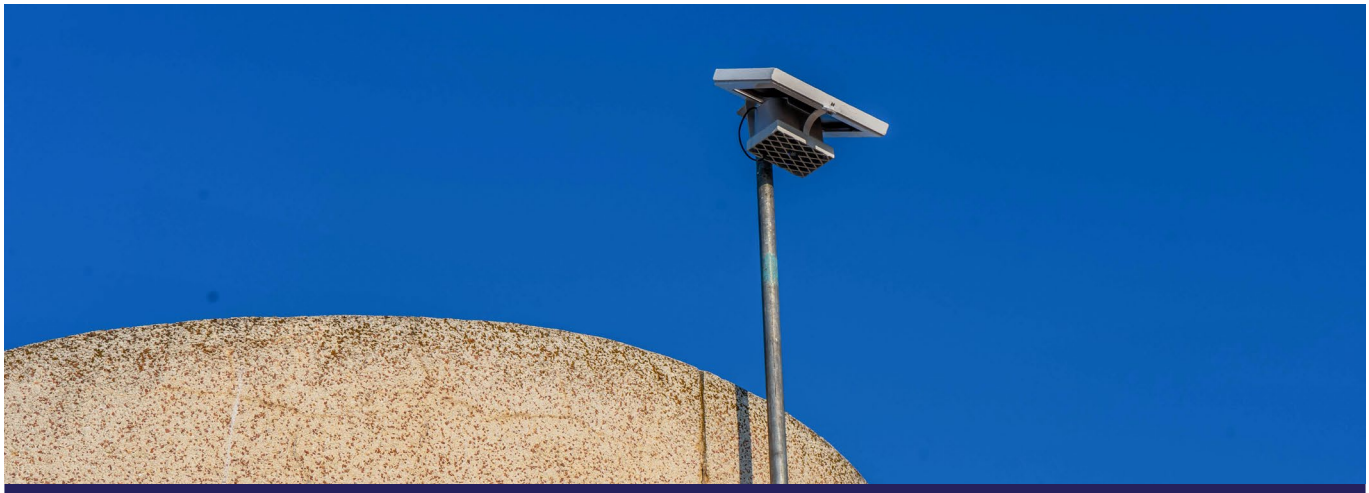
The university received the prestigious EPIC Air Quality Fund Milestone Award from the University of Chicago on 16 July 2026 during the Africa Clean Air Forum at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria, South Africa.

The award recognises MUBAS's successful implementation of an air quality research project supported by the University of Chicago's EPIC Air Quality Fund. Through the project, MUBAS has installed 19 low-cost air quality monitoring stations across five districts in Malawi, significantly strengthening the country's capacity to collect and analyse air pollution data.

MUBAS Associate Professor and project team leader, Dr. Chikumbusko Chiziwa Kaonga, said the initiative has already produced important results, including the publication of Malawi's first Air Quality Bulletin, developed in collaboration with the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services.

The research team is also finalising a national air quality policy brief in partnership with the Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), which is expected to support evidence-based policymaking on air pollution.

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Air quality monitoring station at MUBAS

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"Air quality data is nothing if it does not translate into action," said Dr. Kaonga.

He said the award is a major motivation for the research team to strengthen efforts aimed at promoting clean air and protecting environmental health.

MUBAS was one of the seven groups worldwide to receive recipient from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regions.

According to the University of Chicago, the award recipients were recognised for achieving national-level impact by expanding air quality monitoring, making publicly accessible and supporting evidence-based policy reforms to address air pollution.



Assoc. Prof Kaonga displaying the award

Dr. Kaonga said the research is particularly important for Malawi, where many people are exposed to poor air quality as a result of environmental degradation, climate change and human activities such as bush fires and open burning of waste.

He noted that improved air quality monitoring and public awareness can help inform interventions to reduce pollution and contribute to healthier communities.

The research also has important public health implications, as improved air quality can help reduce exposure to pollutants associated with respiratory illnesses and other non-communicable diseases.

The recognition further strengthens MUBAS's growing reputation as a centre of excellence in research and innovation, demonstrating the university's commitment to developing practical, science-based solutions to national and global challenges ■



Assoc. Prof Burnet Mkandawire, Executive Dean for the MUBAS School of Engineering receiving an Excellence Award on behalf of the Agriculture Mechanization Unit at the 2026 Malawi Insitution of Engineers Conference

Agricultural Mechanisation Unit Wins Engineering Excellence Award

Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) has once again demonstrated why it is regarded as a home of innovation by winning the Engineering Excellence Award for Innovation in Engineering at the 2026 Malawi Engineering Institution (MEI) Engineering Conference held in Salima.

> "We cannot be too dependent on imported products when we have the skills and expertise to produce them locally"

MUBAS, a leading institution in engineering education in Malawi, continues to demonstrate its leadership in developing engineering solutions that bring impact to society and accelerate the country's economic growth.

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Looking for a solution! A client engages MUBAS staff to find a lasting solution to a long-standing problem with one of his machines

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Through its Agricultural Mechanisation Unit (AgriMech), the university was recognised for developing locally driven engineering solutions that respond to practical challenges in the agricultural sector while promoting innovation and local production.

Speaking after receiving the award, Executive Dean of the School of Engineering, Associate Professor Burnet Mkandawire, said the recognition reflected MUBAS' commitment to engineering innovation and the importance of teamwork.

"This recognition reflects the commitment of our engineers and the value of working together. It is an encouragement for us to continue contributing our knowledge and skills towards developing solutions that respond to the needs of our country," Mkandawire said.

During the conference, Minister of Transport and Public Works, Hon. Jappie Mhango, challenged Malawian engineers to take a leading role in driving industrialisation by using their expertise to strengthen local industries, support economic transformation and reduce reliance on imported equipment and services.

"We cannot be too dependent on imported products when we have the skills and expertise to produce them locally," he said.

The award marks another milestone in MUBAS' efforts to translate engineering knowledge and innovation into practical solutions that support agricultural development and contribute to Malawi's economic growth

MUBAS Hosts 12 Countries for Infrastructure Conference



The Minister of Transport and Public Works (third from left) poses for a group photo with delegates during the DII Conference at Mount Soche Hotel in Blantyre

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences has strengthened its position as a hub for international knowledge exchange and infrastructure innovation after hosting the 12th International Conference on Infrastructure Development and Investment (DII 2026), which brought together delegates from 12 countries and recorded the highest attendance in the conference's history.

Held from 10–12 August 2026 at Mount Soche Hotel in Blantyre, the conference attracted scholars, researchers, engineers, investors, policymakers and industry professionals from Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Russia, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Lesotho, Ghana and Kenya.

The impressive turnout marked a significant milestone for MUBAS, demonstrating its growing capacity to convene international platforms that connect academia, industry and policymakers to address infrastructure challenges and advance sustainable development.

Speaking at the official opening, Minister of Transport and Public Works, Jappie Mhango, described the conference as an important platform for advancing Malawi's long-term development aspirations under Malawi 2063. He emphasised the need for stronger collaboration between universities, government and industry to ensure that research and innovation translate into practical infrastructure solutions for Africa.

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The Vice Chancellor for MUBAS, Associate Professor Nancy Chitera, echoed the minister's sentiments and highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships between academia and industry, particularly in financing and implementing development initiatives. She also observed that countries such as South Africa offer valuable experiences from which Malawi can draw lessons in developing resilient and sustainable infrastructure systems.

"Infrastructure is not only a one-man show; it needs academia, government and different stakeholders putting their findings into practice," Chitera said.

The Vice-Chancellor's remarks reinforced MUBAS's commitment to bridging the gap between research and practice while positioning the university as a key contributor to infrastructure development, investment and economic transformation.

DII Conference Chairperson Professor Innocent Musinda from the University of Johannesburg urged African countries to maximise their local resources, expertise and capabilities in addressing infrastructure challenges, rather than relying heavily on external support.

Beyond the conference presentations, the gathering provided opportunities for delegates to exchange ideas, build professional networks and explore potential collaborations. Networking engagements, including a cocktail reception and gala dinner, complemented the technical discussions, while an excursion gave participants an opportunity to engage beyond the conference venue.

The Chairperson for the Local Organising Committee, Professor Theresa Mkandawire, a professor in the School of Engineering at MUBAS, thanked all delegates for attending the DII Malawi edition and encouraged them to continue the conversations beyond the conference walls so as to derive meaningful impact from the conference.

DII 2026 was organised by MUBAS in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, the Centre for Applied Research and Innovation in the Built Environment (CARINBE), and the Africa Sustainable Infrastructure Mobility (ASIM) Programme ■



MUBAS Vice-Chancellor addressing delegates during the DII Conference at Mount Soche Hotel in Blantyre



Deputy Minister of Industrialisation, Business, Trade and Tourism, Hon. Edgar Tembo (left) appreciating an innovation at the 2026 Research and Innovation Dissemination Conference

MUBAS Launches Inaugural Research and Innovation Showcase

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) has been commended for promoting collaboration among researchers, industry players and policymakers to develop practical solutions to the challenges facing the country.

Deputy Minister of Industrialisation, Business, Trade and Tourism, Hon. Edgar Tembo, MP, made the remarks when he officially opened the inaugural MUBAS Research and Innovation Dissemination Conference on 17 September 2026 at the university's main campus in Blantyre.

> "... industries import solutions that our own people have the talent, knowledge and capacity to develop, commercialise and scale locally."

Tembo said Malawi's challenges, including climate change, economic downturn and youth unemployment, require closer collaboration between universities and government to develop practical solutions.

He noted that advances in

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MUBAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ishmael Kosamu (second left) presenting a certificate to one of the awardees of the 2026 Research and Innovation Dissemination Conference

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artificial intelligence, renewable energy and digitisation offer opportunities for income generation and youth employment, urging universities to develop technologies that address the country's needs.

"The challenges we face today should not discourage us, but should rather challenge us on how we turn these challenges into opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship and wealth creation," he said.

Tembo stressed that universities must ensure research findings translate into solutions industries can adopt and commercialise, rather than remain confined to laboratories.

"Malawi cannot afford to let brilliant research gather dust, young innovators struggle without pathways to commercialise their ideas, or university breakthroughs remain trapped in laboratories while industries import solutions that our own people have the talent, knowledge and capacity to develop, commercialise and scale locally," he added.

MUBAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ishamael Kosamu, said the conference builds on the university's successful hosting of the MUBAS Research and Innovation Week for three consecutive years. The new platform aims to strengthen engagement among academia, policymakers and industry players while ensuring research contributes directly to economic development.

He said MUBAS seeks to produce graduates capable of transforming their communities and highlighted the university's work in agriculture, mining, wood technology and engineering as part of its contribution to national development.

"We believe that universities must not only produce graduates, but they must also become active engines of national development," said Professor Kosamu.

Delivering the keynote address, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malawi Deputy Resident Representative, Dr. Chika Charles Aniekwe, urged Malawians to move beyond consuming knowledge developed elsewhere and focus on producing, owning and exporting knowledge and intellectual property.

He identified Malawi's land and rich biodiversity as valuable resources for economic growth, particularly through opportunities for young people.

"Economic power increasingly belongs not only to the country that possesses the raw material, but to the country that possesses the knowledge required to transform it," he said.

The conference was held with support from United General Insurance (UGI), the Malawi Revenue Authority, the Institute for Continuing Education, the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) and the National Commission for Science and Technology ■



Dikamawoko Arts entertaining delegates during the Inaugural MUBAS Research Dissemination Conference

Inside MUBAS:

Our People



Dr. Rabiya Hanif: Rising Through the Ranks on Merit and Determination

The demands of academic rigour can be unforgiving. Titles, recognition and respect are earned through hard work, determination and professional excellence. Success is rarely a product of chance. For female academics, the journey can sometimes be even more demanding as they navigate professional expectations while striving to balance their careers with family responsibilities.

This is a lesson Dr. Rabiya Hanif, Executive Dean of the School of Business and Economic Sciences at MUBAS, learnt early in her career. Through education, professional development and perseverance, she has steadily risen through the ranks to become one of the shining stars in academic leadership.

Born Rabiya Chiosa, Hanif displayed exceptional intelligence from a young age. Her academic abilities earned her a place at Stella Maris Secondary School, where she continued to distinguish herself through hard work and academic excellence. Her impressive performance paved the way for her admission to the then Malawi Polytechnic, a constituent college of the University of Malawi, where she pursued a Bachelor of Accountancy degree, graduating in 1997.

After graduating, Hanif began her professional career, securing employment with the then Department of Income Tax, now the Domestic Tax Department of the Malawi Revenue Authority.

However, her passion for academia and desire to share knowledge soon drew her back to her alma mater. She joined Malawi Polytechnic as a Staff Associate under the Board of Governors. Following the abolition of the Board, she was absorbed into the institution's mainstream academic structure.

Determined to strengthen her professional credentials, Hanif pursued the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) qualification. As part of the certification process, she was attached to the Finance Department at Malawi Polytechnic from 2003 to 2007 to gain practical experience. In 2006, she attained chartered accountant status with CIMA. In addition to CIMA, she is also a chartered accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malawi (ICAM).

Her professional qualifications, combined with her teaching experience and practical knowledge, opened doors to further leadership opportunities. She was appointed Head of the Accountancy Department, a position she held from 2007 to 2009.

Her leadership journey continued to gather momentum over the years. Between 2014 and 2019, she served as Deputy Dean of the then Faculty of Commerce, a role that helped prepare her for the responsibilities she holds today.

Dr. Hanif was not content with limiting her expertise to accountancy and finance. Driven by a desire to broaden her knowledge and professional capabilities, she pursued a Master of Science in Supply Chain Management at the University of Bolton in the United Kingdom, graduating in 2009. The qualification also made her eligible for full membership of the Malawi Institute of Procurement and Supply (MIPS).

Her quest for academic excellence continued as she enrolled for doctoral studies at North-West University in South Africa and was awarded a doctorate in Economic and Management Sciences in 2022, marking another significant milestone in her academic journey and demonstrating her commitment to continuous learning and professional growth.

Her commitment to professional development and academic leadership eventually saw her break another record. In 2024, Hanif became the first female Executive Dean of the School of Business and Economic Sciences at MUBAS. The appointment marked a significant milestone in her career and represented an important step in advancing women's participation in academic leadership.

Reflecting on her experience as the only female Executive Dean at MUBAS, Hanif says she has received tremendous support from her colleagues since her appointment. Rather than feeling undermined because of her gender, she says she has found an environment that enables her to carry out her responsibilities and contribute meaningfully to the development of the school.

She further elaborated that her journey extends beyond her personal achievement. It is also about inspiring the next generation of female academics to believe in themselves, pursue their ambitions and remain committed to their professional growth.

Beyond her academic and administrative responsibilities, Hanif has built a reputation as an accomplished publisher and contributed to institutional governance

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through various board appointments. She has served on the boards of the Malawi College of Accountancy and the Malawi Institute of Journalism.

She currently serves on the board of the Teachers Council of Malawi and has also recently been appointed to the Judicial Service Commission, further demonstrating the breadth of her professional engagement and leadership experience.



Drawing on her academic and professional experiences, she encourages aspiring female academics to be ambitious, hardworking and deliberate about their development. She believes that success requires focus, resilience and a willingness to embrace opportunities for growth.

Although much of her professional life revolves around academic responsibilities and leadership, her identity extends beyond the university corridors. As a wife and mother of three children, two girls and a boy, she also has a family to care for, making the balance between professional obligations and family life an important part of her daily routine.

Despite the demands of her position, Hanif makes a deliberate effort to spend quality time with her family whenever she is free, ensuring that work does not create a disconnect between her and her loved ones.

"Whenever I am free, I make sure that I spend time with my family so that there is no disconnect," she says. For Hanif, spending time with her family also means preparing a special meal for them. She reveals that her family looks forward to enjoying a hearty meal of chicken curry and rice served with salads, which she personally prepares whenever she has the opportunity.

These moments offer a welcome break from the demands of academic leadership and allow her to reconnect with her loved ones. They also reveal a more personal side of a woman whose professional journey has been marked by ambition, achievement and a commitment to continuous growth.

From a bright young student at Stella Maris Secondary School to an accountancy graduate, tax professional, academic, department head and ultimately the first female Executive Dean of the School of Business and Economic Sciences at MUBAS, Hanif's story is a testament to determination, professional growth and breaking barriers.

Her achievements underscore the value of continuous learning and the importance of earning leadership positions through competence, commitment and hard work. Her journey also demonstrates that professional success is built over time through deliberate effort, while maintaining meaningful family connections requires equal commitment.

For aspiring female academics, her message is clear: success does not come on a silver platter. It must be pursued through determination, earned through hard work and sustained through resilience. And to the girl child, Dr. Hanif offers a simple but powerful piece of advice: "Pursue your dreams with determination and hard work, and remain focused ■"

Alumni in focus

We are a big community

In this edition, we shine a light on Mrs Vera Yamikani Zulu, a proud MUBAS alumna, who graduated with a Bachelor of Accountancy in 1998 and has built a distinguished career in the financial services sector for over 28 years. As Group Chief Finance Officer for Old Mutual Malawi, she brings extensive leadership experience, having previously served as Chief Financial Officer for NBS Bank and Nedbank Malawi, alongside other senior finance roles. Beyond her corporate achievements, Vera serves on several boards and is passionate about mentoring emerging leaders and young girls, championing women's equity, equality and inclusion. Her journey inspires today's students to embrace hard work, self-discipline and balance.



Name
Vera Yamikani Zulu

Programme of study and years
Bachelor of Accountancy 1994 to 1998

Current Role
Group Chief Finance Officer Old Mutual Malawi

Brief profile
A Group Chief Finance Officer for Old Mutual Malawi Limited, responsible for ensuring ongoing financial soundness and profitability of the Malawi Business. She has over twenty-eight years' experience working in the financial services sector in various roles. She spent twenty years in the Banking sector, working as Chief Financial Officer of NBS Bank and Nedbank in Malawi. She also worked at Standard Bank Malawi, Inde Bank and Opportunity Bank as a Finance Manager. Vera is a qualified Fellow Accountant (FCCA), a Chartered Accountant (CA MW) and holds an MBA from the University of Derby (UK). She also holds a Bachelor of Accountancy Degree obtained from the University of Malawi. Vera is certified by the University of Stellenbosch Business School under the Executive Development Programme and has also completed a Commonwealth Executive Development Programme with CSC Leaders (India and UK).

Vera is an executive Director on the Boards of Old Mutual Limited, Old Mutual Unit Trust Limited, OMPSC, FDH Holding and Bank, Illovo Sugar Malawi, and she is a member of the Finance and Human Resource Committee at the Malawi National Planning Commission.

She is passionate about developing leaders, and she coaches several upcoming managers to develop their potential further and become phenomenal Leaders. She also mentors girls to inspire them to reach their inherent potential and is a firm advocate of women's equity, equality and inclusion.

Favourite memory from campus
Favourite memory is when we would walk across the highway for BACC classes. This was before the new and imposing ODeL building was built. I also fondly remember the time I spent in the Florida girls' hostel, and I have sustained the friends I made at that time till today.

Guiding Lessons from MUBAS
Working hard is a must. Success doesn't fall in one's lap. You have to work through the steps to achieve your dreams.

A Word to current students?
Focus on Self-Discipline and Balance. Balancing academics, extracurriculars, and personal life requires discipline. Time management, goal-setting, and prioritising what matters most can help you thrive both academically and personally. Remember to take care of your health and well-being, as they are essential to long-term success



Standard Bank Chief Executive Officer Phillip Madinga (right), and Hon. Bright Msaka SC (left) present a donation to MUBAS officials to support the University's Endowment Fund

Standard Bank Donates 50 Million Kwacha to MUBAS Endowment Fund

Standard Bank Plc, through its newly launched Project Youth, an initiative aimed at empowering young people through skills development, partnerships, education and media advocacy, made a donation of K50 million to the MUBAS Endowment Fund to support deserving students who face financial challenges in their academic journey.

The donation was made on 7 September in Blantyre, and the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Honourable Bright Msaka, was the guest of honour.

MUBAS Vice Chancellor, Professor Nancy Chitera, welcomed the K50 million contribution, saying it will strengthen the university's efforts to support students in need.

Chitera said the university's Endowment Fund was established to provide a stable and long-term source of sustainable funding to support students and the university's research programs, initiatives, and infrastructure development.

"Almost 60 percent of MUBAS students are needy and require financial support. As a university, we realised that we cannot leave this task to the government alone; that is why we established this fund," said Chitera.

She thanked Standard Bank for the donation, adding that it will help the university to support students struggling to meet the costs of higher education. She further urged other organisations to support the university in this endeavour ■



A performance during the Tikolole Madzi a Mvula Campaign

Research Can Sing! MUBAS Turns Rainwater Harvesting Research into Music, Dance and Student Action

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) is redefining how universities can disseminate research findings by turning scientific knowledge into music, dance and student-led engagement through its "Tikolole Madzi a Mvula" campaign.

The campaign, implemented through the SURGWater Project, brought research to life through the launch of the Madzi Song, composed and performed by celebrated amapiano artist Zeze Kingston.

Speaking at the event, Augustin Masamba, Vice President of the Rainwater Harvesting Association of Malawi, urged Malawians to embrace rainwater harvesting to safeguard livelihoods and strengthen the country's resilience to climate change.

"The campaign will support livelihood activities like farming, specifically drip irrigation, which improves crop yields and also reduces the time individuals spend fetching water from wells for their families," Masamba said.

Masamba further noted that rainwater harvesting can help mitigate urban flooding by

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Augustin Masamba, Vice President of the Rainwater Harvesting Association of Malawi

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capturing runoff that would otherwise be lost during the rainy season.

The event was also graced by the Mayor for Blantyre City, his worship Isaac Jomo Osman. In his speech, the mayor hailed the SURG-Water initiative, noting that Malawi loses significant amounts of rainwater every year because it is not adequately captured and stored.

Osman cited countries such as Germany and Morocco as examples of nations where rainwater management plays an important role in supporting both agricultural and domestic activities.

Associate Professor Steve Kumwenda, Head of the Public and Environmental Health Department at MUBAS, highlighted the campaign's practical applications in the health sector, particularly in the face of growing global climate challenges.

"The campaign has already begun operating across six health facilities under SURG-Water, starting with Thekerani Health Centre in Thyolo, which is focusing heavily on the maternity ward, where newborns require reliable access to clean and hygienic water," he said.

Kumwenda added that the initiative complements the use of solar power, which helps make the collected water suitable for drinking, cooking and sanitation.

Emphasising the importance of youth participation, MUBAS student Robert Mhone called on fellow students to take an active role in promoting a culture of water harvesting in their communities.

"Students are future leaders, so it is vital for us to get involved in developments shaping our country," Mhone said.

The launch event included performances from Zeze Kingston and Prince Chitz, as well as student dance challenges, music and comedy performances. At MUBAS, research can sing, and when it does, it inspires generations to catch the rain



Brefard Mankhaka (Right) popularly known as Mr. MUBAS, championing the Tikolole Madzi a Mvula Campaign

MUBAS and US Embassy Explore Collaboration in Innovation and Technology



MUBAS Vice-Chancellor Assoc. Prof. Nancy Chitera welcoming USA Charge d'Affaires Melania R. Arreaga

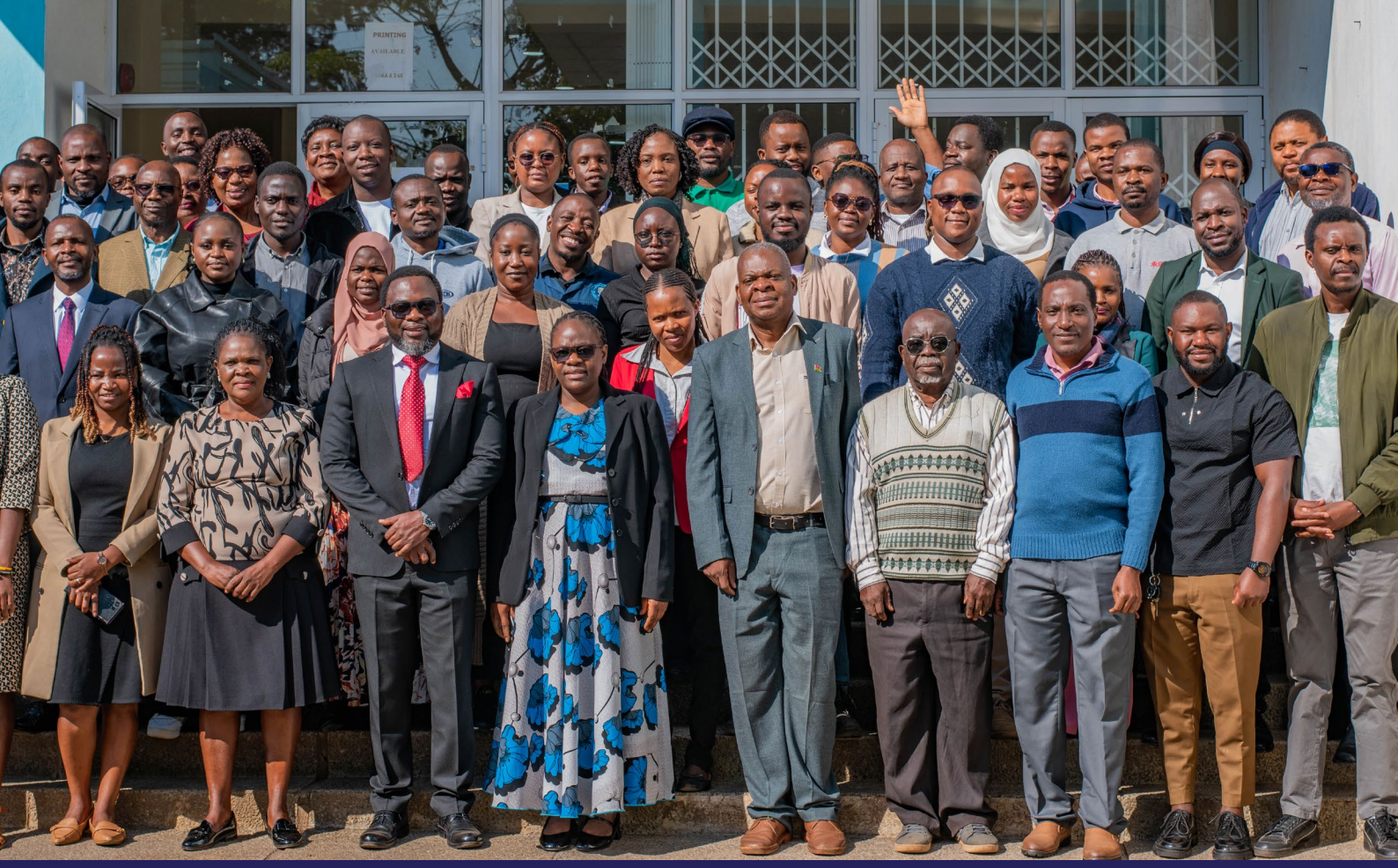
A delegation from the United States Embassy, led by Chargé d'Affaires Melania Arreaga, visited the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) to strengthen partnerships in education and innovation and create opportunities for both Malawi and the United States of America.

The visit showcased the university's work in innovation, technology and applied learning, highlighting a shared interest in empowering young people, advancing innovation and creating solutions that respond to Malawi's development needs.

The delegation toured key university facilities, including the UniPod and Industrial Park, to appreciate how these hubs provide platforms for innovation, technology transfer, practical learning and the development of solutions to modern-day challenges

During the visit, the US Embassy delegation also met with the Student Union leadership, creating an opportunity to discuss student experiences, leadership, and youth development. The interaction gave student representatives a platform to share their perspectives, while fostering mutual understanding and strengthening opportunities for future engagement between the university's student leadership and the US Embassy.

The visit also provided an opportunity to explore areas where the university and the US Embassy could deepen collaboration, particularly in creating opportunities for students, researchers and innovators ■



Participants of the MUBAS 2026 Certificate in University Teaching and Learning Workshop, aimed at promoting teaching and learning excellence

RAISING THE BAR: MUBAS Invests in Teaching, Learning and Research Ethics

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) continues to invest in staff development and institutional capacity as part of its commitment to improving the quality of teaching, learning and research. Through targeted training and professional development initiatives, the University is equipping members of staff with the knowledge, skills and ethical grounding needed to support student success and uphold academic standards.

In July 2026, the university undertook a series of capacity-building activities focusing on effective teaching and learning, online education and research ethics, reinforcing its commitment to academic excellence and responsible research.

Through a workshop organised by the Department of Quality Assurance, academic staff members were taken through a series of training sessions to strengthen their teaching and assessment skills. The three-day training, which was held from 13-15 July 2026, brought together newly recruited lecturers, part-time lecturers and experienced academic members of staff to equip them with practical skills in teaching, assessment, and student engagement to promote and improve quality learning across the University.

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Speaking at the workshop, Head of Quality Assurance, Dr Grace Sukasuka said the training would help new lecturers understand how to deliver modules, while serving as a refresher for experienced staff to align with the assessment rules of the university.

"New academic staff members as well as part-timers needed to be trained on how they can deliver modules. This will also serve as a refresher for others who have been there for some time to improve the quality of teaching and learning in line with the university's assessment rules," she said.

She added that the training will help bridge gaps in assessment and grading, especially for first- and second-year students who are assessed using the Grade Point Average (GPA) system.

Samuel Nkhungulu, a lecturer in the department of accountancy, described the workshop as a timely refresher that exposed participants to new teaching approaches.

"The training was a refresher because things keep changing. It has helped us adapt to new approaches that we can use in our teaching," said Nkhungulu.

Another participant, Prudence Mwenefumbo from the Department of Electrical Engineering, said the workshop provided practical ideas for improving classroom engagement.

The workshop covered module interpretation, teaching and learning preparation, assessment methods, academic integrity and plagiarism, Code of conduct and professional etiquette, and SMIS and USMIS, among other topics.

As MUBAS continues to expand access to higher education, the University is also strengthening its capacity to deliver flexible and accessible learning through Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODeL). Through its ODeL unit, the University conducted training on the Learning Management System (LMS) and ODeL teaching requirements to prepare facilitators to deliver effective online learning.

The training covered authentic assessment, the use of artificial intelligence in education and practical engagement with the Moodle Learning Management System. It also aimed to prepare facilitators to support the growing number of students enrolling in ODeL programmes.

Head of ODeL at MUBAS, Dr Annie Chizengo, said the training was organised to equip new facilitators with the



Dr. Annie Chizengo, Head of ODeL (left), presents a certificate to a participant during a training on the use of the Learning Management System (LMS) and ODeL teaching requirements

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A group discussion during the orientation of new members of the Departmental Research Ethics Committees

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knowledge and skills needed to support students studying through the flexible learning model.

She noted that continued growth in enrolment makes it increasingly important for facilitators to provide a high-quality learning experience. Dr Chizengo further emphasised the need to conduct such training every semester to promote continuous improvement and ensure that online teaching keeps pace with students' learning needs.

Alongside efforts to strengthen teaching and learning, MUBAS is also reinforcing the ethical standards that guide its research activities. On 16 July 2026, the MUBAS Research Ethics Committee (REC) oriented newly appointed members of the Departmental Research Ethics Committees (DRECs) to prepare them for their responsibilities in safeguarding ethical research practices across the University.

The orientation covered fundamental research ethics principles, proposal review procedures and committee members' responsibilities in ensuring that studies conducted at MUBAS meet the required ethical standards.

Acting REC Administrator Simon Nyondo said the orientation helped newly appointed members understand their roles and carry out their duties effectively.

"This training is very important because these members have just been appointed to their respective Departmental Research Ethics Committees. Most of them were not fully aware of their roles and responsibilities or where to begin. The orientation provided them with the necessary guidance and understanding to effectively carry out their duties," Nyondo said.

Together, these initiatives reflect MUBAS's recognition that quality higher education depends not only on academic expertise, but also on the ability to adapt to changing learning needs and uphold integrity in research. By investing in its staff, strengthening online teaching and reinforcing research ethics, the University continues to build an environment in which students can thrive, knowledge can be responsibly advanced, and research can contribute meaningfully to national development ■

Sports

Round-up



MUBAS Netball and Basketball Teams Dominate the Group Stages of Mo626 Intervarsity League

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) has demonstrated strength in university sport following an impressive performance at the 2026 NBM MO626 College Basketball and Netball Championship Southern Region Qualifiers. The university's netball, women's basketball and men's basketball teams delivered commendable performances, with all three securing qualification for their respective national TOP 8 tournaments.

Beyond the results, the teams' success reflects MUBAS's commitment to developing well-rounded students who can pursue academic excellence while competing at a high level in sport.



MUBAS Netball Team

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MUBAS Women's Teams Lead the Way

MUBAS's women's teams delivered outstanding performances, finishing their regional campaigns unbeaten and securing the number-one seeds from the Southern Region.

The netball team, the Thunderbolts, demonstrated consistency and attacking strength throughout the qualifiers, recording four wins from four matches. Their results included victories over Catholic University of Malawi (CUNIMA), Malawi College of Health Sciences (MCHS), Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Malawi College of Accountancy (MCA), confirming their superiority among the leading university netball teams in the region.

MO626 NETBALL RESULTS

MUBAS 23 - 19 CUNIMA
MUBAS 31 - 02 MUST
MUBAS 47 - 02 MCHS
MUBAS 34 - 04 MCA

Similarly, the women's basketball team recorded three wins from three games, defeating MUST 46–29, KUHeS 55–28 and CU-BT 20–0. Their unbeaten run secured them first place in the Southern Region standings and qualification for the national TOP 8 tournament.

Grace Ngwira, a fourth-year Bachelor of Journalism student and captain of the MUBAS women's basketball team, said the team's achievement represents more than qualification. It is also an opportunity to pursue greater ambitions while benefiting from the wider experience university sport offers.

"We are very happy to have qualified for the TOP 8, and our goal is to win and make it to the finals at the national level," said Ngwira.

She emphasised the important role sport plays in students' personal and professional development, particularly in creating opportunities to connect with others and develop their athletic potential.

"Sport gives us a platform, as students, to socialise and build social capital. It also allows us to establish ourselves not only as professionals in our respective fields but also as elite athletes. At MUBAS, we are fortunate to have access to top-notch sporting facilities that enable us to develop our talents and compete at a high level," she added.

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The Ladycats (MUBAS Women's Basketball Team)

Men's Basketball: A Fighting Spirit to the Final Buzzer

The MUBAS men's basketball team also demonstrated resilience and determination throughout the competition. After a convincing 58–8 win over NACIT and a 42–12 semifinal win against MUST, the team advanced to the final.

In a closely contested championship game, MUBAS narrowly lost 25–24 to MCA and finished as runners-up. Although the team fell just short of the title, its performance demonstrated the competitiveness and determination needed to challenge for honours at the national level.

The team's qualification for the national TOP 8 tournament provides another opportunity to build on this performance and compete against the country's best university basketball teams.

These results underscore MUBAS's growing dominance in sports and set the stage for an exciting challenge ahead as the teams prepare for the national championship. The journey also highlights the value of investing in sporting facilities and creating opportunities for students to develop both academically and athletically ■



The Wildcats (MUBAS Men's Basketball Team) cool down at Quarter Break



Upcoming Events

STEM Fun Day	21 November, 2026
ODeL Conference	December, 2026