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**VICE CHANCELLOR'S EXPLORATORY
VISIT TO ++++++**

DINSON IRON AND STEEL COMPANY

IN MANHIZE: INSIGHTS AND PROSPECTS

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ICT DIRECTOR SHARES DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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GROUNDBREAKING THEORY OF CHANGE WORKSHOP FOR AGRIFOSE2030

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**12 GLOBAL
WINNERS OF ASPIRE
COMMUNITY ACTION
AWARD**

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VICE CHANCELLOR'S EXPLORATORY VISIT TO DINSON IRON AND STEEL COMPANY IN MANHIZE: INSIGHTS AND PROSPECTS

The Vice Chancellor of Chinhoyi University of Technology, Professor David Jambgwa Simbi, honoured an invitation by Dinson Iron and Steel Company in Manhize. He led a CUT delegation that included Eng. Paul Chawagarira, the Director of the Institute of Materials Science, Processing and Engineering Technology, Dr. Kudzai Mugadza and Dr. Peter Chimwanda. The visit turned out to be a value-churning university-industry interface as the CUT delegation also dialogued with a delegation from the Ministry of Skills Audit and Development led by the Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Rudo Chitiga.

Before being led on a tour of the plant to appreciate the engineering processes and the steel-making value-chain, the guests sat in a closed-door meeting that predominantly explored opportunities for partnership between CUT and players in industry, particularly in the engineering sector. In the meeting, Prof. Simbi highlighted that industry was a key player in the higher education value chain because university academic programmes are always crafted in light of insights shared via stakeholder consultations. Ambassador Chitiga echoed the merits of the ecosystems by also noting that curriculum design should address skills gaps within the nation and beyond.



An insightful concern was raised by the Dinson management, where they bemoaned the attitude of university interns that turn to be very choosy when assigned tasks on their industrial placement. As such, the company invariably toys with the option to engage local, unskilled lay people who turn out to be a more preferable option in terms of compliance with grooming, coaching and nurturing ethics during on-the-job training. The Vice Chancellor took note of these concerns, promising to mobilise cooperative efforts between CUT's academic units and the Student Affairs Division to accentuate young graduates' employability skill-sets. The whole idea of attachment is to induct a candidate into operations at various levels within the value chain of an organization they are attached to. This makes the industrial placement more nuanced in complementing a student's academic training with professional exposure, thereby grooming a total individual fit for the post-learning work environment.

Upon completion of the tour, discussions bordered on forthcoming commitments, with the undertaking to sign an MoU between Chinhoyi University of Technology, Dinson Iron and Steel Company, and the Ministry of Skills Audit and Development. The scope of the potential partnership covers opportunities for CUT personnel's secondment to the company, as well as the company's experts also servicing the skills development space as guest lecturers to CUT. The Institute of Materials Science, Processing and Engineering Technology welcomed the prospects, unpacking their value proposition as contributors to the knowledge economy whilst also embracing the merits of university-industry partnerships.



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PARLIAMENTARIANS APPLAUD CUT FOR AN IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORD OF STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

On 30th June 2025, Chinhoyi University of Technology hosted a delegation comprising members of parliament, personnel from the Auditor General's office as well as officials from the Ministry of Finance and Investment Promotion. Led by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Hon. Charlton Hwende, the delegation of 43 members was on an itinerant verification visit to audit the institution in light of the public funds disbursed to CUT (alongside other universities) for the production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other health sundries and consumables, mobilising the innovative efforts of higher education players in fighting the Covid-19 scourge. CUT was amongst the institutions that benefitted from this fund, having been a trailblazer in the production of sanitizers and face-masks at the height of the pandemic that decimated a huge demographic across the globe.

In a great demonstration of stewardship over public funds, CUT impressed the parliamentarians by accounting for the funds as well as other spin-offs that positioned the institution on the pathway to full-scale commercialization. With a nuanced slide show that cut across governance, finances and the institution's business case, the University Bursar, Mr. John Hotera, appraised the auditors on CUT's growth beyond the Covid-19 era, with an impressive expansion of the institution's investment portfolio as demonstrated by various strategic business units. Of particular note was the set of project ideas incubated under the Innovation Hub before being weaned off to the CUT Agro-industrial Park upon maturing to the commercialisation stage. At the end of the presentation, University management led the guests on a tour of the various project sites housed at the Agro-industrial part as well as the CUT Innovation Hub. The programme ended with a networking lunch at CUT Hotel as well as a distribution of humpers as tokens of appreciation to the parliamentarians who got a chance to become not only auditors but also consumers of the products that CUT is producing across a spectrum of domains. The gains, losses and learning points obtained all spoke to the merits of due diligents as CUT continues to grow on the pathway to fully-fledged industrialisation and commercialisation, heeding the call by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, to configure the higher education curriculum so that it harnesses the merits of resource-based heritage exploitation.



A BUMPER HARVEST OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR CUT'S COUNCIL CHAIR, ENGINEER DR. MARTIN MANUHWA



The hat is full! The feathers are plenty! Yet there's no stopping to the avalanche of accolades decorating the trailblazing profile of Engineer Dr. Martin Manuhwa, the Chairman of the Chinhoyi University of Technology Council. Barely a month after winning the 2025 Global Excellence Award in Dubai, Eng. Dr. Manuhwa was yet again honoured with two prestigious awards at the Southern Africa Federation of Engineering Organizations (ASFEQ) General Assembly and Awards Ceremony in Botswana.

Hosted in Gaborone on July 4 and 5, the event was presided over by Botswana's Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Noah Salakae. Quite deservedly, Engineer Dr. Manuhwa was honoured for his exceptional engineering achievements, innovation and capacity building across the African continent and beyond. The second award honoured Dr. Manuhwa's trend-setting role as the founding President of SAFEQ, celebrating his vision and leadership in establishing a strong platform for regional engineering cooperation.

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A very dedicated advocate of engineering education, sustainable infrastructure as well as a spirited force in championing the cause of young and upcoming professionals, Dr. Manuhwa views home-grown engineering solutions as enablers of African-led development. It is a feat of no little magnitude for CUT's Council Chairman to be honoured by SAFEQ, the leading regional engineering body that brings together institutions and regulatory authorities from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. CUT is proud to draw from the chalice of bespoke global best practice, with the university's Council Chair renowned for his leadership exploits within and beyond the country's borders.



CUT'S EXECUTIVE ICT DIRECTOR SHARES DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROSPECTS WITH REGIONAL LEGISLATORS AT THE 57TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM



Dr. Shakemore Chinofunga, Chinhoyi University of Technology's Executive ICT Director, was part of the panelists at a regional symposium held during the 57th Plenary Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum convened at the Elephant Hills Resort in Victoria Falls from the 31st of May to the 7th of June 2025. Officially opened by His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, on 2nd June 2025, the forum brought together participants from various academic disciplines, public sector entities and diplomatic circles, with an international delegation from 15 African countries. The SADC PF President and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Madagascar, Hon Justin Tokely, chaired the forum, being hosted by the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Advocate Jacob Mudenda. Themed "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Effective and Efficient Parliamentary Processes in the SADC Region: Experiences, Challenges and

Opportunities," the week-long engagement triggered robust conversations aimed at multi-sectoral contributions to policy guidelines for purposes of optimising legislative processes within the SADC region. In his introductory remarks, the Clerk of the Parliament of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Mr. Kennedy Chokuda, highlighted that because of its focus on emerging technologies, the 57th edition of the regional parliamentary forum necessitated the involvement of technocrats and scholars from academic institutions as knowledge communities are an essential cog in the crafting of vigilant, compliant and relevant legislative reforms for the African continent. The panel team featured representatives from Bindura University of Science Education, Midlamnds State University, Harare Institute of Technology, University of Zimbabwe and Chinhoyi University of Technology. For the latter, Dr Chinofunga captivated the entire house, enduring remarkable applause after proffering

a value proposition couched in his neologistic construct of WSEA(Whole-of-SADC Enterprise Architecture). The presentation explored the all-pervasive nature of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an integral enabler of e-Governance, e-Agric, e-Health, e-Learning as well as a variety of automated public sector systems and chatbots for citizen services. Emerging from key discourses shaping this week-long engagement was an acknowledgement that from an integrated governance perspective, SADC's parliamentary and legislative strategies, functions, policies and processes should constantly comply with dynamics of a data-driven economy. Data centres, gadgets and networks entail responsive governance styles that innovatively collect, store, manage, share and use data by deploying customized templates that resonate with adaptive intelligence.

CUT COMMUNITY ENGAGES IN GROUNDBREAKING THEORY OF CHANGE WORKSHOP FOR AGRIFOSE2030



In a powerful display of cross-disciplinary collaboration, the Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) community recently participated in a transformative Theory of Change (ToC) Workshop, sponsored by AgriFoSe2030. Bringing together academics from diverse faculties, the workshop explored the intersection of science, livelihoods, and policy-making anchored in a shared goal: to develop inclusive strategies that uplift marginalized communities through sustainable food systems.

At the heart of this initiative was the Theory of Change framework, a guiding tool for articulating how and why research-led interventions can lead to meaningful, long-term change. Through dynamic discussions, participants critically examined pathways to institutionalize the Edible Insect Project, a bold and innovative solution aimed at enhancing nutrition, economic empowerment, and ecological sustainability.

Professor Musundire, traced the journey of AgriFoSe2030 across progressive phases. The phases focused on practice, evidence, and policy implementation, laying the groundwork for impactful research and prioritizing market access and scaling up impact to reach more vulnerable populations.

Participants were challenged to reimagine how research can move beyond academic outputs to influence real-world policy and practice. This involved rigorous dialogue on strategic partnerships, effective communication of scientific findings, and the importance of tailoring



interventions to specific community needs. Central themes included collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the co-creation of solutions that reflect the voices of those often left out of the policy conversation.

A standout session focused on the Edible Insect Project, which drew significant interest for its potential to address food insecurity while promoting environmentally friendly protein alternatives. Discussions centred on integrating this initiative into national and institutional frameworks, ensuring that it gains the support and visibility required to thrive.

As the workshop concluded, one thing was clear: the commitment to evidence-based, inclusive development is stronger than ever at CUT. The insights shared and strategies developed during this workshop are set to shape a more equitable and resilient future not just for Zimbabwe, but for food systems across the SADC region.

The success of the ToC Workshop is a testament to what can be achieved when science, policy, and community work in unison. As we look ahead, the CUT community remains committed to championing innovative research that creates tangible benefits for those who need it most.



CUT LIBRARY SHOWCASES RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AT ZIMBABWE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR



The Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) and its Library recently participated in the Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) held in Harare. Although this year's event saw a decline in both exhibitors and attendees, it proved to be a valuable experience for CUT.

Despite a quieter atmosphere, the fair facilitated meaningful interactions with book industry peers. We proudly showcased CUT's diverse academic programs and highlighted our vibrant research culture through an array of published books and journals. A significant highlight of our participation was the visit from a representative of the Library of Congress in Harare. This engagement resulted in the acquisition of 20 titles authored by CUT professors, including our Vice Chancellor, as well as our esteemed journals, the "Annals of Behavioral Science" and the "Journal for Technological Sciences". This positions CUT's growing influence in the research community and positions us as a vibrant contributor to the knowledge economy.

While overall foot traffic may have been low, our interactions were impactful. Our presence at ZIBF 2025 not only strengthened existing connections but also enhanced our academic profile, showcasing CUT's research achievements to the international community. The Library remains committed to leveraging such opportunities to elevate the visibility of the university's scholarly work and collaborations that advance our research initiatives.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY DEAN REPRESENTS ZIMBABWE AT AFRICA HEALTH EXCON 2025

From June 23 to 28, 2025, Professor Kudakwashe Chitindingu, Executive Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Technology at Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT), participated in the 4th Africa Health ExCon held at the Egypt International Exhibition Centre (EIEC) in Cairo. Sponsored by the Government of Egypt, Prof. Chitindingu's presence reflected CUT's growing profile in shaping Africa's healthcare education and innovation agenda. The Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) also represented Zimbabwe, strengthening the country's footprint at this high-level continental platform.



Organized by the Egyptian Unified Procurement Authority (UPA) in collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), AUDA-NEPAD, and under the esteemed patronage of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the ExCon brought together policymakers, academic leaders, innovators, and over 350 medical and pharmaceutical exhibitors. With the theme focused on innovation, artificial intelligence, local manufacturing, and health systems resilience, the event positioned itself as Africa's premier health marketplace and policy dialogue forum.

Prof. Chitindingu actively contributed to discussions on academic-healthcare linkages, local production of health technologies, and capacity building. Representing CUT, he engaged various stakeholders in conversations around collaborative research, clinical training, and the integration of advanced technologies in medical education. Of particular note was an engagement with the CEO of Plus 5 Pharmaceuticals,



Mr Emmanuel Mujuru, who expressed strong interest in partnering with CUT, particularly in the development of his biologics manufacturing plant, an initiative that promises mutual benefit in terms of research, internships, and industrial training.

CUT's medical school and its strategic linkage with Chinhoyi Provincial Hospital stand to benefit immensely from this exposure. The opportunity to explore cutting-edge medical equipment, engage leading manufacturers, and foster academic-industry partnerships opens new frontiers for medical training, technology transfer, and health innovation. CUT's representation at this continental stage also reinforced its collaborative ties with the MoHCC and affirmed its role in advancing national and regional health priorities.

Africa Health ExCon 2025 served not just as a networking platform, but as a gateway for CUT to anchor itself in Africa's health transformation ecosystem. The university remains committed to leveraging these relationships to build a resilient, research-driven, and technology-enabled health sciences programme that responds to both local and continental needs.

CUT REGISTERS ITS INNOVATION FOOTPRINT AT THE EVOLVE ICT SUMMIT

A CUT student, Frank Makeba, demonstrated the pervasive power of ingenuity as he showcased a novel innovation, Hurudza AI, a multi-award-winning startup incubated at the Chinhoyi University of Technology Business Incubation Hub. The Honourable Minister of ICT, Tatenda Mavetera, visited the Hurudza AI exhibition stand at the Evolve ICT Summit hosted at the Rainbow Towers on 2025. Talking to Frank by the stand, the Honourable Minister expressed admiration for the remarkable progress and achievements of the startup. A couple of months back, Hurudza AI won the ZITF Young Innovators Forum Award at ZITF and was recognized by POTRAZ as one of the top 10 startups driving innovation in Zimbabwe.

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Hurudza AI is an AI-powered, voice-assisted agricultural contact center designed to empower farmers with real-time, tailored solutions. The platform enables farmers to report their agricultural challenges via phone calls, SMS, or a website and receive instant, automated voice responses with actionable advice. With support for local languages, compatibility with 2G devices, and inclusive access for illiterate users through voice and SMS, Hurudza AI ensures no farmer is left behind in the digital transformation of agriculture.

Whilst Frank was showcasing CUT's novel innovations at the exhibition arena, Dr. Shakemnore Chinofunga, CUT's Executive ICT Director, was in the HICC Main Auditorium for the summit's main conference session, delivering a riveting presentation entitled "The future of work: Digital Skills every young person must develop." Subsequently, Dr. Chinofunga joined a team of panelists drawn from academia, industry and other players in the Digitech space. The magic of AI suffuses all domains, with the reality of digital narcotics placing upon humanity's shoulders the need to harness artificial intelligence rewardingly, responsibly and ethically in order to foster the ease of doing business across all spheres.



CUT MPHIL STUDENT NAMED ONE OF 12 GLOBAL WINNERS OF ASPIRE COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD

Anorld Tsvigu, a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) student at Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT), has been selected as one of only 12 global recipients of the prestigious Community Action Award (CAA) by the Aspire Institute. The award comes with \$4,000 in funding to support community-driven initiatives with high potential for social and environmental impact.

Anorld is not only a dedicated postgraduate student under the Vice Chancellor's Scholarship, focusing his research on fertilizer-amended seed technology in the Department of Crop Science under the supervision of Dr. N. Mashavakure, but he is also a recognized climate champion and youth advocate in Hurungwe District, Zimbabwe. His winning project, "Sustainable Beekeeping for Climate Resilience," promotes climate-smart agriculture and environmental conservation by equipping rural youth with modern beekeeping skills and tools.

This year's project builds on a successful 2024 pilot—also supported by Aspire Institute—where Anorld trained 20 youth and established 40 beehives. The expanded 2025 program will scale impact across multiple rural wards, supporting livelihoods, enhancing biodiversity, and strengthening climate resilience in local communities.

"My academic journey at CUT and the mentorship from experts like Prof. Robert Musundire have been central to both the scientific and social vision behind this project," said Anorld. "Winning this award is a recognition of the power of youth-led solutions rooted in research, sustainability, and community development."



The Aspire Community Action Award is a highly competitive international program supporting changemakers tackling challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and youth unemployment. Anorld's recognition reinforces CUT's growing role in nurturing climate leaders and sustainable innovation.

CUT'S CHIEF RECORDS OFFICER ATTENDS THE ESARBICA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN VICTORIA FALLS

Over the period 16th to 20th June 2025, Chinhoyi University of Technology's Chief Records Officer, Mr. Richard Chiwota, interfaced with fellow archivists and records specialists at the 28th edition of the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA). Hosted in the resort town of Victoria Falls and running under the theme 'Archives are Accessible – Archives for Everyone,' the conference was officially opened by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, who emphasized the importance of preserving our heritage by harnessing the merits of migrated archives.

Several distinguished speakers, who included the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Hon. Kazembe Kazembe; the Minister of State for Bulawayo Metropolitan Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Hon. Judith Ncube; and the Director of the National Archives of Zimbabwe, Ms. Brenda Mamvura, addressed this important occasion. The conference featured insightful presentations on a range of topics spanning across disaster and risk reduction strategies in libraries and archives in the context of climate change; the application of ICTs in records management, with a focus on automation and digitization;



cloud based digital preservation and access solutions for photographic records, cartographic and engineering drawings among other special categories of records in information management. Of particular importance, from a policy implementation perspective, was the cross-institutional evaluation of the implementation of international records and archives management standards, in particular ISO 15489 and ISO 3030, foregrounding the role of legislative instruments in institutional records management. CUT is a force to reckon with in the area of archives and records management. The university's chief Records Officer, Richard Chiwota, has remarkable professional experience spanning over four decades, with the latter 13 years have been spent in service to CUT.



He previously worked as a Records and Information Assistant and Records Supervisor at various government ministries and departments that include Education, Higher Education, Water Resources, as well as Department of Irrigation. A holder of a Bachelor of Science in Records

and Archives Management, Mr. Chiwota is the current Chairperson for AARMPZ Mashonaland West. He is also the Secretary General of ZURPA, as well as a member of ARMA International, ZIMSA, SAA, ESARBICA and the mainstream ICA (International Councils on Archives). CUT has over the years offered impressive support to the records and archives part of heritage-based education, an essential aspect in sustainable institutional memory. For Mr. Chiwota, attending this conference was a great opportunity to learn and connect with fellow archivists and records practitioners from across Africa, igniting cross-country passion for records and archives management whilst sharing insights on bespoke global best practices in the area



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