

# School of Education Newsletter



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## Editor's Note

Welcome to the second quarter edition of the School of Education Newsletter.

In this issue, we will recount the various projects and activities in the School of Education are positively impacting on various communities.

Also presented in this issue are the Education students' personal experiences and achievements while in the university and after graduation.

A huge thank you to all the persons who contributed writing the wonderful and inspiring news items, without which there wouldn't have been this newsletter issue.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Executive Dean of Education and the Editorial team members for their overall support throughout the production of this edition.

Enjoy your reading. Your feedback is welcome.

Amos Moses Chauma (PhD)  
**Editor-in-Chief.**



*Dr Amos Chauma*

## Inside this Newsletter

Dean's Desk	02
The School of Education Holds EdTech@UNIMA Event	03
UNIMA Participates in Student Exchange and Collaboration Programmes in Egypt	04
STEP Activity Gathers Momentum	05
Final Year Students Grand Finale Dinner	09
Learning the Teaching of Chichewa in Secondary School—Expelling the myths	13

### Editorial Team

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# Executive Dean's Desk

Dr Peter Ngwinjo Namphande | Executive Dean of Education



I am very happy to welcome readers to this edition of the School of Education Newsletter through which we give you an update of some developments that have taken place in the School in the past months.

We are happy to report that at the last University of Malawi congregation, the School of Education contributed over 350 graduates ranging from Bachelor's degrees, Masters degrees to Doctor of Philosophy degrees in various fields of specialisation.

We are pleased to announce that the operationalisation of academic departments, took a concrete step forward with the appointment of respective Heads of Departments. In this regard, we would like to congratulate Dr Symon Winiko on his appointment as Head of Education Foundations department, and Early Childhood and Primary Education department. We also

congratulate Dr Annie Chiponda on her appointment as Head of Social Science Education department, and Language Education department. We furthermore, congratulate Dr Lisnet Mwadzaangati on her appointment as Head of Mathematics, Science and Technology education department; and Dr Chikumbutso Manthalu on his appointment as Head of Higher Education and Professional Development department.

At the international level, faculty members and students of the School and the entire University have been active in research and partnerships that have added to the global visibility of the University of Malawi. This has been enabled by staff mobility and student exchange project visits to Norway, Egypt, and Zambia. In addition, staff have been involved in collaborative research projects with other institutions in the utilisation of big data to ensure that policy decisions

are based on sound research evidence.

Making its contribution on the national education landscape, staff from the School were involved in a number of activities such as sensitization of candidates on university selection, organised by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE); and the review of the primary education curriculum organised by the Malawi Institute of Education (MIE)

Realising the important role that technology plays in higher education, the School held an Education Technology event dubbed EdTech@UNIMA2023 which drew the participation of a cross section of participants in the Education technology field.

I wish you an enjoyable reading as you update yourself on these developments in the University of Malawi, and School of Education in particular.



# The School of Education Holds EdTech@UNIMA Event



*In the front row seated (L-R) Drs Fiddelis Makaula, Peter Namphande, Chomora Mikeka, Annie Chiponda, Symon Winiko and Lisnet Mwadzaangati*

On 22nd April, 2023, the University of Malawi held an education technology event, dubbed EdTech@UNIMA2023, to explore the latest advancements in the field and their applications in academia. The event brought together technology experts, educators, and students to showcase the latest tools that can enhance the teaching and learning experience in higher education.

The event kicked off with a keynote speech from Associate Professor Chomora Mikeka, who is the Director of Science, Technology and Innovations

in the Ministry of Education. He highlighted the importance of technology in the modern era and how it is rapidly transforming the education landscape, emphasising that educators must embrace technology to facilitate effective instruction in schools.

The event provided an opportunity for technology providers to showcase their products. Various stalls were set up, where attendees could test out new gadgets and tools, such as interactive whiteboards, text-to-sign language translator and alarms, among others.

Various sessions were held throughout the event, covering topics such as science and technology fund, opportunities and challenges of Edtech business, intellectual property as a business strategy, and pitching business ideas. The sessions were highly interactive, with speakers providing practical examples of how technology can be integrated into teaching to make the process more engaging and immersive.

One session focused on virtual reality (VR) and its role in education. The speaker demonstrated how VR can be used to create immersive scenarios that enable learners to experience real-life situations in a safe and controlled environment. Another session showcased the latest mobile WhatsApp that can aid learning, such as language-learning and help with mathematics and science.

As technology continues to transform the education sector, events such as this will become even more critical to ensure that educators stay up-to-date with the latest tools and trends.

Looking into the future, the School will continue holding academic events, such as the EdTech@UNIMA2023, because such events create a platform through which the School of Education demonstrates its thought leadership in educational innovation, research and practice in Malawi.



*Virtual reality*

# UNIMA Participates in Student Exchange and Collaboration Programmes

The University of Malawi together with Hiroshima University Japan, University of Zambia and other Universities in Egypt worked together for student exchange and collaborative study programmes. A delegation made up of postgraduate students and staff from the University of Malawi visited the University of Zambia, and other universities in Egypt as part of the Triangle Agreement made up of four Universities in Egypt, Hiroshima University in Japan, and Two Universities in sub-Saharan Africa. The delegation included Dr Peter Namphande, Executive Dean of the School of Education, Dr Jonas Mwatseteza, Director of Student Affairs, and four post-graduate students namely Steve Matandika, Hosanna Jinazale, Grace Mungoni and Grivin Kanyoza.

The Triangle Agreement aims at fostering collaboration among the



University of Malawi delegates pose for a picture at the School of Education, University of Zambia

universities and student exchange visits. In addition, it is also aimed at fostering advanced global human resources in both Japan and Africa, who can lead high quality economic

development and build bridges not only between Japan and Africa, but also among Africa's diverse regions, and demonstrate leadership in multilateral international cooperation.

# The Official Launch of the School Leadership Programme



Hon. Madalitso Kambauwa Wirima (seated) and other delegates at the launch

The Minister of Education, Honourable Madalitso Kambauwa Wirima, MP, officially launched the Malawi Education Reform Programme on 30th May, 2023 at Hippo Lodge in Lilongwe. A teachers' parade buoyed

by the Police Brass Band preceded the official launch. It was a joyful moment punctuated by songs, poems and traditional dances. The Minister, said the school leadership programme

was a critical intervention to improve education quality. She observed that the programme was designed to empower school leaders to lead with vision, compassion and innovation. In attendance were Professor Samson Sajidu, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi; Dr Frintz Kadyoma, Executive Director of Malawi Institute of Education; Dr Zizwa Msukuma, Director of the Teacher Education and Development and, Associate Professor Chomora Mikeka the Director of Science, Technology and Innovation. The school leadership programme targets 10,200 headteachers, deputy head teachers and female section heads. The School of Education, in partnership with the Malawi Institute of Education, is implementing the programme through a coordinating team comprising of Dr Symon Chiziwa, Dr Richard Nyirongo, Dr Frank Mtemangombe, Mr Moses Nkhoma, Mrs Grace Kuchelekana and Mr Enock Chingondo.



# STEP Activity Gathers Momentum



*Mr Kapito in action (3rd from Left) and participants during one of the participatory action research meetings*

In the last issue, we shared news about the Strengthening Teacher Education and Practice (STEP) project in which the Language Education Department of the School of Education is involved.

The project has so far trained Language Teacher Educators from both public and private Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) country wide through a Foundational literacy Course (FLC). The FLC is aimed Strengthening Teacher Educators' knowledge, skills and attitudes related to foundation literacy. The FLC has so far been delivered in 3 training sessions out of 4, the training started in January, 2023 and will run up to August, 2023.

One of the requirements of the Foundational Literacy Course, is that participants take part in Participatory Action Research (PAR). The reason for this is to give participants the opportunity to apply theory through inquiry into practical educational

contexts and to actively engage in research in order to promote their understanding and knowledge of areas covered by the course.

The intention is that there will be change as a consequence of the study. The aim is that the participating Teacher Educators should feel that they have been a part of the change process rather than having it done to them. The project would like to ensure that the methods used and the outcomes from the research should reflect the priorities and concerns of the teacher educators who are active participants in the process.

From the month of May to date, the Teacher Educators are engaged in an 8 week Participatory Action Research in their various colleges. The Teacher Educators followed a sequence of steps; identified a problem, a strategy to deal with the problem and research questions to guide them in

their research so that they remain focused. They were researching on implementation experiences and the effectiveness of the intervention/strategy they were implementing. As they are implementing the strategy/intervention, the teacher educators are finding out about what works or not, why and why not. They are expected to provide evidence from the data collected.

The Teacher Educators have finished collecting the Participatory Action Research data and are in the process of being guided by their mentors on how to analyse the data collected before they write their reports. The UNIMA team, Dr A Chauma, Dr A Lipenga, Dr S Winiko, Dr M Kamanga and Mr P. Kapito, the Principal Investigator are taking the lead in the PAR activity where they are playing the role of Research Mentors together with all members of the STEP Consortium.

## Dr Gondwe participates in the ACEPHEM Faculty Exchange Programme



Dr John Mponda (L) and Dr Foster Gondwe (R)

The Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Herbal Medicine (ACEPHEM) invited interested faculty to apply for a two-week faculty exchange programme to Malawian

public and private universities or research institutions. This programme aimed at providing participants with the opportunity to teach or conduct research for two-week. Faculty

members were expected to benefit from exposure to a culturally varied and diverse faculty, with an opportunity to exchange ideas and observe a variety of pedagogical styles.

Dr Foster Gondwe of the School of Education participated in the programme which was held at KUHeS between 20th March and 31st March, 2023. Dr John Mponda of the Pharmacy Department hosted Dr Gondwe for this programme.

Among others, Dr Gondwe observed teaching by academics in the Pharmacy Department. The observation was in line with the goals of the exchange programme i.e., for participants to “benefit from exposure to a culturally varied and diverse faculty make-up, with an opportunity to exchange ideas and observe a variety of teaching styles”. Dr Gondwe and Dr Mponda also conducted a qualitative study that seeks to contribute a Malawian perspective to a growing body of research investigating the quality of higher education in Africa

## School of Education Staff Participate in Primary Education Curriculum Review



Mr Paul Chiwaya (far left) and Mr Yohane Chakasika (far right) engaged in a plenary

The Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Education and Malawi Institute of Education (MIE) has embarked on the process of reviewing

the primary school curriculum. According to the Ministry of Education Director of Quality Assurance, Dr Golden Msilimba, the Government

of Malawi has committed MK 1.7 billion for the commencement of the curriculum review process. Based on the working partnership that exists between the School of Education and Malawi Institute of Education, two members of staff in the School of Education, namely; Messrs Paul Chiwaya and Yohane Chakasika, have been engaged as part of the team of researchers to collect data which will feed into the review process. According to Mr Austin Kalambo, the Curriculum Development Director at MIE, the primary school curriculum review process is a response to developments in the education sector and the general development needs of Malawi. The rolling out of the curriculum will be done in two phases; the first phase targeting standards 1 to 4 and the second phase 5 to 8.



## Paul Chiwaya Shares Postgraduate Education Tips with Undergraduate Students



*Mr Paul Chiwaya presenting at the workshop*

pursuing postgraduate education after their first degrees. Mr Paul Chiwaya, a member of staff in the School of Education, who currently serves as the Patron for UNIMASI, was engaged as a keynote speaker during the workshop. In his presentation, he focused on the link between undergraduate and postgraduate education, attributes of competitive candidates in postgraduate scholarship applications, and available international scholarship opportunities for students from Malawi. Forty-five students from across various academic departments at the University of Malawi attended the workshop. One participant, Joana Chiwongola, a fourth year Bachelor of Administration student, described the workshop as “informative and impactful”.

On 8th June, 2023, the University of Malawi Active Scholars Initiative (UNIMASI), a student-led organisation within the University of Malawi, organised a workshop themed

“Empowering Undergraduates for Postgraduate Education.” The aim of the workshop was to equip undergraduate students with the information they need as they think of

## The Education Foundations Department Organises Proposal Defense for its Masters Students

On 16 May, 2023, the Education Foundations Department (EDF) organized a proposal defense for its postgraduate students. In his opening remarks, delivered on behalf of the Executive Dean for the School of Education, the Head of Education Foundations Department, Dr Symon Winiko, congratulated students on achieving the milestone of defending their proposals in the research component of their postgraduate studies. He further reminded the students that a proposal defense presents an opportunity for them to receive constructive feedback from both their peers and academic members of staff which they can use to refine their research ideas. A total of twenty-two students from across the



*A cross-section of students during the proposal defense*

postgraduate programmes offered by the EDF defended their proposals. In his closing remarks, the Postgraduate Coordinator, Dr Chikumbutso

Manthalu, advised the students to keep up their momentum so that they can progress to the data collection phase of their research.

# NORPART Mathematics Education Mobility Project (2019-2024)



Prof Kishindo, Prof Jakobsen and Dr Maliyoni with UNIMA students at University of Stavanger

Prof Mercy Kazima Kishindo visited the University of Stavanger in Norway in May, 2023. Her visit was part of the NORPART mobility project for staff and master students' in Mathematics and Mathematics Education. NORPART stands for Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation. With funding from the project, students from University of Malawi complete one year of their master studies in Norway. Currently, there are five mathematics education master students and four mathematical sciences master students at the University of Stavanger. While in Norway, Prof Kishindo co-supervised master students, participated in project workshops and worked on proposal for project extension and other proposals for further collaborative projects between the two universities.

## A story of an EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE online instructional platform

Mark Christopher Pakanati is a final year Bachelor of Education student, majoring in Biological Sciences. Through his education initiative called 'Unique Online Classes Malawi', Mark has demonstrated his passion for enabling access to education by out-of-school Malawians. The initiative uses YouTube, Facebook and WhatsApp for delivering secondary school content and conducting academic assessments. The content is delivered both in Chichewa and English because Unique's targets are Malawian students and secondary school teachers. What is unique about the initiative is its multimedia and user-friendly approach, delivering curriculum content through visuals, audios and easy to understand language of instruction.

Among other deliverables, his proposal was successful and got selected for exhibition at the EdTech@UNIMA2023 event hosted by the Education Foundations Department on 22nd April 2023. On 26th February,

2023 Airtel Malawi recognized this educational initiative, as part of the company's commitment to support initiatives that enhance access to education. The recognition was in the form of monetary award worth MWK1,500,000.00. By acknowledging Unique Online Classes Malawi, Airtel Malawi has recognised the efforts and provided a platform to amplify its impact. This recognition catalyses further growth and development, attracting attention and garnering support from a wider audience.

Currently, *Unique Online initiative* has leveraged platforms like Facebook and YouTube to connect with thousands of individuals. With 10,990 followers on Facebook, educational content and updates have resonated with a diverse range of people, sparking engagement, discussions, and knowledge-sharing. As of 30th May, the YouTube channel has amassed 3,357 subscribers, indicating a growing community of learners eagerly anticipating Unique



Mark Christopher Pakanati

Online informative and enriching videos. This dedicated online following showcases the relevance and quality of educational content and demonstrates the impact the initiative has had on the lives of those seeking knowledge.





# Final Year Students Grand Finale Dinner



*Some of the final year students at the dinner*

UNIMA fourth-year students bid farewell to their alma mater with a grand finale dinner held at Amaryllis Hotel on the 26th May, 2023. The event brought together the Finales, celebrities and distinguished guests.

The captivating evening begun with a mouth-watering cocktail hour, where the finales interacted with their mentors and fellow classmates. The venue was well decorated with stunning outfits by the hotel attendants.

The event was hosted by one of the country's best radio DJs and events host Joy Nathu. The dinner aimed at bidding farewell to themselves and their beloved UNIMA.

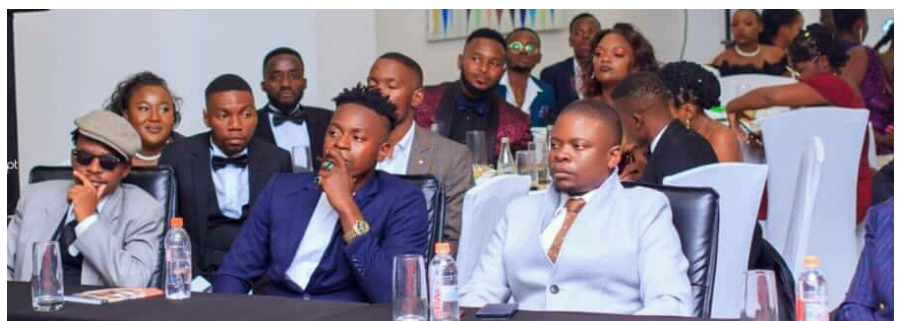
The event was spiced by The Black Magical Strings Orchestra Band, DJ Moda and a phenomenal performance by popular Afro-Pop Musician, Saint. The performance by Saint and The Black Magical Strings Orchestra Band set ablaze the stage giving the Finales no other choice other than patronising

the stage dancing and enjoying the unforgettable night.

Beyond the pleasure brought by the food, the music and the beauty of the venue, the event's main purpose was to instil in the graduates a sense of purpose and prepare them for a challenging world that awaits them. Speeches delivered by well wishing individuals like Dr. Patricia Kaliati, Prophet Shepherd Bushiri, and Pemphero Mphande, reminded the finales of the role they have to play as people who have attained the sought for higher education. The speech delivered by Prophet Bushiri reminded the students

that higher education should help them solve various problems available in their societies.

Reflecting on the significance of the evening, the finales could not forget to recall an African proverb: "When you drink from the river, remember the spring." This wise saying reminds the graduates of the role their parents, relatives, communities, the university and the country at large have played in their entire educational journey and how this should motivate them to give back to these people through becoming reliable individuals to count on in one way or another.



*The guest of honour Prophet Shepherd Bushiri (R)*

## Associate Professor Samson MacJessie-Mbewe Attends A Workshop on Engaging Uk Policy Makers with Big Data Science Research

The University of Nottingham (UoN) and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), in collaboration with the Government of Malawi, University of Malawi, Malawi University of Science & Technology, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Mzuzu University, proposed to co-develop a new fellowship programme designed to train public sector officials and a cohort of researchers in Malawi on the use of data science to improve education, nutrition, and health outcomes for young people.

The scoping meeting between Government of Malawi officials with the UoN, African Development Bank (AfDB), and other stakeholders agreed that a significant amount of data had been collected in Malawi over the past decade, which is critical for evidence-based policymaking. The meeting recommended that researchers and policymakers in Malawi require training to use these data to address policy-practice issues of national need.

The workshop was held on February 2023 at the University of Nottingham in the UK. The results of the scoping study were presented to several critical stakeholders to solicit their support for the program. The workshop was attended by stakeholders from the following organisations: Association of African Universities; University of Nottingham; Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office; OpenDevEd; Education Development Trust; Wellcome Trust; Ministry of Health, Malawi; University of Malawi; Office of National Statistics, Malawi; United Nations; University of Liverpool; eKitabu; Save the Children; African Development Bank; Transform Health Coalition; Unicef; DE&I Consulting Services; Ed Tech Hub; and Commonwealth Secretariat. From Malawi, the workshop was attended



*Assoc Prof. Samson Mac Jessie Mbewe at the Workshop at University of Nottingham in UK.*

by Dr Samson MacJessie-Mbewe (UNIMA), Dr Felix Phiri (Ministry of Health) and Mr Isaac Chirwa (National Statistical Office). The workshop was the culmination of over two years of work, and on the day of the workshop, representatives of many organisations, institutions, and charities expressed interest in the programme. During the workshop, the groups united in their support of the AIDA Fellowship Programme, and commitments were made regarding ensuring the success of the Malawian pilot programme and supporting the governance, expansion, and sustainability of the programme within Malawi and beyond.

A guest speaker from the United Nations (UN) explained that there are significant gaps in the data required to achieve the SDG goals, and there is a

need for national, interoperable data integration to help reach those goals. The UN identified Africa as a priority in achieving the SDGs and the AIDA Fellowship Programme as a huge opportunity to be part of the solution.

Several institutions and charities expressed interest in funding a cluster that would work on a specific research question around the programme's focus areas of health, nutrition, food systems, early child development, education and climate change.

The programme developers continue seeking support to fund the UK fellows or a cluster. They would be interested to hear from anyone who may have yet to be able to attend the workshop but would like to hear more about the programme and the opportunity for partnership.



## School of Education Staff Participates in NCHE Sensitisation



*Standing: Mr Manyengo in action*

Three members of Staff from the School of Education participated in this year's sensitisation meetings organised by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) which were conducted from 3rd to 6th April, 2023 in all the four regions of Malawi.

The sensitisation meetings were conducted with the aim of guiding prospective candidates about the online application system that NCHE has adopted beginning this year's application window. NCHE incorporated all the six public universities in Malawi for the exercise to allow the universities inform the candidates on the available programs which they can apply for in the respective universities this year.

NCHE has decided to adopt an online application system for

universities applicants in order to ease the challenges faced by the old system where candidates would fill printed forms and submit to NCHE for selection. The online system is connected to Malawi National Examinations Board (MANEB) data savers where the candidate's grades are verified. Once the system approves the candidate's grades, it automatically filters and presents only those programs that the candidate qualifies for. This implies that with this system candidates cannot select programs they do not qualify for.

Associate Professor Elizabeth Kamchedzera, Dr Ken Ndala and Mr Chipiliro Manyengo represented the school of education in these sensitisation meetings. Candidates were presented with programs that

the University of Malawi is offering in general as well as the programs that the school of Education, in particular, is offering. This was done along with providing admission requirements for each program together with career prospects of the program.

NCHE also incorporated representatives from the Loans Board who informed the candidates on loan application, disbursement and repayment procedures.

Every year NCHE organises these sensitisation meetings to prospective candidates and their parents or guardians to inform them on the new developments in the application procedures as well as available programs in respective public universities in Malawi.

## The Power of Effective Teacher Education: Emmanuel Banda's Journey from Student to Educator



*Mr Emmanuel Banda standing in between the girls*

As a former student at the University of Malawi, Emmanuel Banda is making an impact as a teacher at Lilongwe Girls Secondary School. His strong background in computer science and passion for teaching has brought innovation and excellence to the classroom. This story shares his accomplishments as a secondary school teacher.

Emmanuel's dedication to the teaching profession goes beyond the conventional approach. Since joining Lilongwe Girls Secondary School, he has demonstrated excellent teaching skills and a commitment to excellence. He has embraced project-based learning, providing practical experiences that foster creativity and problem-solving abilities. Under his supervision, the "Smart Chicken Egg Incubator Innovation Project" school project secured the top position at the 2022 National Science Fair. He also serves as the patron of the Computer and Music Clubs, where he has played a pivotal role in stimulating students' interests and talents beyond the traditional curriculum.

Emmanuel's achievements extend beyond the classroom. Leveraging his software development and programming expertise, he has developed an Electronic School Management System with a Student and Staff Portal. This technological solution has streamlined administrative tasks, making them more efficient and effective. He has also enhanced the school's communication and branding by designing the school's logo. He has also showcased the school's achievements by live-streaming the Form 4 graduation ceremonies in 2021 and 2022, enabling parents and the wider community to celebrate the students' accomplishments remotely. He also collaborates with special needs teachers and leverages existing software solutions to support students with disabilities. These collaborations have deepened his understanding, leading to his proficiency in Braille and the effective connection of computers to embossing devices. Emmanuel has secured funding for the school's resource centre, highlighting

his role in supporting students with diverse needs. Consequently, he has been appointed as Chairperson of the Research and Proposal Development Committee at the school.

Emmanuel has created a positive and enriching learning environment through innovative teaching methods, technology integration, commitment to student empowerment, and leadership qualities. His continuous professional development and passion for making a difference serves as an inspiration to both students and fellow educators. Emmanuel's transformative journey exemplifies the profound impact that a dedicated and innovative teacher can have in shaping the future of education. His journey from a student at the University of Malawi's School of Education to an inspirational educator at Lilongwe Girls Secondary School demonstrates the power of effective teacher education. Through their dedication and passion, teachers like Emmanuel Banda are shaping the future and empowering young minds to achieve their full potential.



## Teaching Practice - From A Student Teacher's Experience



Ms Fanny Chimombo

When you hear of Teaching Practice, you are gripped with fear of the unknown. There is panicking and uneasiness that follow. But that notwithstanding, Teaching Practice

experience brought joy to me. This time provided an opportunity for me to put into practice everything I learned as an education student.

The day I started as a student teacher, I was worried and felt not confident of myself. I looked upon myself as someone not old enough to teach. But as days went by I gathered confidence and told my inner self, "Fanny, you can do it." And because of the confidence I taught very well and earned the respect of the learners. That's when I realized that being confident as a teacher yields respect from students as well as from fellow teachers.

In addition, as a new teacher in the field, I also relied on my mentor teacher's advice. When I approached her, she suggested activities and methodologies to be employed in some lessons. Her advice, and that of other

experienced teachers helped me grow as a teacher. So I advise those going on Teaching Practice this year not to look down upon teacher mentors as well as ignoring their advice. When ever stuck, they are readily available in the absence of our university mentors.

The most important lesson I learned during the teaching practice was to be responsive to feedback by not being defensive. This helped me to learn ways to improve my teaching skills. I was not bitter with comments from supervisors who observed my lessons. I taught myself to have a positive attitude to whatever feedback I got from supervisors. This improved my teaching and built my confidence as a reflective teacher

My last message to share with those going on Teaching practice is that it is an enjoyable experience.

## Learning the Teaching of Chichewa in Secondary School—Expelling the myths

In the first semester of third year, we had to choose which subject to major in as a language teacher. It was not easy for me to choose Chichewa because I was teased by my fellow students that choosing Chichewa was a sign that 'I was dull and I could not speak English'. Whenever I was out of class and met some of my friends they ridiculed me saying "dull mind fears English" "Beauty without English". And some even insinuated "*mukafika nacho kuti Chichewachi?* (What will this Chichewa get you to?" "*kuchoka uko kudzaphunzira Chichewa kuno ku university* (coming all the way to learn Chichewa in the university). They made discouraging comments but I remained unshaken.

I chose to major in Chichewa because it was what I wanted in the first place. I had no idea of how interesting it would be until after the first lesson with our course lecturer. He encouraged us to focus on what we want in life and not to be carried away by what others say. Which helped to clear off my fears and

get the courage to pursue the course. The lecturer was thorough in his teaching and provided all what was required to produce a fully moulded teacher of Chichewa language. Surely I was empowered with all the *arsenals* on how to teach.

I have completed my fourth year of learning as a champion. And those who

were insinuating that I was learning Chichewa became envious of me for my performance was always very good as evidenced from my end of Semester assessment grades.

Lastly, I can proudly say I enjoyed language education classes and now I am a fully baked teacher of Chichewa.



Ms Loveness Phiri

The following are publications by academic members of staff in the School of Education:

Brown, D., **Sepula, C.** (2023). Darknet Traffic Detection Using Histogram-Based Gradient Boosting. In: Suma, V., Lorenz, P., Baig, Z. (eds) Inventive Systems and Control. Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems, vol 672. Springer, Singapore. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-1624-5\\_59](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-1624-5_59)

**Gondwe, F., Mtemang'ombe, F. & Manthalu, C.** (2023). Teacher Educators' Application of Learning from Technology Professional Development: A Case Study. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in the South (SOTL). [https://sotl-south-journal.net/index.php/sotls/About\\_us](https://sotl-south-journal.net/index.php/sotls/About_us)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mr. Chikondi Sepula from the Department of Mathematics and Science Education graduated with an honors degree in Computer Science. He was awarded this degree upon successful completion of the first year of his studies toward a master's degree in computer science education at Rhodes University in South Africa. We congratulate Mr. Sepula for this great achievement and wish him successful completion of his master's studies.

### NEW STAFF



The department of Education Foundations is pleased to welcome a new member of staff **Ms. Sungeni Kasoloka**. Ms. Kasoloka has been recruited as a Staff Associate in Educational Psychology.

The School of Education is also pleased to welcome the following interns:

Ms. Fanny Chimombo  
Ms. Maureen Kachala  
Ms. Idah Nasawa  
Ms. Angelina Kalongola  
Mr. Patrick Mangire