MUAST Vice Chancellor Supports Church Infrastructure Development Through Community Fundraising Initiative

Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAST), led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Justice Nyamangara, participated in a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative in Mhondoro, supporting the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Chivero Circuit, Mutemasango Society, in its efforts to raise funds for roofing its church building.

The initiative reflects the University's commitment to community development and its alignment with the national development philosophy, "Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo". It further resonates with the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) principle of "Leaving No One and No Place Behind" and the third pillar of Education 5.0, which emphasises community engagement and the practical application of institutional resources and expertise to address societal needs.



The fundraising initiative seeks to mobilise resources towards the completion of the church building, a project that has benefited from the collective efforts of church members, community stakeholders and well-wishers from within and beyond the congregation. Despite setbacks, including strong winds that caused the collapse of the rear wall, the community has demonstrated resilience and determination in rebuilding the structure. The ongoing development stands as a

testament to the power of collective responsibility, unity and community-led development.

Speaking as the Guest of Honour, Professor Nyamangara reflected on the historical and personal significance of the church to the local community. He recalled how, during his childhood, his parents frequently spoke about the importance of establishing the church, particularly during his high school years. He noted that the completion of the building would represent a significant milestone for the community, bringing religious services closer to congregants who previously had to travel considerable distances to attend services at Sandringham or Chikowore.



Professor Nyamangara underscored the importance of supporting community-driven initiatives that respond to the practical needs of local people. His participation reaffirmed MUAST's commitment to working alongside communities, faith-based organisations and other stakeholders in advancing inclusive development and improving the well-being of citizens.



As part of his contribution to the fundraising effort, Professor Nyamangara donated US$390 and mobilised additional sponsorship commitments amounting to US$150, bringing the total value of the contributions secured to US$540. He further pledged to mobilise additional resources towards fencing the church perimeter and committed to personally donating windows for the building, demonstrating continued support for the completion of the project.



Professor Nyamangara's engagement with the Mutemasango Society forms part of a broader record of philanthropic and community development initiatives in Mhondoro which includes the provision of scholarships to learners at Chikowore Primary School.

Through such engagements, MUAST continues to demonstrate the relevance of higher education institutions beyond their campuses, translating the principles of Education 5.0 into practical community interventions. The University's participation reinforces the role of institutional leadership, partnerships and collective action in supporting national development priorities and ensuring that communities remain active participants in building a prosperous and inclusive Zimbabwe.