

# Higher Education in the News



## Africa News

### Varsities Should Transform Africa

The speech given by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda at the USIU 40th anniversary in Nairobi, Kenya in which highlights that; "If Africa is to play its role on the world stage it is imperative that we broaden the function of universities across Africa to fill this need. We need universities that can train students in practical as well as leadership skills that the future leaders of Africa should have in order to drive development effectively economists, lawyers, scientists, and others."

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)  
Page Last Accessed 11 February 2011  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201102140138.html>

### UN Partners With West African Nations to Boost Information Technology in Universities

The United Nations agency tasked with promoting education and the West African monetary union signed an agreement to launch a \$12 million project to boost the information and communications technology (ICT) capacity of universities by creating a regional virtual library network. The project is part of a wide-ranging cooperation plan initiated in 2006 by the two bodies, aiming to develop the use of ICTs to support an ongoing reform of higher education in the member countries

SOURCE: UN News Service  
Posted to the web 11 February 2011  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37522&Cr=universit&Cr1=>

### Centres of excellence develop future leaders

Five Centres of Excellence in Africa established more than two years ago by the German Academic Exchange Service could be part of the answer to the continent's brain drain. There is demand for higher training by students and the centres feel they are yet to reach their full potential. This was the consensus among African and German cooperation partners at their annual networking meeting, held at the University of the Western Cape.

SOURCE: UniversityWorldNews  
Posted to the web 13 February 2011  
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110211211807593>

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## Initiative to bridge SADC infrastructure gap

A new initiative aimed at tackling an R800bn infrastructure backlog across Southern Africa has been launched. The launch of the “New Public-Private Partnership Network” (NPPPN) was hosted by the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Initiative will serve as a launch pad for a new network of public-private partnerships (PPPs), review regulatory and policy environment, and explore new financing sources and seek new ways which will help fast track the infrastructure development backlog in the region.

SOURCE: The New Age  
Posted to the web 17 February 2011  
[http://www.thenewage.co.za/10608-9-53-Initiative\\_to\\_bridge\\_SADC\\_infrastructure\\_gap](http://www.thenewage.co.za/10608-9-53-Initiative_to_bridge_SADC_infrastructure_gap)

## Science and Technology

### Interview: Calestous Juma and African innovation

Calestous Juma, director of the Science, Technology and Globalization Project at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, has attracted plenty of attention for his recent book, *The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa*, which sets out a vision of an [Africa](#) that can feed itself by 2050. The book exudes the same optimism that emanated from his [2005 book on science for the Millennium Development Goals](#). Juma argues in both that a mix of existing knowledge and [innovation](#) could lead Africa out of poverty and hunger.

SOURCE: SciDev.Net  
Posted to the web 10 February 2011  
<http://www.scidev.net/en/features/q-a-calestous-juma-and-african-innovation.html>

### Broadband Infraco to expand fibre optic network

Broadband Infraco spent R243 million on its national backbone fibre optic network in 2009/10. The state-owned telecoms infrastructure provider's fibre optic cable network now covered about 12,250km country-wide. This will enable South Africa to extend connectivity to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region to countries such as Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

SOURCE: The New Age  
Posted to the web 15 January 2011  
[http://www.thenewage.co.za/10501-1007-53-Broadband\\_Infraco\\_to\\_expand\\_fibre\\_optic\\_network](http://www.thenewage.co.za/10501-1007-53-Broadband_Infraco_to_expand_fibre_optic_network)

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## Angola

### Higher Education Minister Discusses Research Issues With Ambassador

The minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Maria Cândida Teixeira held in Luanda a meeting with the ambassador of Algeria to Angola, Kamel Boughaba the two discussed issues related to cooperation in the field of education and scientific research.

SOURCE: AngolP

Posted to the web 3 February 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201102110137.html>

## Botswana

### School of Medicine receives P68 million from U.S. Government

The University Of Botswana School Of Medicine has received a P68 million grant from the United States Government as part of the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI), which will be received over a five-year period. MEPI grants, which are funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will provide up to \$130 million over five years in grants to African institutions in a dozen countries, forming a network of about 30 regional partners, country health and education ministries, and more than 20 U.S. collaborators.

SOURCE: Sunday Standard

Posted to the web on 18 February 2011

<http://www.sundaystandard.info/article.php?NewsID=9949&GroupID=1>

### TEC chief lauds increased budget allocation

The Tertiary Education Council (TEC) has welcomed the Ministry of Education's increased budgetary allocation - from the usual 26 percent to 31 percent this year - as consistent with the new Tertiary Education Policy (TEP). The Ministry of Education and Skills Development has been allocated the largest share of the 2011/12 recurrent budget - at P8.7 billion - after it requested an increase in bursaries for post secondary students last year.

SOURCE: Mmegi Online

Posted to the web on 18 February 2011

<http://www.mmegi.bw/index.php?sid=1&aid=895&dir=2011/February/Friday11>

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## Malawi

### New law aims to regulate private universities

Malawi is gearing up to pass higher education legislation that will regulate the accreditation of private universities. This is in an attempt to ensure appropriate standards are maintained at these institutions, and also to make sure they do not exploit students excluded from public universities due to a government quota system. The proposed National Council for Higher Education Bill will be tabled in Parliament soon

SOURCE: UniversityWorldNews  
Posted to the web 13 February 2011  
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110211212325608>

## Namibia

### Students Benefit From Namdeb

Namdeb last Thursday awarded eight bursaries each worth N\$250 000 per annum to eight students in the fields of aviation, engineering, metallurgy, mining and IT. The Namdeb Bursary Scheme seeks to provide meritorious Namibia students the opportunity to enter tertiary educational programmes. The scheme provides an ongoing source of qualified human resources for national skills requirements.

SOURCE: New Era  
Posted to the web 14 February 2011  
[http://www.newera.com.na/article.php?title=Students\\_benefit\\_from\\_Namdeb&articleid=37358](http://www.newera.com.na/article.php?title=Students_benefit_from_Namdeb&articleid=37358)

## South Africa

### More Study Funds for Youth

The Department of Higher Education and Training has announced "a comprehensive review" on the spending priorities of the National Skills Fund, which will help to put more youth through the tertiary education system. This, it said, was being done in order to "reprioritise its funding allocations" in line with National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS3) and SA's Human Resources Development Strategy.

SOURCE: BUANews  
Posted to web on 15 February 2011  
<http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/11/11021515051003>

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# Higher Education in the News



## **Ford, NMMU teams up to develop engineering expertise**

The Ford Motor Company of South Africa has teamed up with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to enhance the development of engineering expertise in the Eastern Cape. The parties concluded an agreement yesterday that will lead to establishment of the specialised Ford Engine Research Unit within the university's Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Ford says the research unit will focus on new engine research and development trends as well as new initiatives within the field of engine testing and associated research.

SOURCE: ALGOA FM

Posted to the web 25 January 2011

<http://www.algoafm.co.za/newsarticle.asp?NewsID=211839>

## **R450m revamped Soweto campus to 'inspire learners'**

The University of Johannesburg (UJ) has officially opened its 2011 academic year with the rededication and opening of the R450-million Soweto Campus, in Johannesburg. The new facility will now stand as the centre for management sciences and education and includes the installation of new information technology, new student accommodation, lecture halls, a student centre, law and health clinics, computer laboratories and sports facilities.

SOURCE: Engineering News

Posted to the web 18 February 2011

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/university-of-johannesburg-launches-new-revamped-soweto-campus-2011-02-18>

## **Zambia**

### **Lumbama Urges People to Enrol in Local Institutions**

CENTRAL Province Permanent Secretary Denny Lumbama has said the infrastructure development being undertaken at Mulungushi University in Kabwe is in line with the Government's Sixth National Development Plan whose emphasis is on improved infrastructure. He challenged Zambians to seriously consider supporting such institutions by enrolling for courses instead of going outside the country to study, saying Zambia had qualified lecturers capable of delivering better results.

SOURCE: Business Report

Posted to web on 12 January 2011

<http://www.iol.co.za/business/business-news/why-china-invited-sa-to-join-bric-1.1017796>

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## Sixth national development plan launched

Zambia has launched an ambitious five-year national development plan, with a focus on higher education and science aimed at improving access to university education and expanding science and research activities. It tackles the higher education, science and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors, while also impacting on the energy and manufacturing sectors.

SOURCE: University WorldNews  
Posted to web on 13 February 2011  
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110211212231253>

## Zimbabwe

### Education System Hailed

Top Zambian academic and Sadc Secretariat member, Professor Richard Siaciwena, has lauded Zimbabwe's education system, saying other African states should take a leaf from the country's open and distance learning. The Zimbabwe Open University; the second largest distance learning institution on the continent after the University of South Africa, since its establishment through an Act of Parliament in 1999, has continued to churn out graduates en masse with the highest number of 23 000 being recorded last year.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)  
Posted to the web on 11 February 2011  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201102140353.html>

### Government Probes NUST Degree

GOVERNMENT has set up a special committee to investigate reasons behind the Zimbabwe Medical, Dental and Professions Council's refusal to recognise National University of Science and Technology's medical degree. The stalemate has forced NUST students to go to Malawian and Zambian universities to complete their degrees, a development that also deprives the country of much-needed doctors.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)  
Posted to the web on 9 February 2011  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201102071184.html>