



## Conference on Private Universities in Zimbabwe, 7- 8 November 2022

**Theme:** *THE ROLE, CONTRIBUTION AND COLLABORATION OF CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ZIMBABWE*

**Conference Dates:** 7-8, November 2022

### **Background and Context**

Education in Zimbabwe has always been supported and anchored by private faith organisations. Some centenarian schools in the country have never ceased to play that role of enlightening society. Most have been known for creating solid and rounded cadres that are not only highly disciplined but also ones that have helped in shaping ideology and patriotism that defines what Zimbabwe is today. Even in the higher and tertiary education sphere, one cannot ignore the contributions by Solusi seminary and a host of mission-based teachers and technical colleges in the land. The end of the 20<sup>th</sup> into the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen many private universities coming in to deliver and contribute to higher and tertiary education. For years, Zimbabwe has taken pride in having very high literacy rate in Africa. The existing private universities have always had different besetting experiences as they endeavour to make a contribution to the all-important sector. Some of the known challenges are: poor enrolments largely due to the skewedness of 'favourable fees' being in public universities, high staff turnover rates, as staff find it more lucrative to be in state universities, and failure to expand and become full-fledged universities that offer a full range of degree programmes including those in health and engineering sciences. In some instances, governance issues are raised; whereas the regulator may require to have full establishments of staff within private universities, alternative methods of staff hiring befitting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century University Education, like visiting lectureship and professorship are not well embraced. With the pronounced Education 5.0 in the land, the higher and tertiary education sector is coming in to create a cadre of professionals that are innovative, skilful and with greater aptitudes beyond literacy. In this light, the state alone cannot fill the big gap hence the acceptance to license private players to also make a contribution. The big question lies in checking on whether or not the 'assistant' wields all the muscle and capacity to get it alone. If university education goes beyond just tutelages and rhetoric, then critical investment though around the higher and tertiary education sector must be seriously interrogated and candidly debated upon. Unfortunately, up to now, there is paucity of this kind of debate.

### **Solicited Contributions/Papers**

To plug this debate, the Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University (ZEGU) is creating such a platform of debate towards formulating sustainable next steps. Solicited in this, for a

two-day conference are papers that speak to, but not limited to the following sub-themes:

- The 21st Century University: The Making of a Private University
- Comparative History (between lower and higher education) of Education Delivery in Zimbabwe
- Private Universities and the Education 5.0 Philosophy and Doctrine
- Higher and Tertiary Education Regulation: Is there Scope for Innovativeness?
- Higher and Tertiary Education Financing and the Private University System
- The Complimentary Role of Private University Education to the State-pronounced visions and policies
- Leadership and Governance of Universities: Could Private Universities be Falling Short?
- Hiring in Private Universities: Whose Interests Count and Could it be Different Elsewhere?
- Student Grooming and Mentorship Programmes in Private Universities? Did You Say the Product from Our Pot is Different?
- *Mukomberanwa*: Is Higher and Tertiary Education Truly Collaborative Effort?
- Self-Financing Studentship: Is Getting Enrolled in a Private University Just Luxury?
- Accreditation of Degree Programmes: Are Private Universities a Punch Bag?
- Is Private University Business a Profit-making Venture?

#### **Modes of Presentation**

- Oral
- Poster
- Policy Dialogue

#### **Dates and Milestones to the Conference**

The following milestones will lead to the Conference:

- Opening for abstracts - 1 October 2022
- Deadline for receipt of abstracts - 13 October 2022
- Notification of successful abstracts - 15 October 2022
- Deadline for full paper (5000-8000 words) - 1 November 2022
- Conference Date – 7- 8 November 2022

#### **Venue of the Conference**

- TBA

#### **Registration Fee**

- ZEGU Staff (subsidised to US\$20 payable at prevailing bank rate)
- Local participants (US\$100 payable at prevailing bank rate)
- International participants US\$300

#### **Transport and Accommodation**

- Conference attendants make their own arrangements

#### **Sponsorship**

- Corporate organisations willing to support the conference are encouraged to partner with ZEGU in the organisation of this important event.

### Envisaged Outputs of the Conference

- Conference Abstracts Book
- Conference Proceedings Report
- Journal Articles
- A Book

### Indicative Programme

#### Day: 1 – The Changing Education Landscape in Zimbabwe Role of the Private Universities

Time	Activity	Facilitator
0800-0845hrs	Registration	TBA
0845-1000hrs	High Level Dialogue and Engagement	TBA
1000-1015	Health Break	TBA
1015-1300hrs	Presentation of Papers	TBA
1300-1400hrs	Lunch Break	TBA
1400-1630hrs	Presentation of Papers	TBA
1630-1700hrs	Reflective Session	TBA

#### Day: 2 – Policy Direction with Private Universities on Board

Time	Activity	Facilitator
0800-0845hrs	Registration	TBA
0845-1000hrs	Recap and Presentation by Keynote Speaker	TBA
1000-1015	Health Break	TBA
1015-1300hrs	Stakeholders Dialogue	TBA
1300-1400hrs	Lunch Break	TBA
1400-1630hrs	Plenary Session	TBA
1630-1700hrs	Closing and Take-home Messages	TBA

### Submission Email:

Submit abstract (200 words) and full paper (5000-8000 words) to: [conference@zegu.ac.zw](mailto:conference@zegu.ac.zw) before or by the stipulated dates