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20 Zim students to study in US

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

UNITED States Embassy Charge d'Affaires Katherine Dhanani has commended pro-democracy groups for their role in advancing the cause of democracy and freedom from tyranny in Zimbabwe.

She was speaking during a sendoff ceremony for 20 students awarded US\$4.5 million worth of scholarships to study at various universities and colleges in the US.

Dhanani, acting Chief of Mission after the departure of outspoken Ambassador Christopher Dell, told the students and their parents the values shown by Zimbabweans were similar to those of the US.



KATHERINE Dhanani (centre) and Rebecca Ziegler Mano (right) at the sendoff function for Zimbabwean students who will be pursuing studies in the US.

"Yesterday I visited the Counselling Services Unit," said Dhanani, "where I saw Zimbabweans pushing for democracy and freedom in Zimbabwe. The visit reminded me of our struggles in the US in the 1960s at the peak of the civil rights movement. It was emotional to meet these strong and cou-

rageous young people.

"I realised Zimbabwe and the United States share the same great desire for democracy and freedom from tyranny.

"Most of the students are economically disadvantaged and went through a programme designed by the embassy to assist them through all the stages of the

usually cumbersome application process for study in the US.

"You, today, have shown this tremendous ability to overcome obstacles and achieve individual greatness."

Dhanani said the embassy views student exchanges as an excellent bridge between the people of the

United States and Zimbabwe. She noted the students were an exceptional group.

"You exemplify the hope for Zimbabwe's future. You have all achieved extremely high academic standards despite severe hardships. You stand as an example of what this country can achieve," she said.