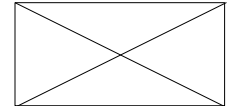


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Sunday News

Monday, July 20, 2009

News

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In This Section

- [Four die in mine mishap](#)
- [Plumtree armed robbers nabbed](#)
- [Man jailed for stealing](#)
- [Robbers terrorise Emganwini residents](#)
- [Liberation heroes take history to the graves](#)
- [Wife bashed for watching Usher video](#)
- [Zesa loses US\\$240 000 to copper wire thieves](#)
- [Five in court for starting a fire](#)
- [Swift employees accused of tampering with parcels](#)
- [Parent beats up school deputy head](#)
- [Horror during witch-hunting ritual](#)
- [Top MDC leaders disown Prof Mutambara](#)
- [Suspended MPs continue defiance campaign](#)
- [VP Msika recovering](#)
- [US supports inclusive Govt](#)

Four Byo students get US scholarships

Sunday News Reporter

FOUR students from Matabeleland have been awarded scholarships to study at top universities in the United States of America — one of them the prestigious Harvard University — with the assistance of the US Embassy Educational Advising Centre in Bulawayo.

In a statement released by the US Embassy in Harare last Monday, Embassy spokesperson, Mr Tim Gerhardson, said the students had received full scholarships this year to pursue undergraduate studies at some of the top US universities. “Due to their excellent academic achievements, our Educational Advising Centre in Bulawayo worked with four very talented students from this region who will receive full scholarships to pursue studies in the US,” said Mr Gerhardson who was in Bulawayo last week on a field visit where he also presided over the screening of a video on the US Great Depression for high school history teachers at the American Corner at the Bulawayo Public Library. Mr Gerhardson said the four students are Dalumuzi Mhlanga (ex-Mzingwane High), Prosper Nyovani (ex-Luveve High), Bukhosi Msimanga (ex-Shungu High) and Lesley Nyirenda (ex-Milton High).

He said the students would pursue undergraduate studies at Harvard University, MIT, Columbia University and Stanford University respectively. Their scholarships cover all tuition and fees, housing and food, medical insurance and book costs for four years of study.

Mr Gerhardson said on 26 June former US Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr James McGee, announced US\$5,5 million worth of scholarships to 17 students from various parts of Zimbabwe who enrolled through the United States Achievers Programme (USAP).

He said the USAP was a programme of the Education-USA advising centres that assists highly-talented but economically-

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disadvantaged high school students to negotiate and finance the process of obtaining full scholarships to study at accredited US colleges and universities.

In addition to being straight-A students, he said, the USAP participants also exhibit demonstrated leadership potential and the ethos of giving back to their community. Education-USA advising centres work with academically qualified Zimbabwean students interested in pursuing US study regardless of economic status, racial, geographic or ethnic background.

Mr Gerhardson said the Bulawayo Public Library houses an Education-USA certified educational advising centre under the direction of Mr Bongani Mkorongo.

The centre provides comprehensive, accurate and current information about higher education opportunities in the United States. Prospective students located outside Bulawayo and Harare can visit satellite advising centres at Gweru Memorial Library, Turner Memorial Library at Africa University in Mutare and Mucheke Public Library in Masvingo.

More than 1 400 Zimbabwean students are presently enrolled at various US-accredited colleges and universities.

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