

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES**

**JOURNALISM I: FOUNDATION SKILLS: (IJM 1104)**

**DECEMBER 2005 EXAMINATION**

**TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Section A and B are **compulsory**.
2. Answer **any two** questions in section C.
3. Start each answer on a new page.
4. Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised.

**SECTION A: COMPULSORY**

**Question 1**

Using the story in Annexure A, answer the following questions:

- a. In terms of what we discussed in class, is the lead good? If so, explain why. If not, rewrite it. **[15 marks]**
- b. What critical questions are not answered in the story? **[ 5 marks]**
- c. Is the story balanced? If so, explain why. If not, who else should have been interviewed and quoted? **[10 marks]**
- d. Several grammar and spelling errors appear in the story. Correct them. Attach the corrected text to your script. **[10 marks]**

**TOTAL: [40 marks]**

**SECTION B: COMPULSORY**

**Question 2**

- a) What are your three greatest responsibilities as a reporter? **[ 3 marks]**
- b) Which of these statements needs attribution: **[ 4 marks]**
  - Dieting doesn't work for the vast majority of fat people.
  - Two leading figures in the debate about the Zimbabwean senate will speak tonight at NUST.
  - A 40-year-old woman went berserk last night and shot her ex-boyfriend to death with seven shots from two guns.
  - City council members voted Thursday to increase city fines for littering.
  - President Robert Mugabe will travel to New York next week to speak at the United Nations.

- The vice-chancellor of NUST has agreed to sell fuel to lecturers at the pump price.
- Britney Spears is five months pregnant.
- An estimated four million Zimbabweans are living in South Africa.
- AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV.

c) Write hard news leads for stories based on the following information:

i) A fire broke out at Nando's on Robert Mugabe last night. Two firefighters were injured when the roof caved in. They are being treated at Mater Dei 'Hospital. The fire started inside an oven and the cause is under investigation. Six customers were treated at Mater Dei for smoke inhalation. Damages are estimated at \$1 billion. **[ 6 marks]**

ii) Robbers broke into the commerce computer lab at NUST on Sunday morning and stole six computers. The door to the lab was smashed in. A security guard saw six young men running from the building. Police searched the home of Vusa Muneri on Sunday afternoon and found one of the computers. Muneri, 19, is a second year student in Accounting. **[ 7 marks]**

**TOTAL: [20 marks]**

### **SECTION C: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS**

#### **Question 3**

Read Story in Annexure B carefully and answer the following questions:

- a. Is the information presented in the correct order? If not, re-order the paragraphs using the numbers assigned to them. **[15 marks]**
- b. Rewrite the lead of the story. **[ 5 marks]**

**TOTAL: [20 marks]**

#### **Question 4**

Carefully read the story in Annexure C, which was taken from The Standard. It is too long and too boring. Rewrite it, cutting it down to no more than 500 words, to make it more pointed and more interesting. **[20 marks]**

#### **Question 5**

Read the news in Annexure D, carefully. First, make a list of all the obvious sources the reporter used to write it. Also, list sources he should have consulted in order to improve the story and make it more balanced. **[20 marks]**

## **ANNEXURE A**

Bulawayo – The dog in her arms was shaking, its runny eyes wide with fear.

“Just relax, sweetheart, it’s OK,” crooned Maria Piri, the manager of the Bulawayo SPCA animal shelter, where 1,000 unwanted pets are put to death each year.

The dog settled into Ms. Piri’s embrace, making it easier for a veterinarian to inject a lethal dose of sodium pentobarbital. In seconds, the dog was dead, carried to a can, atop a mound of puppies and kittens, all awaiting pickup by a rendering company that would turn the animals into fertilizer.

“There’s not a day when you don’t think about walking away from this misery,” Ms. Piri said.

Tired of carrying out the daily killings, a novel solution to the pet overpopulation problem has been proposed by officials of the SPCA: a moratorium on breeding cats and dogs will be considered by the Bulawayo city council on November 13.

If the ordinance passes, pet owners will get their pets sterilized or buy a breeding license. If owners allow their pets to reproduce without such a license, they will face heavy fines.

The SPCA has launched a grisly campaign to generate support for the ordinance. The group has already inserted ads showing photographs of trash barrels full of dead cats into local newspapers.

Yesterday, they society held a public pet execution at a press conference, injecting five cats and three dogs with poison from a bottle marked “Fatal Plus” as cameras whirred and reporters jatted notes.

## **ANNEXURE B**

1. President Robert Mugabe confessed yesterday that millions of acres of prime land seized from Zimbabwe's white farmers are now lying empty and idle.
2. After years spent trumpeting the "success" of the land grab, Mr Mugabe, 81, admitted that most of the farms transferred to black owners have never been used.
3. All but a handful of Zimbabwe's 4,000 white farmers lost their homes and livelihoods when armed gangs of Mugabe supporters began invading their property in 2000.
4. In the first 18 months of the campaign, eight white landowners and 39 of their black workers were murdered, court orders defied and Zimbabwe's economy plunged into crisis.
5. Mr Mugabe said this was the price that Zimbabwe would have to pay to redress the wrongs of the British colonial era, which left much of the best land in white hands. He claimed that the seizures would boost production and benefit millions of blacks.
6. Yet in his home province yesterday, Mr Mugabe chided the new landowners for growing crops on less than half of their land.
7. "President Mugabe expressed disappointment with the land use, saying only 44 per cent of the land distributed is being fully utilised," state television reported. "He warned the farmers that the government will not hesitate to redistribute land that is not being utilised."
8. Some 10.4 million acres were seized under a scheme designed to create a new class of black commercial farmer. By Mr Mugabe's figures, 5.8 million acres are lying fallow.
9. Last year, Mr Mugabe boasted of a bumper harvest and said that Zimbabwe no longer needed help "foisted" on it from the United Nations World Food Programme.
10. His land grab had made Zimbabwe "self sufficient", Mr Mugabe repeatedly claimed, and the national maize crop was a record 2.4 million tonnes.
11. The Commercial Farmers' Union said that Zimbabwe grew only 850,000 tonnes of maize last year, not enough to meet domestic demand. In 1999, the last year before the land grab began, Zimbabwe grew 1.5 million tonnes. Then, Zimbabwe also earned about 263 million from tobacco exports. Last year, production had fallen by more than 70 per cent and earnings were down to 77 million.
12. Critics said Mr Mugabe's admission exposed the land grab's "failure".
13. "It has been a phenomenal and absolute failure on every level," said Tendai Biti, secretary for economic affairs of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change. "It has failed both in terms of production of crops and in terms of the occupation of the land."

14. The new farmers are unable to raise bank loans because their properties are formally owned by the government and they have no individual title deeds. Without loans, they cannot buy seed, fertiliser or farming equipment and the regime has broken a pledge to supply them with tools.

15. Some farmers have resorted to using horse-drawn ploughs. Many have given up trying to produce anything at all.

16. About 400 white farmers remain in Zimbabwe, with about one third of this year's tobacco crop of 89,000 tonnes coming from only 250 white landowners.

## ANNEXURE C

GROWTH points across Zimbabwe are still to live up to expectations which inspired their establishment in the 1980s, when it was hoped that they would graduate into towns within 15 years.

These centres were born out of the Government's first Five-Year Development Plan that covered the period 1986 to 1990. The Plan was aimed at developing marginalised rural communities.

At inception, the growth points were envisaged to be industrial and commercial semi-urban zones that would arrest rural-urban migration that was rampant during that time.

As a result, nearly every district in Zimbabwe was designated a growth point with emphasis on employment creation through the establishment of small and medium industries.

The growth points that were set up included Mutawatawa in Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe, Juru in Goromonzi, Mupandawana in Gutu, Ndanga in Zaka, Gokwe Centre, Headlands in Makoni, Watsomba in Mutasa, Chikombedzi in Chiredzi South, Nembudziya in Gokwe North, Hauna in Honde Valley and Rutenga in Mwenezi.

The Western half of the country saw the centres being established at Maphisa in Matobo district, Mbalabala in Umzingwane, Nyamandlovu in Bubi-Umguza, Dete in Hwange West, Jotsholo in Lupane, and Siyakobvu in Kariba among others.

However, lack of industrial development, a clear-cut marketing policy, social amenities, unreliable water and power supply, among others, have been detrimental to the development of the centres.

While others have remained nothing more than rural business centres, Gokwe and Nembudziya have developed to resemble small towns due to intensive cotton farming that accentuates land reform to propel the economic development of the centres.

However, despite developing to expectations, the two centres face an acute shortage of water as they rely on boreholes, whose supply is outstripped by demand from the growing population.

Some centres do not have reachable telephone systems and mobile phone networks due to the non-availability of telephone exchanges.

Most of the growth points have remained areas of consumption rather than production even though they are awash with raw materials suitable for industrial production. Some centres are endowed with mineral wealth, while others like Mutoko have granite mines that are a source of foreign currency.

However, mining companies are not ploughing back into the community, with royalty issues remaining a bone of contention between local authorities and mining consortiums.

Thus, growth points continue to be characterised by businesses such as beer halls and bottle stores, butcheries, grocery shops, flea markets, hair salons and a few banks scattered along dusty roads.

The manufacturing sector has been restricted to the production of coffins, scotch-carts, window frames and burglar bars while entertainment joints at the centres have been blamed for fuelling the HIV/Aids pandemic.

The unavailability of employment has forced many young men and women into prostitution and informal trades --- selling goods ranging from paraffin and soap, to clothing and imported goods mainly from Asia.

The Association of Rural District Councils (ARDC) president, Cde Jerry Gatora, is, however, confident that the Government's new development policies will bring about the required paradigm shift in development at the centres.

In a recent interview at Mutawatawa Growth Point, Cde Gatora said all along, development policies have failed to address colonial imbalances that led to a concentration of industrial development in urban areas at the expense of rural areas.

"We hail the Government's new development policies which have seen the centres being allocated billions of dollars through the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) for the first time since independence," Cde Gatora said.

He added: "The availing of the development funds had been long overdue as we have been lobbying for them over the years as we realised that without infrastructure and social amenities, investors won't come. You can't expect a serious investor to invest where there are problems with water, sewerage, power and communication among other things."

Cde Gatora, however, said the PSIP funds are a drop in the ocean, adding that if the centres are to attract meaningful investment as well as attracting and retaining professional qualified personnel more funds should be availed.

During its fifth biennial congress held in Victoria Falls in July, ARDC called on the Government to amend the national Constitution so that it recognises local governments.

Local authorities argued that the recognition would enable grants to reach them without being entangled by bureaucratic red tape that leads to late disbursement.

The councils also called for an amendment of the Mines and Minerals Act and the Rural District Council (RDC) Act. They also sought opportunities to visit foreign trade missions to understand what investors need.

Analysts say RDCs should consider public-private sector partnerships to raise capital since their unique infrastructure, which requires large capital outlays and long gestation periods, affects their credit worthiness prompting financial houses to think twice before releasing funds.

"There is need to look for alternative sources of funding as the rapidly growing demand on local authorities to build new infrastructure, rehabilitate and upgrade existing ones, and to replace ageing assets must compel RDCs to seek innovative solutions to the financing of development in future," said one Mr Bernard Ngwena.

He added that funding from the PSIP needs to be complemented by other measures such as public-private sector partnerships that would facilitate wider participation in the building of quality public assets and service delivery.

Other analysts called for accountability on the part of RDCs as some development programmes have been stalled, distorted and almost forgotten while some managers diverted funds to projects that have little or nothing to do with public interests.

There is need to revisit the original ideas that set up growth points with a massive promotion and offering of attractive investment incentives, even for the local investors.

However, the investment should not necessarily be capital intensive but labour based as labour is in abundance in the environs of the centres.



## ANNEXURE D

The management of Mozambique's largest institution of higher education, the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), has accused the leaders of last week's student strike of spreading "disinformation" about the outcome.

"The lies spread by the representatives of the striking students are very dangerous", declared UEM press officer, Raimundo Chambe, cited in Tuesday's issue of the independent newsheet "Mediafax".

The strikers' main grievance was a change in the regulations on scholarships. Previously scholarship holders could fail up to 25 per cent of their subjects in a year, with no financial penalty.

The new regulations, however, state that in order to qualify for a renewal of the full scholarship grant, students must pass all their subjects every year of their course. The University Council, on which representatives of the University Students Association sit, passed the new regulations.

The strikers (who claim that the Association is unrepresentative) padlocked gates, built barricades and effectively shut down the university for four days last week. It was never clear how many students supported the strike - but there are only 1,950 scholarship holders out of around 10,000 students.

When the strike ended on Friday, stories began circulating among the students that Vice-Chancellor Brazao Mazula had accepted the strikers' main demand, and that the requirement for maintaining a scholarship would be for a student to pass 75 per cent, rather than 100 per cent, of his or her disciplines.

Chambe made it clear that this was untrue, and that Mazula has not backed down on this key issue.

In reality, according to the university, the strike ended without consensus. There was thus no truth in the claim that the strikers had won, and all that was lacking was Mazula's signature on the agreement. Even if he wanted to, Mazula could not change the scholarship rules on his own. Chambe pointed out that any change in the regulations would have to be approved by the full university council. Chambe admitted that the climate on the campus remained tense, and "anything can happen".

The chairman of the students' association (AEU), Jeronimo Mariano, told "Mediafax" that the students ended the strike after Mazula had accommodated some of their demands which did not exceed the Vice-Chancellor's powers. Mariano did not say what these issues were.

But he agreed with Chambe that only the University Council can change the scholarship rules, and the Council's next meeting will be in December.

One concession from Mazula seems to be that, for the time being, no student will be evicted from university accommodation.

Mariano said Mazula had decided that students who have completed their courses (and should therefore leave the halls of residence) will be allowed to stay until they have defended their end-of- course dissertation. About 200 students are in this situation.