

COVERAGE OF STEM INITIATIVE IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS. A CASE OF *THE HERALD* AND *DAILY NEWS*.



MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND SOCIETY STUDIES

**COVERAGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS
(STEM) INITIATIVE IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS. THE HERALD AND DAILY
NEWS.**

BY

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Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements of the Bachelor of Science
Honours Degree in Media and Society Studies.

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STATEMENT OF SUPERVISION

I hereby certify that I personally supervised this dissertation in accordance with Departmental Regulations and the University's General Academic Regulations for Undergraduate degree. On that basis I declare that the dissertation is examinable,

TITLE OF DISSERTATION:

Coverage of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative in Tertiary Institutions. The Herald and Daily news.

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DECLARATION

I, Ozwell Gono (R146368C) do hereby sincerely declare that this dissertation is my own original work that has not been previously submitted to any other university. In writing this work I duly complied with ethical issues and laws governing intellectual property.

DISSERTATION TITLE: Coverage of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Stem) Initiative in Tertiary Institutions. The Herald and Daily News.

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Ozwell Gono

Date.....

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I dedicate this piece of study to my parents Mr and Mrs Gono, thank you for your love, encouragement and support, your financial help and your prayers. My brother Edwell Gono, My Pastor Mr Kufakunesu I love you all, you were all sent from the heavens. I thank you for your sacrifices towards my school work. This dissertation was not going to get the first-class if it was not for my supervisor Dr B. Muromo, may the almighty God keep on giving you wisdom

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Abstract

The research explored the coverage of Zimbabwe's STEM initiative in tertiary institutions by The Herald and Daily News how each newspaper was reporting the government's initiative at higher and tertiary level. The polarized content produced by the two newspapers was taken into considerations as this was influenced by the different ownership patterns of the two newspapers. The study which is qualitative in nature used archival research as a method of data collection. Through content analysis and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), it was established that owners of the newspapers and advertisers are involved in the process of content creation at *The Herald* and *Daily News* through their financial and political power. The provision of revenue in terms of advertisements to the two newspapers automatically gives power to the advertisers to determine how the STEM initiative should be framed to the readers. Those in control influence their newspapers what to write and how they represent the government's progress on STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. The Herald controlled by the government which is the ruling party ZANU PF would frame the government spearheading the STEM initiative only in a positive way while Daily News, a private anti-government newspaper would criticise the government exposing their failures in spearheading the STEM initiative. There is need for the two newspapers to give more coverage of STEM at tertiary level and not just primary and secondary giving absolute fair coverage and reporting without the influence of ownership control.

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COVERAGE OF STEM INITIATIVE IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS. A CASE OF *THE HERALD* AND *DAILY NEWS*.

Chapter One: Introduction

1.1 Introduction

In recent years an educational movement has risen that aims to introduce young students to subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) throughout the whole world. The program was introduced by Dr Judith Ramely in 2001 and has won widespread acceptance as a convenient way of referring to these academic subjects. The Science subjects in STEM in Zimbabwe's educational system include Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics. Framed as educational equality initiatives that will enable students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to compete in the global industrial marketplace, STEM may be the most indicative educational reform discourse of our time and has become a primary focus of educational policy in Zimbabwe. It is not surprising that STEM is now a common practise at primary and secondary education levels but not everyone including key stakeholders understand what STEM education is and how it is being implemented at tertiary education level.

This media step in and provide an overview of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions how its operating and its significance for Zimbabwe to embrace it for sustainable socio-economic transformation. Media are a very powerful in form of communication acting in the world as an ideological weapon used to win the hearts and minds of the audience. Newspapers are a very powerful instrument in spreading ideologies and ideas of the government's STEM initiative. This study takes a closer look at the coverage of STEM in tertiary education institutions by the local newspapers in Zimbabwe specifically *The Herald* and *Daily News* and the different views and content that they have produced for the audience thus constructing different frames the initiative.

1.2 Background to the study

The first students to go to tertiary institutions under STEM from Zimbabwe are those who sat for the 2017 Advanced level exams. They study for STEM degrees in the fields of life Sciences, Chemistry, various fields of Engineering, Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy. At these levels students conduct research, design, and manufacture, develop, incubate, transfer and commercialise technology for sectors of the economy

(Parawira, nd). When they graduate with STEM-related degrees and diplomas they are expected to be creative, project oriented, understand all stages of invention including ideation and development and have the ability and courage to set up high-tech enterprises so as to promote innovation, wealth creation and entrepreneurship for their country in the future.

McQuail (2005), highlights that the media organization which creates content is an important link in the process of conveying content of what is ahead. In this regard, the size of the organization, forms of ownership and purpose can be seen as having direct consequences for the operations of the particular media organization in letting the mass audience know what is ahead for the STEM students and how it will benefit the country as a whole. McQuail (2005) highlights that the conduct of a particular media house differ because of structural features that in turn affect performance and content produced and offered to audiences.

The editor, who is responsible for operating the publication can work in a way which is profitable for its owners and affecting content distributed to the readers. When the audience is greater there is a likelihood of a greater profit too. An editor picks content to publish so as to attract a lot of readers among the targeted audience. There is abundant literature on the effects of revenue generation by the media organisations on content production. (Herman and Chomsky et al (1988) clarify media behaviour by examining the pressures from institutions that constrain coverage and news content that is influenced by a profit-driven system according to the propaganda model.

This study explores how profit motivated print organisations frame the government's educational policy of STEM in tertiary institutions and the relationship between the print organisations and their advertisers which is best described as a symbiotic one. This raises the question to the extent which media content serves political and advertisers' line of interests (Burtonc, 2005; 18). Garnham (2000) states that in order to understand what the economy of the media sustains within it one must understand the political economy of advertising. A private newspaper like *Daily News* is funded by the owner's investments or by adverts from different companies' and individuals and this study seeks to find out to what extent political, social and economic influence can affect coverage towards STEM in tertiary institutions by the newspapers. *The Herald* and *Daily News* newsrooms have been transformed from print publications for information, education and entertainment for the public to mere print organisations carrying out their owners' ideas.

1.3 Problem Statement

The main aim of the research is to try to find out and explore the different angles of coverage towards STEM by the two newspapers and how this affects content received by the consumers or audiences. Effects of ownership on content are looked upon by the research since the publicly owned newspaper is controlled by the government which is implementing the STEM initiative while the privately owned criticizes the initiative giving no room for positivity towards the government's STEM.

1.4 Objectives of the study

This study seeks to:

- Explore the coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary education institutions by *The Herald* and *DailyNews*.
- Explain the influence of the owners on content produced towards STEM initiative in tertiary institutions.
- Explore other possible forces besides ownership patterns that influence the different coverage of the STEM initiative by *The Herald* and *Daily News*.

1.5 Research questions

1.5.1 Main research question

- How different types of ownership of newspapers affect content produced towards STEM initiative in tertiary institutions?

1.5.2 Research sub-questions

- How is the STEM initiative in tertiary institutions covered by *The Herald* and *Daily News*?
- What are the other possible forces that influence the coverage of STEM in tertiary institutions?

1.6 Significance of the study

Bagdikian (2000) summarizes that news is not a representation of the world but rather a constructed reality that is shaped by different forces including revenue, ownership and control. Newspapers are regarded as active constructors of realism since framing for us what we must think and they determine what to give to the public. The research strives to notify policymakers from *The Herald* and *Daily News* to create knowledgeable decisions that benefit in providing accurate and fair content whenever they cover something. This entails in creating administrative policies which enhance news making and dissemination in the media houses.

Many newspapers in Zimbabwe like *Newsday*, *The Herald*, *Chronicle* and *Sunday News* have covered the STEM initiative focusing mainly on the primary and secondary education sector. Tertiary level is now the next level that the STEM students from secondary head for and it is important for the same coverage done at primary and secondary institutions to be applied in tertiary institutions as it is a significant platform for the STEM students.

Print media play a key role in the field of information. Newspapers are most popular in the African setup which are readily available in print or online. It is important to have a clear understanding of how the STEM initiative is utilized and operating in universities and colleges locally and abroad in the quest to implement the government's program. The study therefore seeks to determine if Zimbabwe newspapers are capable of covering objectively and fairly the STEM initiative in the tertiary sector and letting people get more knowledge on the program at that level.

Mantrala (2007) suggests that newspapers' revenue derives a consumer market for media products and an advertising market in which access to an audience is sold to advertisers and end up depending on the advertising market. Newspapers are vulnerable to pressures of advertiser who make them to modify editorial content which they would have covered. Steinem (1990) posits that pressures from advertisers may be conscious, as suggested by reported cases of threats to withdraw advertising investments if newspapers do not abide by

the advertisers' policies. The research is worth studying as it seeks to make an assessment on how newspaper coverage on STEM in tertiary institutions is affected by ownership patterns.

1.7 Assumptions

The study assumes that content creation by newspapers from their coverage is largely affected by the influence of advertisers as newspapers are motivated by income therefore they prioritize advertisers' wishes more than those of readers. The newspaper is also equally affected by ownership and control patterns in its informative publications as they dictate what should be published.

The STEM initiative is assumed to some extent to be benefiting the science sector only and that the government has not considered the Commercial and Arts sectors as they play a crucial role also in the development of the country and the media do not give fair coverage to the other departments like they do to the Science sector. The two newspapers used in the study give two different representation of the STEM initiative as The Herald wants to convince the citizens the initiative from the government is important while others want to expose its weaknesses over other sectors of learning.

1.8 Delimitations

The study assesses two newspapers dealing with their editors, journalists and readers narrowing the sum of respondents. The main thrust of the research is to determine the outcome and depth of informative content from newspaper coverage towards STEM in tertiary institutions, focusing exclusively on the leading daily newspapers on articles that relate and inform the readers.

The study focuses on coverage by Zimbabwe's leading pro-government and anti-government newspapers which cover most regions in the country. Also available online the newspapers cover and publish anytime every operation made by the government towards STEM initiative covering all areas be they positive or negative. This study mainly focuses on explaining the issue of funding and control of the newspapers from 2016 up to date.

The study also focuses on the readers only as the only audiences of the study. The study will cover readers around Zimbabwe. The study excludes coverage of STEM in primary and

secondary institutions in the country. The readers that were covered are between 21 years-50 years who read these newspapers.

1.9 Limitations

Simon and Goes (2013) define limitations as matters that occur and are beyond the researcher's control. Not much is available on the articles of STEM in tertiary institutions as newspapers have been giving most attention to the primary and secondary sector where STEM has been running for quite some years. There are many newspapers giving full coverage on STEM like *Newsday* and *Sunday News*. That is a limitation as that causes generalization of information as the researcher is forced to believe that ownership and other day to day coverage of other important areas have to be covered first is affecting all daily newspapers content production. The study is also limited by political newspapers as they cover more areas in politics more than any other bits.

1.10 Structure of the study

Consisting of six chapters, the research introduces chapter one giving a background of the research. Chapter two concentrates on literature review and the theoretical framework. In chapter three it's all about research methodology and design applied in carrying out the study. Chapter four has an organizational analysis of the two newspapers under study. Chapter five focuses on data presentation and analysis and chapter six provides a summary, conclusion and recommendations for the research.

1.11 Conclusion

This chapter has laid out the background of what led to partaking in such a study giving significance and purpose of the study. Objectives and questions raised in the chapter give an insight and understanding of what to expect throughout the whole research. It paves way for chapter two which deals with literature review and related theoretical framework to the study.

Chapter Two: Literature review and theoretical framework

2.1 Introduction

This chapter further explores the concept of newspaper coverage on government programmes paying particular attention to Zimbabwe's STEM initiative. This review undertakes a thematic approach and the themes originate from the available related literature. Theoretical frameworks of political economy of the media and framing theory are explored to understand the study from a theoretical point of view.

2.2 Literature Review

Airasian, (2003) says literature review puts emphasize on discovering and analysing what other scholars have written about in relation to the topic which is under study. The research works on linking the study to previously published articles from other scholars and researchers of education coverage which helps clarify the problem statement, explain possible techniques and minimize possible mistakes in the study.

2.2.1 Communication for education by newspapers to enhance participation

Communication takes many forms of texts to be encoded and decoded from the sender and receiver. According to Saywell and Cotton (1999), communication is used in different interrelated ways, firstly the connections and activities which take place amongst actors in the education sector. Secondly transmission of information, knowledge or data between two or more points is looked at. The third way they mentioned were the processes and ways through which these communications take place. Communication by newspapers is multi-faceted and multi-directional and both an event and a process which is an interaction, as well as the means of interaction influencing participation. Opubor (2001), states that for government and educational ministries to guarantee effective communication strategies for education participation, they may require the association of public and private communication organisations whose expertise is to design and implement their ideas. This can be through advertisements every now and then, flyers from their print companies and articles which capture the readers' attention.

Newspapers today in the modern world still play an important role in communication process of information. Newspapers contribute significantly to the development and participation of education through disseminating of information frequently which is intended to promote awareness and understanding towards education to the people. Opubor (2001) implies to the contribution of newspapers how they facilitate dialogue between the powers that be in control and the public. There is also the building of consent on these matters which, in turn, leads to prevalent support for national education objectives and programmes.

De Boer (1950) posits that in spite of the rapid development of other means of communication, the newspaper remains the people's chief source of information regarding current affairs. Harsh (2018) supports the above notion stating that newspapers as print media is still one of the trustworthy media of mass communication as it is the only medium which connects the world to the masses. Many people think that there is an end of the print media after the new media came, but the trust and faith many readers have in newspapers cannot be gained by the converged media as well as electronics. However, in the new age of electronic media, newspapers have lost some significance when it comes to communicating with people. Belizaire (undated) says that newspapers in communication do not elicit an immediate response due to inability to capitalize on emotions as TV and radio can and the message may be buried among a vast variety of information while readership these days may not be even high due to new modern media and illiteracy. Hence newspapers may not be that effective in communicating with the audience who read the newspaper in an era of technology and social media.

2.2.2 African governments' use of advertising as a weapon to advance their policies

The success of the media in many African countries is determined by the economic conditions under which they operate. In most media markets the main source of income is advertising, without which many news organisations struggle to survive (Chinenye, 2012). Hardy (2014) argues that this dependence on advertising revenue "is the single most important way in which advertising influences media. On the same note, Rinallo and Basuroy (2009) further argue that when publishers depend on advertising (mostly from the government) for survival, they become vulnerable to the pressure of the advertisers to organise news content in a way that suits their advertisers' interests. In many cases, the

advertisers exercise their control on the media content by interfering with the daily duties of journalists (Al-Hasani, 2008)

The fear of losing advertising revenue from the government is one of the major reasons which forces newspapers to deviate from their principles of journalism and be biased towards their coverage. Kilbourne (2011) states that because of pressure from the government through their control through advertisements, the media frame their coverage in a way that reflects the government's program in a positive appraisal manner all the time. Al-Hasani (2008) postulates that the government is the biggest advertiser in most developing countries thus the implication is that governments use advertising as an incentive to influence positive and maximum coverage. Government advertising erodes the independence of media and allows government ministries to capture the media to serve their own interests and propaganda. Chininye (2012) recommends self-regulation for the media in order to avoid interference from the government and other stakeholders in their work. He further adds that the best form of self-regulation is adherence to the principles that guide the professional practise of journalism.

The strategy of use of advertising by governments in order to promote their policies has been common for decades. The Irish Times (2018) reveals that governments publish education policies every year and instead of relying on trying to secure media coverage through speeches, policy initiatives and the normal business of communication, the new strategic approach to win the media is to advertise. News24 (2017) in its recent publication emphasizes that African governments grow anxious if they do not control the local news agenda, much less articulate government policy since they see it as a means to staying in power. For governments in most African countries, views that compete with the state position are often cast as legitimising the opposition agenda which is why governments use advertising to express what has been named by many ancient scholars as ideology of order. Wasserman (2018) implies that the media can escape government's control through advertising by claiming their role in a democratic debate, being fair and listening to the public rather than to politicians and their cronies, which would be a good place to start.

Cage (2014) views newspapers as businesses shaped by many economic factors and rely on revenues from sales, advertising and also on government subsidies leading to their favoured

coverage in line with the government's ideas. DiTella and Franceschelli (2011) share a similar view that the more newspapers get government advertising, the less coverage of the government's scandals. Strong ties between newspapers and political parties or the government are made all because of advertisements. Hallin and Mancini (2012) dismiss the above assertions arguing that many newspapers do not operate as conventional businesses as they survive on the generosity of politicians who dictate the publication schedule. On the other hand governments invite journalists from the public and private media to accompany them on official trips.

This study fills the gap in media coverage by investigating media coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions and how the two newspapers under study have done it while facing government pressure. Such a review, is timely relevant to the form of literature that pursues to comprehend discourse, power and the facilitation of knowledge.

2.2.3 Relationship between Print Media and Government on Educational Policies

Understanding the forces at work of the press relations with the government is vital as it has effects on the information that reaches the public. Barrett and Greene (2015) note that much of the commentary about government policies and functions associates the government and the public all being linked by the press.

There are certain media theories to explain the print media-government relations. Hallin and Mancini (2004) say the system of newspapers operate under economic, political, social and cultural systems influencing the compliance and application of these system methods on relationships between print media and governments. Siebert (1956) expresses four theories of the media in an attempt for comparison of media systems which are, the libertarian, authoritarian, social responsibility and the Soviet. However, Hallin and Mancini (2004), critic Siebert's theory which they say is outdated, shallow in theoretical content which should be useful in today's media research. Three models of media systems are proposed by Hallin and Mancini (2004: 12) which are liberal, democratic corporation model and polarized pluralist model.

Barett and Greene (2015) posit that the press and government is inherently in conflict, mounting animosity and frustrations. Reporters have the impression towards government officials that they will be keeping away secret information while the government feel like the press is misinterpreting what is really going on. According to Herman and Chomsky (1988) they posit that the print organization is an essential part of communicating in any government system informing, entertaining, educating through differently constructed frames to people with their beliefs and perceptions of government's educational policies so as to integrate them into the system. "The media provide a sphere for debate and a set of channels for government and politicians as the means of publicity and influence for these actors," (McQuail, 2005: 18). The government certainly need the newspapers to justify their activities publicly to promote a positive image over their opponents thus an advantage, win public approval of their educational policies being implemented. "Newspapers acquire most of the information from official sources to fill out news holes on daily basis with a more affordable way," (Bennett, 1990: 106). The government and media relationships are inevitable in every system.

How people get to read in newspapers about the government and get an understanding of it is determined by the frame represented to them by the newspaper. As Lipman (1922) rightly observes how people deal with the government is out of reach, sight, mind as they do not have direct experience. McQuail (2005) posits that the media assist people in reaching out to the world through constructed news frames selected under different motives with consistent biases. As people don't have the choice for independent authentication of information for most of the government's programs, public inevitably relies on the print media which does not operate accordingly and has a reciprocal relationship with governments. Entman (2004) argues it is not enough for media to present material in ill digested scattered fragments all because of their relationships with the government. Rather, a counter frame constructed of culturally resonant words and images is what citizen's need, one that attains sufficient magnitude to gain wide understanding as a sensible alternative to the government's interpretation of their education policies. That way the public has a better chance of constructing their own opinions which are not controlled by the governments and powerful big media relations. Through this literature this study seeks to analyse the relationship between print media and government how it is affecting content produced towards education coverage.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

“A theoretical framework consists of concepts, definitions and their references that serve to strengthen a study,” (Swanson, 2013:4). Theoretical framework serves a great importance by connecting the researcher to existing knowledge and effectively enlightens the researcher when they engage the study. Two theories explored in this chapter are political economy of the print media and framing. Abend (2013) explains that theoretical framework organizes and supports the field of study. It introduces and describes the theory that explains why the topic under study exists giving an understanding of theories and concepts relevant to the research topic.

2.3.1 Critical Political Economy Theory

Generally, critical political economy is concerned about the inequalities in society and how they are reflected or promoted by communication structures (Browning and Kilmister, 2006). Its priority is on the interplay between economic organisations and political, cultural and social structures. In terms of the media, McChesney (1989) points out that the concern of critical political economy is the ways in which news is influenced by relations between media ownership, editors, sources and news consumers, and power relations. From this perspective media production is seen to be increasingly falling into the control of fewer large corporations and being altered to suit the interests and strategies of those corporations. This is a big worry for critical political economists because conglomeration and concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few people means enormous influence on media content and enormous power for the few.

For advertising, the biggest concern of critical political economy is about the implications of media dependence on advertising revenue and the implications of advertisers’ influence on the media (Lee, 2011). As indicated by Hardy (2014) he says that there are critical concerns about the growing amount of advertising carried, the placement of advertising, the invasiveness and reach, but the main critique is around influence on non-advertisement content. According to Hardy (2014), the critique implies that commercial newspapers cannot avoid the influence of advertisers because even if the advertiser does not bring any advertisement, they have to compete for the advertiser’s attention and serve the interests of

the advertiser in order to survive.

Herman and Chomsky (1988) claim political economy to dealing with factors of ownership and control and funding mechanisms. Ownership and control leads to the manipulation of media content on the consumers all because of those who have the power financially and politically. Schudson (1989) advances that political economy has an influence on the production of content in newspapers, what to be published and what is not to be published. Mosco (1996) submits that political economy of the media studies social processes and looks at the production and dissemination of news. Gurevitch (2000:73) states that political economy of the media is “interested in seeing how the making and taking of meaning is shaped at every level by the structured asymmetries in social relations.” Thus looking at the two mainstream newspapers in discussion, the political economy of the two organisations determine how the STEM initiative is framed in an attempt to present it in a manner to win the agreement of the citizens of its operations.

Political economy is essentially the study of the politics of economic relations. The term itself is somewhat ambiguous and can have varying meanings across different disciplines. According to Murdock and Golding cited in Curran and Gurevitch (2005), political economy keeps its “distance from the liberal pluralist tradition of analysis with its broad acceptance of the central workings of advanced capitalist societies.” Political economy is said to be the study of economics in relation to the media. Ownership and control of the media in most developing countries are rooted in politics which affects content that the audiences get from the media. This is without doubt applicable in the scenario of *The Herald* and *Daily News* since reportage concerning STEM is marred by political discourses.

Ownership and control plays a pivotal role in how news is framed so as to please the hand that feeds the organisation as shown in the discussion. Golding (2000) postulates that political economy of the media is interested in how meaning is created and how communication is structured in society. The two newspapers in this study frame news in way that is determined by who funds who and for what purpose as has been shown in the discussion.

2.3.2 Framing theory

The study is also premised on the theory of framing which grasps that the subject at hand can be regarded from a variety of perspectives and be constructed as having repercussions for multiple ideals or considerations. “A frame organizes everyday reality and helps promote specific views and agendas.” (Chong and Druckman, 2007: 104).

Entman (2007) proposes a frame to be considered in a way which introduces the salience and seeming importance of certain ideas, activating representations that encourage audiences to think, feel and decide in a specific way. Chibuwe (2016) speculates that newspapers use frames with salience that enables people to identify its agenda. Examining the prominence given to certain frames and also their positioning, the two newspapers established an agenda towards STEM coverage in tertiary institutions that in choosing the frames and displaying news content in the publications the editors and newsroom staff play a key part in shaping reality.

An argument is also raised on the fulfilment to informing the two newspapers whereby they were publishing different vies of content towards STEM initiative. But the polarized framing in the two newspapers raises questions about the extent to which their coverage of STEM in tertiary institutions educated the citizenry. Entman (2007) postulates that biased content refers to the constant patterns in frames within texts of communication which promote the influence of one side in conflicts because of the practice of power. Biased decisions by the media operates within individual minds of the journalists and within their institutions embodied in policies guiding their information process and framing of media texts. Tuchman et al (1985) gives certain factors influencing journalists to frame issues and these include social norms and values, pressures of interest groups, journalistic routines, organizational pressures and constraints, and ideological orientation.

The framing theory is of relevance to the study in that the study pursues to explore the structures of news content applied by *The Herald* and *Daily News* in potraying the success of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. The study therefore looks at how the two newspapers

constructed reality in relation to the coverage they made of the government's educational policy.

2.4 Conclusion

Chapter two pursues to link the study to other relevant related published material hence reviewing literature. Three themes were crafted and used and these are print media communication, relationships between newspapers and governments and political economy of the media have been studied. Theoretical framework was another vital part of the chapter where the researcher used two theories which are critical political economy and framing theory to help understand how they suit in the operations of the media in Zimbabwe.

Chapter Three: Research Methods and Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines how the study was carried out in terms of research. Various research approaches and methodological elements were used to address themes related to the study and analyses data on the coverage of the STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. Popenoe (1971) outlines research methodology as a conceptual, logic analysis through which techniques of data collection and samples are used.

3.2 Research Approach

The research uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches although largely qualitative in nature. Using two newspapers the study applies a mixed methods approach which Cresswell (2007) terms as involving theoretical assumptions so as to conduct the analysis and collection of data, mixing qualitative and quantitative approaches in the areas of research process. Mack et al (2005), say that qualitative research using critical discourse analysis and thematic presentation by its non-statistical nature permits for the obtainment of culturally specific information on the values, opinions, behaviours, views and social contexts of precise populations. Guided by the qualitative approach the study made use of the interpretive research approach which according to Bryman and Corner (2004) assist in presenting, gathering and discussing its findings. The qualitative research method helps to read and interpret more clearly different forms of meaning constructed in texts and from the frames by the *The Herald* and the *Daily news*.

Quantitative presentation and analysis of data allowed for the research to provide a descriptive data analysis in a statistical manner and arriving at a conclusion of certain trends in the. This method is fairly independent of the researcher and useful in studying large samples though my analysis was limited due to my lack of technical expertise making the

study very basic as I did not have the capacity or knowledge that allows more empiricism from the coding frames I would have derived. The methodologies were multiple, thus appropriate when addressing the crafted research questions. The research also prospers to find out how the media have handled the coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. This is valued in giving clearness, on how the newspapers can possibly act in building and destroying government's educational policies through different frames constructed to the society.

3.3 Unit of analysis

Trochim (2006) states that the first step in deciding how one analyses the data is to define a unit of analysis. A unit of analysis is the "who" or the "what" that one is analysing. It could be an individual, a group, or even an entire program. My unit of analysis from this study are two daily newspapers, *The Herald* and *Daily News*. The reason being that that are widely read and I observed that they report more on the government's programs and policies with one supporting and the other criticizing. No claim is made for representing all media in Zimbabwe as the research is limited to a case study of these two press editions. The research critically analyses the two newspapers for their differences in the representation of news towards STWM coverage.

3.4 Sampling

Marshall and Rossman (2011) note that sampling involves selecting out a certain section of the research population that has same characteristics resembling those of the overall population so as to represent the entire population. This research applied purposive sampling as its non-probability sampling technique, selecting newspaper articles based on a specific area in relation to the study instead of selecting randomly. Probability sampling did not allow access to the relevant sample, as only two particular newspapers covering a very distinct issue under a specified time frame were of interest. News articles were selected starting from 2016 to 2017. The time frame allowed the research to collect as many articles as possible.

3.4.1 Purposive sampling

Palys (2008) states that to say one engages in purposive sampling signifies that one sees sampling as a series of strategic choices about with whom, where and how one does one's research. This implies that the way researchers choose a sample should be tied to their objectives. "Purposive sampling is selecting a sample "on the basis of your own knowledge of the population, its elements, and the nature of your research aims" (Babbie, 1990;97). Purposive sampling is virtually synonymous with qualitative research. This non-probability sample is applied when the research selects the sample based on which pupils would be appropriate for the study primarily when there is a limited number of pupils with an expertise in the area of research to avoid too much broadness and generality of information.

3.5 Methods of data collection

Data collection is essential in a research study. Marshall (2006) proposes methods used for data collection in qualitative research which are interviews, direct observation, and analysing available material like documents also known termly as archival research and was the only one applied to the research in collecting and gathering data from news articles published by *The Herald* and *Daily News* since 2016.

3.5.1 Archival research

According to Donnell (1992) archival research deals with information that already exists, that was created in the relatively distant past. The study made use of the two newspapers' archives gathered mostly online from their websites and a few hardcopies collected. The type of data is important as it is quick and does not consume time as one will be analysing available material already. Since the research is on STEM coverage in tertiary institutions only appropriate relevant articles from both *The Herald* and *Daily News* had to be used.

William and Avialo (1993) say archival data can either be analysed or contrasting old data and new data when fused together. This method was used in the research to see changes in the representation of the STEM initiative, for example the coverage of STEM at primary and secondary institutions by the two newspapers before and after 2016. More-so the data was

used to analyse the framing and compare the representation of the government's educational policy, by both newspapers before and after 2016.

3.6 Methods of data analysis

Data analysis is defined as a process of systematically applying statistical and/or logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data. Miles and Huberman, (1994) propose that qualitative research, data analysis ranges from anthropological, interpretive and collaborative. "Interpretation approach is applied in many studies providing the means for discovering the convenient understanding of meaning and actions," (Strauss, 1987: 63). The collected data was submitted to critical discourse analysis in order to help the research in coming up with appropriate and reliable findings.

3.6.1 Critical discourse analysis (CDA)

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is an approach which is interdisciplinary to the study of discourse looking at language as a form text in communication. Scholars of CDA generally argue that social and linguistic practice constitute one another focusing on how societal power relations are established and reinforced through the use of language. Discourse refers to texts of different forms varying from conversations to printed texts. "Critical discourse analysis is mainly determined with the analysis of content, organisation and how the text functions," (Wetherell, 1987:23). CDA is useful in questioning the positioning of text, how it is related to interests of power relations through discourse.

Through subjecting the articles of the *Daily news* and *The Herald* to CDA, the research aims at creating an input providing a true public sphere on the issue of STEM's progress in tertiary institutions. Through CDA the research examines how influential societal groups manage public discourses in influencing the minds of the readers. *The Herald* newspaper is viewed as being used by politically powerful ZANU PF elites in the government to positively portray their operations towards STEM in tertiary institutions. Dominated groups in counter hegemonic struggles often resist the battle for mind control in counter hegemonic struggles. *Daily News* is also analysed its fight against dominant ideas spread in *The Herald*. Fairclough (1997) notes that CDA needs to primarily focus on social problems and political issues so as to address its aims.

The media are an ideological tool used in the process for struggle for influence and power by the ruling party and opposition party over the people. “CDA is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context.” (Van Dijk, 1997:6). The research looked at the educational policy of STEM how it was being applied in tertiary institutions and presented in *The Herald* and the *Daily News*. Headlines from both *The Herald* and the *Daily news* were submitted to CDA helping in coming up with different themes emanating in both newspapers. Wodak (2000) posits CDA can be used to refer to different approaches used in the study of texts that originate from wide-ranging disciplines. CDA is appropriate for this study as it does not treat language as unbiased in the reflection of the world we live. Fairclough, (1989) postulates CDA rather sees beyond the neutral as it brings out diverse constructions in social existence). For example language used by the *Daily News* in the representation of government’s STEM, the government are “failing” to accommodate many students with their “highly unnecessary expensive fees”. Fairclough (1989) posits that CDA, observes the enactment, reproduction and resistance of dominance and inequality by text in the political and social context. In trying to reveal hidden statements which may be behind construction of certain texts from the coverage, CDA was chosen in order to find some hidden meanings.

3.7 Ethical considerations

Ethics are moral standards the researcher proposes to hold throughout the course of the research. The research makes sure a truthful and accurate story is constructed. Each statement is not changed or re-represented in any other way to suit the research’s findings. Standards, conduct and moral judgement is what defines ethics and the research is therefore conducted and abides by the ethical standards and no false information is contained within.

3.8 Conclusion

The chapter focused on the research approach, methods and methodology collected to analyse data on the coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. Archival research, purposive sampling, and critical discourse analysis are the methods discussed in this chapter.

Chapter Four: Organisations analysis and Political economy

4.1 Introduction

The chapter discusses the structure of the two mainstream newspapers under study, *The Herald* and *Daily News*. It gives an analysis of their ownership and control, organisational structure, historical background, editorial policies and other areas of importance.

4.2 *The Herald*

The Herald is a state-owned and daily newspaper in Zimbabwe. The head office is located in the capital Harare

4.2.1 Organisational Historical background

The establishment of *The Herald* originated under the Argus group of South Africa during the colonisation of Rhodesia in September 1890. Moyo (2005) submits that it started as a handwritten weekly until October 1892 when it was named *Rhodesian Herald* and started being printed. The *Rhodesian Herald* was run by whites and served the purposes of Cecil John Rhodes helping spread their ideologies and empowerment of the white colonists of Zimbabwe. According to Moyo (2005) the Rhodesian Printing and Publishing Company (RPPC) was later introduced by the Argus Group. The Company's purpose was to see to the day to day running of the *Rhodesian Herald*. The white minority government, the Rhodesian Front (RF) in 1965 censored the newspaper.

In 1980 when Zimbabwe gained independence, the then government managed to acquire 51 percent of shares in the current *The Herald* newspaper. This saw the RPPC being changed to become Zimbabwe Newspapers (Zimpapers). The government was not to have direct control

over *The Herald*. The then Director of Zimpapers Simba Makoni postulated the vision which read “Zimpapers belongs to the people of Zimbabwe; we are a newspaper that supports the progress of people of Zimbabwe as a whole,” (Saunders, 1999:12). Zimpapers is a publicly owned company which owns several newspapers namely *The Herald*, *Chronicle*, *The Sunday Mail*, *Manica Post*, *Kwayedza*, and *The Sunday News*. Today the government remains the major shareholder in *The Herald* as it owns 51.09 percent shareholding.

4.2.2 Editorial Policy

The editorial policy works as a guide to reporters when they are gathering news to frame the angle which is in the interests of the organisation. *The Herald*’s editorial policy is to support one political party which is ZANU PF.

Their mission statement is to publish newspapers, magazines and books; produce print and packaging products as well as offer broadcasting services of the highest quality at competitive prices that add value to our stakeholders.

Their vision is to be the leading integrated media, commercial printing and packaging company in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Core values of the organisation ensure the prosperity and wellbeing of Zimpapers’ shareholders, employees and customers. In pursuit of its mission and vision, Zimpapers is guided by the following core values:

- Customer success and satisfaction
- Equal opportunity employment
- Offer quality products and services
- Efficiency
- Good corporate governance
- Profitability
- Continuous innovation

4.3 The Editorial Structure of *The Herald*

See attached Organogram in the appendix

4.3.1 Group Chief Executive

Pikirayi Deketeke is the Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and he is the most senior figure in the organisation. His job is to lead and direct all Zimpapers editors. He reports directly to the Minister of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services. He is the most top figure in the Zimpapers as his say is final on each and every article which is published. He has the power to deny some stories from being published in the newspapers. Deketeke is crucial in my research as he stands as the first chief editor of Zimpapers to allow *The Herald* to publish stories that cover STEM. The paper was well known to treat with respect the party's senior figures spearheading the STEM initiative. He also plays an important role as he seemed to have been taking orders from the ministry he reports to.

4.3.2 Editor

Caesar Zvayi is the Editor-in-Chief of *The Herald* tasked with spearheading the revamping of the publication, with editions for major cities and towns as well as the creation of a stand-alone *Saturday Herald* and the enhancement of the paper's digital footprint. He is a senior figure in the organisation as he reports to the CEO of Zimpapers. His duty is to see that stories go in line with the editorial policy of the paper. He also has the power to reject some stories which he sees not newsworthy. The nature of his job makes him relevant to this study as he also allowed stories of the government's educational policies. This position is not given to anyone but trusted party cadres and approved by the Minister of information according to government constitution. The editor has to make sure that the stories published fit the ideologies and agendas of the ruling party. He also ensured that those who dared to go against the STEM initiative be negatively portrayed as sell outs to the nation in *The Herald*.

4.3.3 Deputy Editor

The deputy editor is William Chikoto and his duties are similar to those of the editor. He stands as the editor in the absence of the editor, his duties range from helping processing the stories before they go for publication.

4.3.4 Senior Assistant Editor

This position is mostly administrative as it sees the hiring of staff in the newsroom including reporters. He is the authority who manages all reporters in the newsroom. Victoria Ruzvidzo presides over the position at the moment. His relevance to this study is that he also worked to

see that stories in *The Herald* portray positively the coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions.

4.3.5 News Editor

Herbert Zharare is the current news editor. His task is to organise the process of gathering news and the writing of all news. He is also responsible for the task of assessing information at hand and briefing reporters. Zharare is also required to plan and organise the coverage of news

4.3.6 Reporters

These are journalists who are responsible for covering and writing of stories. They work under a tight schedule as they are required by their desk editors to meet deadlines. The political reporter is the most important reporter as he is responsible for writing front page political stories which sell the newspaper.

4.3.7 Chief Photographer

He is responsible for taking pictures, some of which are put on the front page of the newspaper.

4.4 Departments and Relationships

There is a relationship of departments at *The Herald*, they work as a group to produce one single product that is in turn sold on the market. The departments range from the editorial team to transport and circulation departments. The marketing and advertising departments who are the backbone of the organisation as they look for advertisements to provide revenue to the company. The transport and circulation department make sure that the finished product is sold and distributed around the country. The financial department is responsible for all the financial decisions and transactions within the organisation.

4.5 Links with other Organisations

The Herald has links with various organisations in and around the country. It has links with organisations such as the national broadcaster Zimbabwe Broadcasting Co-operation (ZBC).

The two organisations are both mouthpieces of the ZANU PF government, thus they find common ground. *The Herald* shares a mutual friendship with advertisers and NGOs who are in support of the ZANU PF ruling government. This also influences its content as only stories which are pro ZANU PF and anti MDC are published in the paper. *The Herald* is a partisan newspaper which reports along the party lines. The newspaper also enjoys a warm relationship with other Zimpapers newspapers. These include *The Chronicle*, *The Sunday Mail*, *The SundayNews* and *Kwayedza* among others. These newspapers often exchange stories as they are from the same stable as the saying goes, he who pays the piper dictates the tune. This is witnessed in *The Herald* as the major shareholder which is the government dictates the content of the paper. The newspaper sings the ZANU PF party's tune and it sometimes acts the role of public relations, as it tries to protect the name of the party at all costs. Those with influential positions are aligned to ZANU PF and sometimes people with no media experience are appointed to top posts. This is due to their loyalty to the party; the paper gets what to publish from the ministry of information which has its offices in the president's office.

4.6 The Daily News

The *Daily News* is a Zimbabwean independent daily newspaper published in Harare.

4.6.1 Organisation Brief History

It was founded in 1999 by Geoffrey Nyarota, a former editor of the *Bulawayo Chronicle*. Bearing the motto "Telling it like it is", the *Daily News* swiftly became Zimbabwe's most popular daily newspaper. In 1989, Geoffrey Nyarota helped to break the Willowgate scandal with the *Bulawayo Chronicle*. The investigation led to the resignation of five ministers of President Robert Mugabe's government, but also resulted in Nyarota being removed from his post. After some years in exile, Nyarota founded the *Daily News*, an independent daily newspaper, in 1999. The paper stated that it would be neither pro-government nor anti-government, but would be a medium for vibrant discourse among the divergent political, social, religious and other groups of Zimbabwe, as well as fight for press freedom and freedom of speech. Its first issue appeared on 21 March 1999. The newspaper's motto was 'Telling it like it is.'

Saunders (1999) posits that the company which owns the *Daily news*, Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe (ANZ) is an establishment of local and foreign investments. The company gave

birth to the *Daily news* in Harare and the *Dispatch* based in Bulawayo in 1999. Glaser (2002) asserts that the *Daily news* became the most widely read and popular newspaper. The *Daily News* was formed the same year the opposition MDC was formed and it became a fierce government critic. Its courageous condemnation of the government for corruption and human rights abuses gave hope in a culture where silence was now dominant. Its distribution doubled from 60 000 to 120 000 surpassing that of *The Herald* which stood at 90000 (ZAMPS, 2000). After its formation the *Daily news* stated that it was not going to be pro or anti-government but rather a medium for vibrant discourse among different political, social, religious groups in Zimbabwe (Cape Times, 2012). This was at the climax of opposition MDC politics, where the party was most popular in urban areas.

4.6.2 Organisation Charter

This is a document which defines the editorial's role and positioning within our group. It embodies the spirit, policies and principles upon which the group's titles are edited and managed. The panel of directors and management of the daily news insist their promise to the theory of a free media and editorial priority. Directors and management acknowledge the responsibility of the editorial to report and comment on the affairs of Zimbabwe. This should be done honestly, truthfully regardless of any commercial personal and political interests. This also includes the interests of shareholders, directors, management and staff." (www.dailynews.co.zw). The *Daily news* also thrives to uphold the highest standards of professional, independent, honest and responsible journalism. "The paper also adheres to the constitution of Zimbabwe and works to deepen democracy in the country," (www.dailynews.co.zw). The research notes that the *Daily News* is still living by its standards in upholding the democratic discourse in Zimbabwe. This is seen by its watchdog role in the government day to day activities.

4.7 Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe (ANZ)

This is the company which publishes *Daily news* and its sister paper *Newsday*. ANZ's first editors Geoff Nyarota and Wilf Mbanga worked with African Media Investments (AMI) to establish a newspaper in 1998 which saw ANZ being registered. The *Daily news* was launched together with the *Masvingo Tribune*, *The Dispatch* (Bulawayo), *The Express*

(Chitungwiza), *The Eastern Star* (Mutare). These other papers closed due to financial problems except the tribune which was closed by the government according to (Moyo 2005).

4.8 Funding Mechanisms

The organisation operates on a profit making basis with Samuel Nkomo standing as the Chief Executive Officer. Advertising is the main source of revenue for the *Daily news* and it also relies on sales from the newspaper. The capital market reference to the parent organisation ANZ, with its evolving structure keeps providing capital for the organisation. As advertisers are the latter day licensing authority, they so much determine the content in the newspaper. The anti ZANU PF stance taken by the *Daily news* will be in line with what its advertisers want.

4.9 The Editorial Structure of Daily News

See attached Organogram in the appendices

4.9.1 Chief Editor

Stanley Gama presides over the position currently and he is the chief custodian of the *DailyNews* editorial policy. His duties range from assessing written stories, and he has the power to put or remove stories from the paper before its publication. He also has the power to determine the front page story. The editor often writes editorial comments commenting on current affairs.

4.9.2 Senior Assistant Editor

Chris Goko holds the position of the chief assistant editor at the moment. He stands in for the chief editor when he is doing other duties or is absent. He is also responsible for hiring and firing of newsroom staff, and he supervises all reporters in the newsroom. His relevance to this study is that he, like the editor also has a say in the final product of the newspaper. He also plays a role to ensure that the daily news fights the factional wars on the side of one faction and against the other.

4.9.3 Assistant editor

Ray Matikinye and Guthrie Munyuki are the current assistant editors. Their duties range from finalising content before it gets published. They are also responsible for space allocation of

stories in the newspaper since the responsibility of allocating space resides is under their authority.

4.9.4 News Editor

Farai Mutsaka holds the position of news editor and he is responsible for allocating diaries and assessing the newsworthiness of stories.

4.9.5 Reporters

These are journalists who are always in the field looking for stories

4.9.6 Chief Photographer

Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi is the chief photographer usually on a full-time or freelance basis. His first duty is to receive or pick up a job assignment. With a designated location given, he travels to that site. There, he tracks down the target or event in the area. All photographs taken by journalists are collected by the chief photographer into a portfolio and presented to the news editor who determines which photos are used for stories.

4.10 Links with other organisations

The *Daily News* enjoys a good working relationship with other privately owned newspapers in Zimbabwe. These include *Newsday*, *Independent* and *The Standard*. They also share a good working relationship with pirate radio stations like Studio 7 and Nehanda radio which are based in Britan. Non state actors and advertisers who are anti-government also have a good relationship with the *Daily News*.

4.11 Organisation of Structure Analysis

Chandler (2010) posits that those with the power to control the means of production have the competence to control the means of production. The *Daily News* is a privately owned newspaper which was formed when opposition politics was at its peak. Geoffrey Nyarota and Wilf Mbanga who are the brains behind the formation of the *Daily News* were considered to be fierce government critics. The newspaper is anti-government and it has been accused of supporting opposition politics in Zimbabwe. Its advertisers are highly anti-government hence they help in influencing content. The *Daily News* has also been accused of pushing for regime

change in Zimbabwe and its editors and reporters are frequently harassed by state agents. It was the first newspaper to write against ZANU PF.

4.12 Conclusion

This chapter looked at the organisational structures of both *The Herald* and *Daily News*. The research explores to see how their structures helped in reporting about the STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. The difference in the structures of the two newspapers helps to trace their ownership structures hence the output of their content.

Chapter Five: Data and presentation analysis

5.1 Introduction

The chapter dedicates to the findings established in the research on the coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. Objectives and questions drafted in chapter one are addressed

in the findings. The findings are presented thematically with the guidance of content analysis and CDA. The findings are based on articles collected from both *The Herald* and *Daily News*.

5.2 Ideological Inclination and Control: The causes of polarized coverage

The two newspapers under study have opposed ideological positions thus the reason that there is polarization in the coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. The ruling party which is the government control and fund *The Herald* hence reports in a pro-government stance. The *Daily News* as a private newspaper without government influence stands on its neoliberal stance hunting for profits and reporting in an anti-government stance. In the case of STEM initiative, an education policy put forth by the ministry of education led by ZANU-PF officials, it is justified that *The Herald's* framing was influenced by ZANU PF control. *The Herald's* headlines framed positively the government and the ministry of higher and tertiary education led by the then development minister Professor Jonathan Moyo in a way which showed development and a lot of progress being done by the government. "STEM at the heart of our mandate" Prof Moyo from 12 May 2016 publication quotes Professor Jonathan Moyo praising the then Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe.

"His Excellency put these ministries together was not so that they can co-exist under one roof and have no relationship to one another, it was in order to ensure that Higher and Tertiary education in Zimbabwe is driven by and based on science and technology. That's is visionary leadership because since then, the African Union has followed suit and advised that ministries of higher and tertiary education science and technology development must be merged in order to prepare the agenda for STEMITISED programmes that respond with real solutions to present day challenges."

It is thus possible that the frames used by *The Herald* were influenced by its control mechanism from the state.

Chibuwe (2016) states that *The Herald's* news editorial policy articulates *The Herald* not quoting certain sources especially those not in line with their editorial policies of speaking positively about the government. Ownership of the newspapers influence the newspapers in whom they choose to quote in their stories. *The Herald* sources speak highly towards the government's progress with STEM while *Daily News* critique the government. The frames are different and this is because of the impartial ideal watchdog they hold the government

account for their operations of STEM in tertiary institutions for example as seen in one of the publications from 31 January 2017 headlined “Parly grills Zimdef boss over funds abuse”

“Parliament’s higher education portfolio committee, chaired by Zaka Central ZANU PF legislator, Paradzai Chakona, took Mandizvidza to task over moves by the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (Zacc) to wage a campaign against powerful Higher and Tertiary Education minister Jonathan Moyo over alleged embezzlement of Zimdef funds.”

Thus it can be put into argument that the two newspapers’ positioning leads to different frames, where *The Herald* is pro-government and *Daily News* is anti-status quo.

The factors of ideological positioning, ownership and control and profit oriented goals have influenced the newspapers to the polarized coverage done towards the same initiative. On one hand, *DailyNews*’ motto “Telling it like it is. Without fear. Without favour” suggests of the scrutiny the newspaper will always have. *The Herald*’s editorial policy instructs of its unquestionable support to the government ultimately leads to polarization in both newspapers. The positioning of the newspapers is the reason why the *Daily News*’ content is different from the state controlled newspaper *The Herald*.

Discussion

The critical political economy (CPE) theory discussed in chapter two is relevant when applied to these findings. The articles from the two newspapers showed the control and influence their owners had on their operations. However, as critics dispute that newspapers can stay away from political and financial control by practising journalism according to the book and ethics. CPE is concerned about the implications of media dependence for financial gains. *The Herald* and *Daily News* cannot survive on their own thus have to operate according to their controllers’ ideologies in order to gain advertisements.

The provision of quality STEM education is fundamental to the success of the government’s overall strategy. In a road map to development status, the government in it’s policy to implement ZIM-ASSET and industrialization, introduced the STEM initiative as a vehicle to this attainment. This study is of the view that the media plays a big part in the promotion of STEM education in this country. It therefore analyses coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions by the print media namely *The Herald* and *Daily News*. From the articles

published by the two newspapers about STEM, it has shown that STEM in primary and secondary institutions attracted most media coverage compared to tertiary level. News was the main product in the coverage, giving this study reason to conclude that journalists do not conduct exhaustive investigation in their coverage. Finally, not much importance is given to education issues since they hardly get splash treatment or make headlines.

5.3 Representation of facts by *The Herald* and *Daily News*

At the start of 2016 the Zimbabwean government under Robert Mugabe made it a priority to prepare students for careers in technology. Together with ZIMDEF the government launched the STEM initiative and has been directing money towards bolstering science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education. The initiative in the country provides free education to all A-level students registered for STEM related subjects who have to attend college and universities when they finish A-level. The media have been covering the initiative portraying the initiative and the ones spearheading it in many different ways. *The Herald* and *Daily News* in a certain week covered STEM's future giving two different sides of the story after the dismissal of the then minister Professor Jonathan Moyo. *Daily News* were the first to publish on 14 February 2018 with a headline "Government abandons Moyo's STEM route" opening their story with the following statement,

"Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Development minister Amon Murwira issued a statement yesterday to the effect that funding for prospective "A" Level students looking to take up science subjects has been suspended with immediate effect."

The Herald the following day on 15 February 2018 would go on to publish in what seemed as a counter opposition in framing a different view of the STEM initiative opposing *Daily News'* frame by headlining "Government won't discontinue STEM says minister" which had one of its paragraphs quote the same minister Murwira say,

"Prof Murwira said some people were peddling falsehoods that Government had discontinued STEM. The programme, he indicated, was important for Zimbabwe's industrialisation drive."

Harcup (2009) postulates that, a news report just like a map still appears as a selected and mediated representation of reality. Journalists from *The Herald* and *Daily News* do not simply reflect the STEM initiative progress as it is, they select, present and structure their work to represent the initiative. Impartiality is what is required of a journalist's job, not being biased or showing favour to one side over the other. When it comes to STEM coverage, journalists are expected to reflect the initiative objectively no matter what angle they use, not allowing their feelings and favour to cloud their reporting in the newspapers.

As is evidenced from *The Herald* headlines which would publish the government as making plans or goals for the STEM initiative which is seen from the headlines of 21 September 2016 reading "Teachers' colleges to become universities" and from 19 December 2016 which read "Students' grants back next year: Moyo." The *Daily News* on the other side would write in a way criticising the government to improve on its operations and this is evidenced from their headlines from 8 December 2016 reading "Government must offer industrial attachments" and from 13 April 2016 reading "Rationalise tertiary education fees."

The National Union of Journalists' Code of Conduct says a journalist strives to ensure that information disseminated is honestly conveyed, accurate and fair. However, from the articles from *The Herald* and *Daily News* collected for this research have shown that bias can creep in and create unfair representations of individuals and groups based on certain cultural or political assumptions this is shown from the headline of *Daily News* "Government abandons Moyo's STEM route" while *The Herald* would write completely different the next day giving a different headline "Government won't discontinue STEM says minister". This bias may have stemmed from the individual journalist or may have reflected the underlying ideology of the media outlet's owners, in this case *The Herald* owners being the state government and for the *Daily News* being private owners.

The way people, government and groups were represented by the newspapers is very imperative as it shaped perceptions from the readers towards them and how they view STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. When they were understated or unfairly represented their concerns and perspectives tend to be marginalised and they can even become the subject of public criticism.

How articles were structured in *The Herald* and *Daily News* betrayed where the writer's sympathy lay, with one particular view presented as dominant depending with the newspaper. In *The Herald*, the then Minister of Higher and Tertiary education, professor Jonathan Moyo was quoted extensively in most of the article with only positive remarks being made and no lines of his political rival or critics were given. The *Daily News* also quotes different sources talking against the government and politicians spearheading the STEM initiative of how they are failing to operate the initiative and they would not add any quotes from the government officials or ZANU-PF members praising STEM.

Sensationalist language and tone was used to paint a negative picture of the government and their officials by *Daily News*. Use of inflammatory language was used on some of the *Daily News* headlines maybe to get attention and customers like the 14 August 2017 publication with the headline "Outrage over \$1bn Mugabe varsity". In the article it would quote language from MDC-T spokesperson Obert Mpofu of how crazy ZANU-PF politics had gone saying,

"someone, somewhere, is just trying to curry favour with Mugabe by massaging his personal ego. This is ZANU-PF patronage politics gone crazy".

Story angles are of paramount importance when it comes to the CDA of the representation of the STEM coverage by the newspapers. Each newspaper gave a different aspect of their story the most prominence. *The Herald* gave more prominence to the government with an angle showing of their pro alignment of what they were going to do in regard to STEM in tertiary institutions. Most of their headlines showed their angles they were writing towards for example some of the publications and their dates stated that "Students grants back next year" from 19 December 2016, quoting in the newspaper Professor Jonathan Moyo telling delegates at an annual ZANU PF National People's Conference saying,

"The ministry has engaged the RBZ to structure a student loan scheme for higher and tertiary education institutions to be run by financial institutions with proven micro-financing capacity," said Prof Moyo.

This shows how *The Herald* gives more prominence to ZANU PF and the government reporting them in an angle which shows them to the public as doing progress towards STEM initiative in tertiary institutions.

Daily News on the other hand it comes with an angle of criticizing the government and exposing their failures which can be noted from one of their headlines, “Rationalise tertiary education fees” from 13 April 2016 saying in the story,

“We are worried that the governing party which is packed by people who benefited from the students’ loan and grant system has now decided to punish the have-nots and in the process stall or defer dreams of a generation.”

Prioritising stories about a particular group or individual that reflect a certain view of them can lead to unfair representations, especially if stories that show them in a different light are ignored or downplayed.

Moreso, a story may prioritise a certain viewpoint in its selection of interviewees. It may not reflect everyone’s point of view equally or the other side of the story as the newspaper will be focused on presenting the story they want the readers to know. *The Herald* tends to favour official sources, for example the government and ZANU PF officials who comment in line with the government’s ideologies, but in doing so may reflect the view point of powerful elites. *Daily News* tends to do the same sourcing people who are not in line with the government especially MDC officials, individuals who are against the government’s operations.

As politicians continue to dominate the media the content which was produced from the two newspapers tended to reflect their view of the world. According to the study, when pictures of Professor Jonathan Moyo were used in *The Herald*, they were pictured nicely while in *Daily News* they appear differently and not nice. Picture selection may portray a positive or negative view of a person or group for example the *Daily News* opposed to the government selected a bad picture of the minister or delegates of the ministry of higher and tertiary education looking gormless.

Discussion

As discussed in chapter two, the framing theory comes to support these findings. *The Herald* and *Daily News* covered the same STEM initiative but delivered the content according to their own construction of news in their articles. Chong and Druckman (2007) posit that a frame organizes everyday reality and helps promote specific views and agendas. The facts of the STEM initiative are represented in both newspapers in different angles to suit their organizational policies and ideologies which they want to insert in their readers.

The Herald continues to represent the government doing only successfully towards the STEM initiative while *Daily News* only criticizes the government as failures to uphold the STEM initiative.

5.4 Effect of ownership on content about STEM

From policy and theoretical perspectives, the ownership effect on content produced by *The Herald* and *Daily News* has a great amount of attention in the study of the research. Absolute consensus is not available when it comes to the effect of ownership on the content produced towards STEM coverage because of mixed results. Ownership of newspapers appears in various forms which include coercion of editorial staff and direct censorship. The research employed thematic content analysis and coding of raw data from the articles retrieved from the online site of *The Herald* and *Daily* and from the CDA and observations made from archival research in the articles from the two newspapers there happens to be two approaches which are positive and negative effects in analysing this area of ownership effect on content.

Litman and Bridges, (1986) illustrate that under ownership of newspapers and its operations there is a position of financial commitment. The research establishes the view that media firms in a competitive market have an incentive of differentiating their content to avoid homogeneity and maximize on their profits from sales. We contrasted *The Herald* and *Daily News*, their story sources, length of articles, lead source, story subjects and the number of quotation per each article and the findings showed there is much difference in each

newspaper. In terms of subject both newspapers focused on STEM and the government and differed on how they framed them.

Glasser (1970) posits that there are three types of concern over the effect of ownership, first being associated with value. Divergent points of view from the owners are desirable because they sustain public debate which nurtures an informed citizenry bringing about a more perfectly polity. In other words diversity of viewpoint from *The Herald* and *DailyNews* is the requirement for democratic society.

Competition between the two newspapers could also have effects on content which was produced by *The Herald* and *Daily News*. Competition can increase resulting financial commitment to the newsgathering budget and the diversity of editorial content. However, the relationship between *The Herald* and the government who direct the STEM initiative is symbiotic since the relationship benefits both concerned parties.

Discussion

It merges that news coverage is influenced by ownership and when it comes to STEM initiative of the government it happened to be the most covered issue in the state owned *The Herald* more than *Daily News*. Objectivity though practiced in some instances is an implication to the research findings as it was widely affected by the editorial policy of each newspapers. The editorial line towards STEM coverage was largely attached to ownership influences in most cases.

5.5 Conclusion

The provision of quality STEM education is fundamental to the success of the government's overall strategy. In a road map to development status, the government in it's policy to implement ZIM-ASSET and industrialization, introduced the STEM initiative as a vehicle to this attainment. This study is of the view that *The Herald* and *Daily News* play a big part in the coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. From the articles published by the two newspapers about STEM, it has shown that *The Herald* is supporting the government while the *Daily News* is anti-government. The framing of the STEM initiative is different in

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the two newspapers as they give their own representations. News was the main product in the coverage, giving this study reason to conclude that journalists do not conduct exhaustive investigation in their coverage (Virginia, 2008:11). Finally, ideological control and inclination as a result of political economy of *The Herald* and *Daily News* has led to polarized coverage and representation of facts towards STEM initiative in tertiary institutions.

Chapter Six: Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Introduction

The chapter provides an evaluation of the whole research providing recommendations for future studies and a summary of the findings. The recommendations are established to remind future researches on the need to stick to ethical, balanced and objective reporting which will help in informing and educating the citizens just as it should be done in a democratic society.

The research looked at the coverage of STEM initiative in tertiary institutions by *The Herald* and *Daily News*. STEM in tertiary institutions was now beginning to be played out in the media as the first students under Zimbabwe's STEM who had finished secondary level where now heading to the next higher level, the tertiary level. The government which is under ZANU PF used *The Herald* to praise and promote the government towards STEM initiative operations in tertiary institutions. The *Daily News* however continues to fight the government ideology by exposing the weaknesses and failures of the government in running STEM initiative in tertiary institutions. The research utilised archival research to see how the two newspapers were representing STEM initiative in their publications. The study found out that those in control manipulate the newspapers' operations. It was found out that for a newspaper to carry out its norms of writing objectively without any bias, the owners should cease controlling them. Once the state continues to meddle in the affairs of the newspaper and the owners of the *Daily News* continue to stick to their policy of having the publication write nothing positive about the government then democracy is at risk.

6.2 Recommendations

The research offers recommendations in line with the findings going to future studies and both *The Herald* and *DailyNews*. In the finding, the research discovered the need to return to the ethics that guided the processes of journalism. This was discovered after the government's STEM was represented positively with no failure while the Daily News did the complete opposite on their coverage on STEM in tertiary institutions.

One sided stories were usually published without verification and sometimes opinions were used as hard news. Newspapers should allow various issues regarding STEM at tertiary level to be published without fear or favour. They should also give more attention and write more just like it is done at primary and secondary level on STEM giving deeper details of the initiative at tertiary level and not just cover the surface only as there is more to it at this crucial stage. Media should be a true public sphere and not a private sphere which is marked by exclusion of certain information which is very important.

Zimbabwean journalism needs to go forward only if the media to fulfil their role of absolute fair coverage and reporting. As the media can fuel or quell conflicts there is need for newspapers to be neutral by allowing a panel for discussion from the readers and sources towards STEM in tertiary institutions as appreciation and respect for divergent views should be practiced always by both newspapers. *The Herald* and *Daily News* need to stop deconstructing reality tell the stories as they are behind STEM initiative in tertiary institutions without diluting certain issues or being influenced by any factors hindering their reporting which will help in the development of an efficient media system in Zimbabwe.

6.3 Areas of further study

The STEM initiative under the goal of striving towards industrialization is an ongoing topic is getting more interesting as it has students reaching the tertiary stage. There is need to look at the Zimdef which helps the initiative besides focusing on the government only. Various updates emerge everyday hence there is need to consistently follow up and report whether STEM initiative emerges stronger or weaker for the students after changing the minister who was behind the implementation of the initiative. This research was only looking at The

Herald and Daily news' stories hence limited the research area but one can look at the other newspapers and see other angles.

6.4 Conclusion

The research conducted a CDA and archival approach for observation on how media covered and continues to cover the STEM initiative in tertiary institutions prior and post 2016 when it was first implemented in Zimbabwe. *The Herald* and *Daily News* were the newspapers under study establishing that both newspapers were not neutral in their coverage as it found the imbalances in their representation because of certain factors like ownership and control, ideological inclination and profit oriented goals of attracting readers so as to sell big.

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THE HERALD ARTICLES

5/7/2018 'STEM at the heart of our mandate' Prof Moyo | The Herald

<https://www.herald.co.zw/stem-at-the-heart-of-our-mandate-prof-moyo/> 2/9

Another 100 students stand a chance to win a laptop, a STEMITISED laptop, and these would be 10 each from the country's provinces and nally another 100 stand to win I pads and that would be ten each from the 10 provinces.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, it's important for me to take this opportunity as I introduce the Honourable Vice President to remind you what the principal mandate of the Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology Development is. This mandate is derived from the Manpower Planning and Development Act and it is for the Ministry to plan, develop and train human capital for the country's entire economy.

This is a mandate derived from the Manpower Planning and Development Act to train and develop the critical human skills that our economy needs and these skills are not permanently xed, they change from time to time and you would be aware that His Excellency, the President, in his capacity as chairperson of SADC announced industrialisation policy for SADC and its members and this is an industry strategy for Zimbabwe and other members of SADC which was adopted last year.

That policy means that our country must prepare itself for industrialisation and as such it means we must now plan, develop, and train human capital skills for the industrialisation of Zimbabwe and the most import skills that our country needs for its industrialisation are STEM skills. No STEM, no industrialisation!

We have seen from the debate that is going on since the launch of the programme that there are some people who believe that pure Science, that is Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry equal STEM. That if you have taken these subjects it means you are STEMITISED. That is very wrong because if this is true, even Isaac Newton was STEMITISED.

In order to have the STEM skills that are required for our industrialisation, our compatriots must have the

necessary foundation for the training of those skills and the necessary foundations are these pure Science subjects, Mathematics Physics, Chemistry and Biology and especially Mathematics. But if you have one or a combination of these, I repeat, it does not mean you are STEMITISED.

In the acronym, STEM, the first letter "S" is common, it is the summary that speaks to Physics, Chemistry, Biology and the last letter "M", for Mathematics, is also very, very important; it aects all elds whether they are STEM elds or non-STEM elds. But what is STEMITIC in STEM is not these subjects, it is the "T" and "E", the Technology and Engineering. That's what is STEM, Technology and Engineering, not simply Physics, Chemistry and Biology on one hand or Mathematics on the other.

We are hearing a lot of people running around saying they are doing STEM, simply because they are teaching these pure subjects, that's wrong. These subjects have been taught since time immemorial and what our country critically needs is the "T" and "E" which is Applied Science, technological and engineering solutions to the challenges that our country faces, Technology and Engineering solutions that will ensure the industrialisation of our country.

But we are not even talking about that, we are talking about people who can do software engineering, people who can do reverse engineering, people who can create new knowledge and have us patent that new knowledge as Zimbabwe's intellectual property.

Our universities don't have these students. The National University Science Technology was created as a science university, a technology university, a STEM university, but it has been a university for commercial studies. The graduates coming out of that university have not been STEMITISED, they are not even pure science students. Ask them 'why?'

We used to have a policy, ladies and gentleman: that you should not build a school if it does not have a laboratory, but there are schools all over without such laboratories. Minister Kasukuwere (Local Government) knows that land barons that are creating all sorts of illegal settlements are creating schools and those schools don't

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have labs, they can't teach science and yet there are many such. Some are in the recently resettled farming communities. We have to respond to such challenges, but while we are doing that, we have found it necessary to come up with a critical mass.

Yes, a critical mass of pioneering STEM students and we will make sure, thanks to Zimdef which is also under the Manpower Planning and Development Act, that these students will be supported throughout their STEMATIC education which means at least seven years.

We are here against this background to celebrate and incentivise these students as they embark on what we

think is an exciting journey. We feel privileged and honoured to have Vice President Mphoko with us, mainly because he is our boss in the Ministry. The Ministries have Vice Presidents who supervise them. We are supervised by Vice President Mphoko as a Ministry at the policy level, so we are here with our supervisor. Is this not it a good thing?

I say this because I was in the media and I know journalists ask a lot of questions, 'why is Vice President Mphoko there?' He is here because he is our supervisor and this is his programme!

Mkoba Teachers College will be the main university campus with a special mandate on teacher education

The expiry's strategic plan last year, however, occasioned a new round of consultations where the idea came up again, only open-ended and subject to the recommendations to be submitted by the committees in November.

According to the permanent secretaries, the committees will put to test the feasibility of different options including a scenario whereby colleges will offer degrees as stand-

5/7/2018 Teachers colleges to become universities | The Herald



Prof Moyo



alone institutions with the capacity to offer at least four degree specialisations.

Another option will be to make the colleges regional campuses, with one that already has the required structure becoming the main university campus.

Currently, teachers colleges and polytechnics have schemes of association with the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) and the National University of Science and Technology (Nust).

The committees will also consider maintaining the arrangement while opening up new partnerships with

other universities which already have faculties of education or engineering.

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Churches, for decades key development partner in the education sector, will be a naturally ally for the revolution being plotted.

“The committees will consider enabling church-run teachers colleges to enter into new schemes of association with their corresponding church-related universities, or even become faculties or colleges of these institutions,” said the permanent secretary.

Minister Moyo said the proposal to transform colleges into degree-offering institutions is “a clear message that STEM is not a jingle”.

He pointed out that his ministry was following up on national and regional development imperatives, with a view of making education the control room of industrialisation and modernisation.

“This is a significant development in line with His Excellency President Robert Mugabe’s policy charge that our nation must industrialise and modernise,” said Prof Moyo.

“It is in line with the SADC development strategy and African Union’s Agenda 2063, adopted when His Excellency was the chairperson. We are also doing so and doing this in line with the Manpower Development Act which mandates us to train, plan and develop manpower,” he said.

He said the ministry is looking to take advantage of its position as one of the most literate African countries.

“Zimbabwe enjoys an unmatched reputation in terms of basic education. We want to make sure that higher and tertiary education benefits from that,” Prof Moyo said.

The minister observed that what teachers’ colleges and polytechnics are already offering is already relevant but there was need to align it to changing policy and the operating environment.

“We must see what the emerging in industry, commerce and the public sector requirements are and design degrees programmes accordingly,” he said.

In a previous Herald Review installment, Minister Moyo said the tailoring new degrees will encourage creative responses to technological and engineering gaps, promote entrepreneurship and help revive the country’s industries as outlined in the country’s economic blueprint, *Zim-Asset*.

Harare Polytechnic College principal Engineer Tafadzwa Mudondo said the degrees to be offered by the colleges are expected to be distinct from those being offered by universities, drawing on the traditional strengths of the colleges while corresponding to emerging economic needs.

The Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development has gone a gear up with plans to convert teachers colleges and polytechnics into universities

“The distinction which we should note is that the old type of students which were being produced were a straight-jacket type of graduate who may be specially qualified to do maintenance work.

“The graduates would have a repair-and-maintenance philosophy such that once circumstances changed, they would fail to change to the dictates of the given environment.

“We are going to be producing dynamic, responsive graduates able to be adaptive in evolving environments,” Eng Mudondo said.

He lamented a situation whereby students would have earned national certificates, national diplomas and higher national diplomas being bottlenecked out of industry and forced by universities to start afresh.

Economic giants such as US, China and Australia have greatly capitalised on polytechnics that offer degrees and Zimbabwe wants to take that course, first though, by upgrading content.

21/3/2018 President committed to improving tertiary education |The Herald



COVERAGE OF STEM INITIATIVE IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS. A CASE OF *THE HERALD* AND *DAILY NEWS*.

Tendai Guta Correspondent The new administration led by President Mnangagwa is highly committed to improving the education sector and has pledged to address concerns of teachers and improve their welfare. Among the notable achievements the new dispensation has registered so far is reviewing the new education curriculum following public outcry that it requires a lot of resources, which the country currently does not have, it

has reduced tuition fees for students on industrial attachment and teaching practice, continues to feed children under the schools feeding programme as well as constructing schools countrywide to improve the quality of education.

Parents and students applauded Government for its decision that all Higher and Tertiary Education students on industrial attachment and teaching practice will now pay 60 percent of tuition fees with immediate effect. Announcing the news in a Press statement on March 7, 2018, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Desire Mutize Sibanda, said the new policy abolishes Circular No. 6 of 1997, which required students on attachment to pay full tuition fees.

In the Press statement, Mr Sibanda noted that Government took the decision after careful consideration of the economic environment and the plight of the majority of students. Students on attachment need money for accommodation, food and transport to and from work. Sibanda also said the ministry had considered the variable and added costs attendant to students' supervision and utilisation of teaching and teaming facilities.

Government is also committed to promoting inclusive and quality education in line with Sustainable Development Goals Number 4 of Vision 2030.

Addressing lecturers and officials at the Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) some weeks ago, Higher Education, Science and Technology Development Minister Professor Amon Murwira said ZIMDEF was now expected to support an intensive STEM teachertraining programme, offer students on attachment allowances and promote innovation hubs, among others.

He said Government would support an intensive teachers' training programme and Mkoba Teachers' College, Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Technical College and Masvingo Teachers' College, which were training primary school teachers must start training secondary teachers of STEM and enhance their laboratories from ZIMDEF. Prof Murwira acknowledged that students on attachment faced various challenges, including paying for their bus fares. He noted that his ministry would try

and find out if it could give students assistance when they are on attachment.

The new dispensation has pledged to review and address shortcomings in the new education curriculum following public outcry that it was wrongly timed as the ministry has no resources, both human and material, to implement it. To show its commitment, Government has already suspended continuous assessment for O-Level and A-Level pupils that was meant to start this year.

Zimbabwe Teachers' Association (Zimta) applauded Government for taking advice proffered by parents and teachers and other relevant stakeholders that some aspects of the new curriculum needed to be reviewed before full implementation.

The new education framework for O-Level and A-Level says learners' grades will be based on 40 percent theoretical examinations, 30 percent practical and 30 percent continuous assessment.

Teachers are also set to benefit from a new national command housing scheme meant for civil servants to be launched soon by President Mnangagwa. Government intends to roll out a massive command housing scheme where 420 000 units are going to be constructed, 230 000 of them to benefit civil servants.

Under the new housing scheme, beneficiaries will start paying upon occupying finished houses compared to previous schemes, which required cash upfront of \$150 before the construction of the houses.

Government through the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education is working on a legislative framework to allow private investors to partner Government in building schools across the country.

Minister of Primary and Secondary education, Professor Paul Mavima said that after putting in place the necessary legislation, Government was aiming to build 100 schools in the second half of the year.

He revealed that Government had a deficit of over 2 000 schools and had decided to push for the legislation to build and develop schools through public private partnerships. By the second half we expect to have 100 schools.

The Government continues to uphold self-sustaining school feeding programme with the involvement of the community. Recently the nation hosted the third Africa Day of School Feeding commemorations at Glen View 2 Primary School in Harare where several delegates from the continent attended.

The event, held under the theme “Rising African Child full Potential Through Eective Home Grown School Feeding”, presented an opportunity for the 54 African countries, partners and experts to share best practices on home grown school feeding.

17/4/2017 Prof Moyo, team take STEM initiative to global varsities | The Herald



Dr Gandawa

Auxilia Katongomara Bulawayo Bureau HIGHER and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Minister Professor Jonathan Moyo leads a 19-member delegation on a tour of various leading universities across the globe to learn how to incubate industries in line with STEM objectives.

The process involves growing an industry through scientific innovation.

The delegation, which comprises 10 Vice Chancellors from State Universities and officials from the Higher Education Ministry, left Zimbabwe on Friday on a three-week working trip to universities in South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, India and Cuba.

Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Deputy Minister Dr Godfrey Gandawa said the tour to science universities in Asia and South

Prof Mavima said the ministry was committed to its mandate of providing equitable access to quality inclusive education to all learners and feeding programme was part of it.

America is meant to enable the minister and Vice Chancellors to tour industries that are incubated by universities.

Dr Gandawa said the Ministry had rolled out a reform process to re-align current mandates structure, institutional governance and legislative frameworks, programmes, projects and research plans for industrialisation and modernisation through STEM revolution.

“These reforms are aimed at strengthening the capacity of universities to produce quality research, teaching and learning environment where universities incubate industries.

“Incubation of these industries will stimulate economic growth for the nation, facilitate hands-on research, design and technology, industrial attachment and increase revenue streams,” said Dr Gandawa.

He said the ministry was in the process of formulating and drafting a single Act for all sectors.

“Furthermore, and most importantly, the delegation will learn best practices and experiences in industrialised economies. Experiences and lessons to be learnt on industry and incubation resonate with Zimbabwe’s Industrialisation and Modernisation Strategy (ZIMIMROST) and the Zim-Asset goal of socio-economic transformation through valueaddition and beneciatiion,” said Dr Gandawa.

He said local universities are set to benet through interaction and collaborations with institutions like the

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Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), All Medical Institutes from India and University of Havana, RWTH Aachen University.

Other universities identified as areas of collaboration include the University Teknologi Petronas in Malaysia, which specialises in Petro chemicals and National University of Singapore.

Dr Gandawa said collaborations between industry and universities are key in the transformation of the country's economy.

"As a country we need to pay serious attention to the effectiveness of our national innovation systems, especially the collaborations between universities and industry which have an opportunity to turn around the fortunes of our economy on many fronts," he said.

The delegation will make its first stop at Chungnam National University in South Korea before proceeding to Singapore.

The Ministry last year introduced the STEM initiative in high schools to encourage the uptake of science learning as the country's universities were facing a challenge of a shortage in their science and engineering faculties.

Prof Moyo has in the past expressed concern over the high enrolment of students who would have majored in

19/12/2016 Students grants back next year: Moyo | The Herald



Prof Moyo

Pamela Shumba Bulawayo Bureau GOVERNMENT will bring back student loans and grants starting next year in an effort to improve skills and manpower development, a Cabinet minister has said.

Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Minister Professor Jonathan Moyo told delegates at the just-ended Zanu-PF Annual National People's Conference in Masvingo that his ministry had already engaged the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) to structure a new student loan scheme.

"The ministry has engaged the RBZ to structure a student loan scheme for higher and tertiary education institutions

to be run by financial institutions with proven financing capacity," said Prof Moyo.

commercial subjects at advanced level into science and technology universities.

He has queried why science universities in the country were neglecting their mandate of science, technology and engineering and majoring in social sciences and commercial faculties.

"Why are we having more students doing commercial subjects at a science and technology institution? Every university you go, there are more commercial students.

"Those in science and technology driven programmes should be the wealth creators and those doing commercial subjects will come in to manage the wealth," said Prof Moyo

"This scheme will be launched in the coming year to help parents and guardians who are struggling to pay higher and tertiary education fees for their children."

Student grants were discontinued around 2006 due to cash flow challenges and replaced by a cadetship programme in 2010.

The latter did not yield desired results as it was also dogged by funding difficulties and failed to pay fees for scores of students, leading to failure by some to sit for examinations.

Prof Moyo said after an extensive consultations, his ministry had concluded that Zimbabwe's quest for industrialisation and modernisation could not be achieved without a new human capital base driven by technological and engineering skills across the economy, in the public and private sectors.

"No country anywhere in the world has industrialised and modernised its economy without technological and engineering skills taking centre stage and leading the way. It is not possible to create and develop a new industrialised and modernised economy without requisite skills in the form of human capital. Skills are the engine of industrialisation and modernisation," he said.

The minister also revealed that a decision on the infrastructure bond for higher and tertiary education

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institutions had been nationalised by the State Procurement Board.

“The decision will be made public shortly after the usual formalities have been done. It is hoped that the bond will go a long way towards addressing challenges such as student and staff accommodation as well as administrative and learning infrastructure,” said Professor Moyo.

He said the interventions were part of a raft of measures by the ministry to ensure universities were relevant to national policy challenges and met the training and research needs of society and industry.

“As an expression of Zim-Asset, the implementation of industrialising and modernising Zimbabwe is the creation and development of a new economy, which Finance and Economic Development Minister Patrick Chinamasa and RBZ Governor Dr John Mangudya have been talking about,” said the Minister.

He added the interventions sought to overcome the challenges faced by tertiary institutions under the Zim-Asset banner of STEM 263.

“Our aim is to ensure that universities are relevant to national policy challenges and meet the training and research needs of society and industry,” said Prof Moyo.

In this regard, he added, the ministry would be announcing next week a Zimbabwe Manpower Development Fund (Zimdef) grant of \$150 000 to a consortium of researchers from some of the country’s national universities and their counterparts from the SADC region.

Mkoba Teachers College will be the main university campus with a special mandate on teacher education

“Renovations in progress” may well be the sign to permanently wave above the two education ministries. Both always seem to be in troubleshooting mode. Initiatives of sweeping consequence, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and the curriculum review, are respectively transforming higher and basic education. And now, the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development has gone a gear up with plans to convert teachers colleges and polytechnics into universities.

On September 19, the ministry announced that two committees have been put in place to assess the feasibility of the proposal and report back before the end of November.

If the committees do their homework in favour of the transformation, the ministry will get down to the task with “single-minded determination”.

It will be the end of an era for state-run colleges which have been in the game for close to a century.

Once started, the ministry will also urge churches to put their teacher training institutions under a similar overhaul.

“Two committees have been put in place to provide a comprehensive policy advisory and consultancy service to the ministry,” Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development permanent secretary Dr Machivenyika Mapuranga said on Monday.

“For teachers colleges, a foundation committee will look into the transformation of all teachers colleges into a university of education with Mkoba Teachers College as the main university campus with a special mandate on teacher education.

“For polytechnics, a steering committee will make recommendations into whether polytechnics can be turned into degree-awarding institutions or can be standalone or can be one institution with eight campuses and propose a process for the transformation,” revealed the permanent secretary.

The seven-member steering committees for teachers’ colleges and polytechnics are respectively headed by Prof Chipso Dyanda and Prof David Simbi.

Their homework will include coming up with a structure for the proposed dispensation and breaking down its implications on staff qualifications, administration, infrastructure, staff development and government interventions.

The transformation is not an entirely new proposal but is set to undergo technical refinements in the aftermath of a consultative process conducted by the ministry between July 2015 and February 2016.

As reported in these columns previously, polytechnic colleges were already upgrading to degree-awarding institutions over the past two years.

But instead of turning into universities, they were looking to continue offering the same technical programmes with a broader capacity and the authority to award degrees.

Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Minister Prof Jonathan Moyo had given his blessing and hinted that the colleges were likely to start offering degrees by the beginning of the 2018 academic year.

DAILY NEWS ARTICLES

Govt abandons Moyo's Stem route

STAFF WRITER • 14 February 2018 4:58PM • 19 comments

HARARE - Government has abandoned the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Stem) drive as previously adopted by the regime of former president Robert Mugabe. Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development minister Amon Murwira issued a statement yesterday to the effect that funding for prospective "A" Level students looking to take up science subjects has been suspended with immediate effect.

"Kindly note that the review is meant to strengthen the initiative and ensure that it brings benefits to Zimbabwe's industrialisation and modernisation agenda... No funding for new enrolment for "A" Level Stem students shall be made for 2018. Secondly, stop the irregular funding for students at private schools that was previously obtaining," Murwira said in his statement.

The Higher Education minister said students currently enrolled on the Stem initiative, that is, those in Upper 6 will continue to be funded up to the completion of their "A" Level studies.

He said funds unlocked as a result of these adjustments shall be channelled towards the development of Stem teachers at higher and tertiary institutions, construction and equipping of science laboratories at higher and tertiary institutions and selected underprivileged schools on a need basis.

"(It will also go towards) establishment, equipment and operationalisation of innovation hubs at higher and tertiary institutions, (as well as) expand skills development through increased apprenticeship enrolment (and) support for higher and tertiary education students on attachment," Murwira said.

"The ministry remains committed to the development of human capital and infrastructure that will ensure that our economy is able to meet the increasingly rigorous and technically focused demands of the 21st century as well as drive the country's modernisation and industrialisation agenda."

The Stem thrust was initiated by former Higher Education minister Jonathan Moyo, who is now in exile and believed to be behind the formation of an anti-President Emmerson Mnangagwa party named the New Patriotic Front. The initiative was introduced after the uptake of the science subjects at "A" level subjects had declined.

'Govt must offer industrial attachments'

STAFF WRITER • 8 December 2016 10:46AM • 1 comment

HARARE - Government must step in and offer industrial attachment to students enrolled in colleges and universities to stem chronic problems of inadequate internship places, the Zimbabwe National Students' Union (Zinasu) has said.

Due to the large number of applicants and the limited number of places available per year, Zinasu said the net effect of this pattern of deployment is that attaches are not properly groomed in their trade, resulting in accusations that tertiary institutions were producing "half-baked graduates" that were improperly trained.

Students are required to undergo a compulsory period of industrial attachment, as part of their college or degree course, for acquisition of practical skills and abilities in a work environment. Internships are open to diploma, degree, postgraduate and doctoral students.

Zimbabwe's economic crisis has forced many private companies to shut down, leaving students enrolled at the country's 10 State universities, 10 polytechnics and other tertiary institutions with few options when seeking places for attachment. Zinasu said in the absence of a thriving private sector, it was incumbent upon the government — which employs over 250 000 workers — to chip in as the sole authority responsible for ensuring the country produces professional graduates who are competitive in the global environment.

"The government should intervene," Zinasu spokesperson Zivai Mhetu said yesterday. "...we are saying the government should offer attachment places to at least 50 000 students annually so that our colleges do not produce half-baked students who have excelled academically but have zero practical experience because they failed to get attachment places."

"Some of them find shady companies or NGOs they pretend to be employed by for the short period lecturers sent to assess them will be around. This is happening right now and is a major cause for concern," he said.

Outrage over \$1bn Mugabe varsity

Blessings Mashaya • 14 August 2017 1:44PM • 38 comments

HARARE - Opposition parties have slammed government's plans to construct a \$1 billion state-of-the-art university named after President Robert Mugabe.

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The parties argued that the learning facility — to be owned by the Robert Mugabe Foundation (RMF) — is a waste and misuse of taxpayer's money at the First Family's benefit.

"The MDC is deeply appalled by the Zanu PF regime's decision to fund the Robert Mugabe University. Whilst the MDC keenly advocates for the development and establishment of educational institutions, we are convinced that government funds should always be used in a transparent and responsible manner that benefits the majority of the people instead of funding personal business ventures of private individuals," the Morgan Tsvangirai-led party's spokesperson, Obert Gutu, said

. "We have more than a dozen State universities in Zimbabwe, all of which are severely underfunded," he said, questioning "what is the logic of establishing a new State-funded Robert Mugabe University instead of capacitating the existing State universities?"

Gutu said "someone, somewhere, is just trying to curry favour with Mugabe by massaging his personal ego. This is Zanu PF patronage politics gone crazy".

Last week, Higher and Tertiary Education minister Jonathan Moyo revealed that influential First Lady Grace Mugabe had pressured government to build the university.

"We have been pushed positively; the real inspiration and mover pulling together the various pieces that need to be in place has been the...Grace Mugabe because this is the initiative of the RMF.

The university will be established under the auspices of the foundation, which is the responsible authority of the university," Moyo told the media.

Mugabe and Grace are the founding trustees of the RMF. However, People's Democratic Party spokesperson Jacob Mafume accused Moyo of trying to seek favours from the first family.

Parly grills Zimdef boss over funds abuse

Bridget Mananavire • 31 January 2017 5:03PM • 16 comments

HARARE - Zimbabwe Manpower Development Fund (Zimdef) chief executive, Fredrick Mandizvidza, was yesterday grilled by parliamentarians over the alleged abuse of funds at the government institution.

Parliament's Higher Education portfolio committee, chaired by Zaka Central Zanu PF legislator, Paradzai Chakona, took Mandizvinda to task over moves by the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (Zacc) to wage a campaign against powerful Higher and Tertiary

"It is rank madness. This is a way by...Moyo to counter Command Agriculture by introducing command learning and institutions.

It is meant to be a way of getting money from the fiscus and he is trying to curry favour with the first family.

He said the system has created "a society where all sorts of madness are justified as long as it is done in the name of the Mugabes".

The Welshman Ncube-led MDC spokesperson, Kurauone Chihwayi, alleged that the project was a way of trying to loot State resources.

"This is strategic looting by the Mugabe family. They are exerting so much pressure on the national purse by diverting resources towards the construction of Robert Mugabe's backyard university.

Children are walking 10km to primary school in farming areas, kidney and cancer patients are battling for survival as Generation 40 (G40) ministers scramble to lick the Zimbabwean president."

Moyo said the construction phase is going to start in the next six months when groups set up to oversee its incubation under the supervision of the University of Zimbabwe submit their working plans. Government will initially release \$1 billion for the construction project. According to the 2017 budget estimates of expenditure in the Blue Book, there is no budgetary provision for the university.

Moyo said the Robert Mugabe University will be a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Stem) institution designed to facilitate the discovery of scientific, technological and engineering solutions to improve the quality of life in Zimbabwe.

The university will concentrate on Stem areas exclusively at graduate level. Meanwhile, there are suggestions to rename the Harare International Airport after Robert Mugabe.

Education minister Jonathan Moyo over alleged embezzlement of Zimdef funds.

The fraud and corruption charges filed against Moyo, viewed as a key member of the G40 Zanu PF faction, have been accompanied by a scurrilous smear campaign against the minister in State-run newspapers, including repeated requests for his immediate arrest.

But Mandzvidza told the committee yesterday that no Zimdef money had been misused or directed to projects that were not in line with the organisation's mandate.

"We are not aware of any mismanagement. The fact is that all our books are in order and if there are any allegations of mismanagement, let it be put before the courts.

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This is why we have said let the law take its course,” he said. “We have not misdirected any money to where it’s

not supposed to go. As far as we are concerned, we have not directed to anywhere the funds were not supposed to go,” Mandizvidza said.

Chakona then questioned why Zimdef was failing to pay salaries. “We are not saying that there was a crime committed, we are saying was there money that was used to fund other programmes? Your mandate is to develop high skilled labour,” he asked, adding that “there are also allegations of Zimdef failing to pay salaries after paying \$7 million for Stem, what is your comment?”

Mandizvidza said: “That’s pure fabrication and there is no basis whatsoever. Zimdef has never defaulted in payments to salaries.” Despite Mandizvidza’s denial, Zacc’s investigations committee chairperson, Goodson Nguni, has told journalists that Moyo, in cahoots with officials from his ministry, diverted \$430 000 from the fund to finance personal activities. Zimdef, under Moyo’s ambit, earns its money from collecting a one percent training levy from companies operating in Zimbabwe. The money is meant to develop critical skills for the economy.

Moyo has said on his Twitter account that the money was used to fund Zanu PF’s “Million Man March”, a massive parade of thousands of party youths in support of

President Robert Mugabe and festivities to celebrate Mugabe’s birthday.

While Zimdef gets its money from one percent levy of every registered company, their collection has been going down due to the closure of companies, with the collections decreasing from \$41 million in 2012 to \$36 million in 2016.

Mandizvidza also briefed the committee on the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (Stem) initiative introduced as an urgent measure to stop the closure of universities’ science and medicine departments as a result of insufficient enrolment.

Mandizvidza told the committee that during 2016, the year it was introduced, Stem benefited 5 136 students and used up \$7,3 million from Zimdef. “As Zimdef, we did not do a specific research on the uptake of Stem subjects at tertiary institutions. “But the initiative was based on facts and figures, after the minister had gone around universities and polytechnics,” Mandizvidza said.

“The UZ (University of Zimbabwe) and Nust (National University of Science and Technology) pharmaceutical and medicine departments were on the verge of closure because there was no sufficient enrolment for science and medicine. Stem was taken on as an urgent solution.” Out of some 30 000 students who proceed for tertiary education, only 2 500 qualify for Stem subjects, according to Mandizvidza

critical fields which have helped countries like South Korea to evolve into technological superpowers.

But does it mean that those already at tertiary institutions should not be embraced? Does it mean the present

generation, which is not being spared by the economic decay, cannot benefit even if they are doing Stem-related degrees?

While we fully appreciate that government is broke and the resultant constraints in subsidising education, we believe strongly that mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that all deserving students complete their education. Why is government so ever ready to blow more than \$20 million on foreign travel in less than four months but reluctant to assist needy students realise their goals?

This speaks of a government with skewed priorities. It is embarrassing that those in power have their children

Rationalise tertiary education fees

13 April 2016 8:23AM • 23 comment

HARARE - Reports that over 12 000 students have dropped out of tertiary learning institutions are an indictment on the governing party Zanu PF and if not properly addressed could lead to chaos similar to what happened in South Africa when students went on a “fees must fall” campaign strike in that country.

We are worried that the governing party — which is packed by people who benefited from the students’ loan and grant system has now decided to punish the have-nots and in the process stall or defer dreams of a generation.

Admittedly, there is nothing wrong in students paying for their education but if the fees are beyond the reach of many then it becomes a problem and, most certainly, a recipe for disaster — because a whole generation is being denied what the previous generations enjoyed.

We are happy indeed with the introduction of free education for students who will study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Stem) as this will undoubtedly encourage students to enrol in these

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learning in foreign countries where facilities are world-class while those who groan under the burden of taxes have to make do with local colleges whose infrastructure is in constant decay.

Where does an orphaned person get the over \$500 to pay for the tuition fees that most State-run colleges ask for? Does it mean the poor will be condemned to ignorance while the rich are indulged with choice education at expensive international institutions?

Zimbabwe is not for the rich only but for everyone and we should make sure that we have in place mechanisms to ensure that everyone who is qualified gets a chance to improve themselves at local tertiary institutions.