

FOREIGN LANGUAGES CELEBRATIONS

Summary of the event

On the 6th of May, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature successfully hosted the 2017 edition of Foreign Languages Celebrations under the theme “Foreign Languages for Economic Growth”. A total of 209 students from Chinese, French, German and Portuguese sections attended the celebrations. Apart from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature students, The Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Hon. Taghrid, The Ambassador of Algeria, Hon. Sai N Chinese Embassy, Mozambican Embassy representatives as well as students and lecturers from the New Hope Centre also attended the celebrations. Each section presented items for entertainment in the form of songs, dance, poetry and drama in their languages. All the participants especially from the Portuguese and German sections exhibited high command of their respective languages. The Portuguese students presented a short story followed by an academic analysis of the story in Portuguese. The German section students presented a talk show related to cooking. The piece was quite interesting to the extent that some lecturers suggested that the piece be marketed to ZBC as a talk show entertainment programme. The celebrations were totally students centered; hence the whole programme was coordinated and controlled by the students themselves.

62 students participated in the presentations. It was quite encouraging to see both part ones and University 1st and 2nd year undergraduate students participating in the event. In order to motivate students learning foreign languages at the University of Zimbabwe, 12 best performers were selected as Brand Ambassadors. Each of the participants was given a T-shirt with the University logo and their names printed on the back.

Representatives from the Mozambican, Chinese, Algerian and Palestinian Embassies gave short speeches encouraging students to learn foreign languages. Mrs Maia, a German native speaker currently living in Zimbabwe donated more than 40 German language books.

Outcomes

The main goal for the foreign languages competition was to give students a platform to showcase their language proficiency in the foreign languages they are studying. This was partly achieved because, more than 60 students from beginners to final year level were able to participate in the celebrations. We also achieved our goal to build confidence in our students and improve their ability to communicate in the target foreign languages.

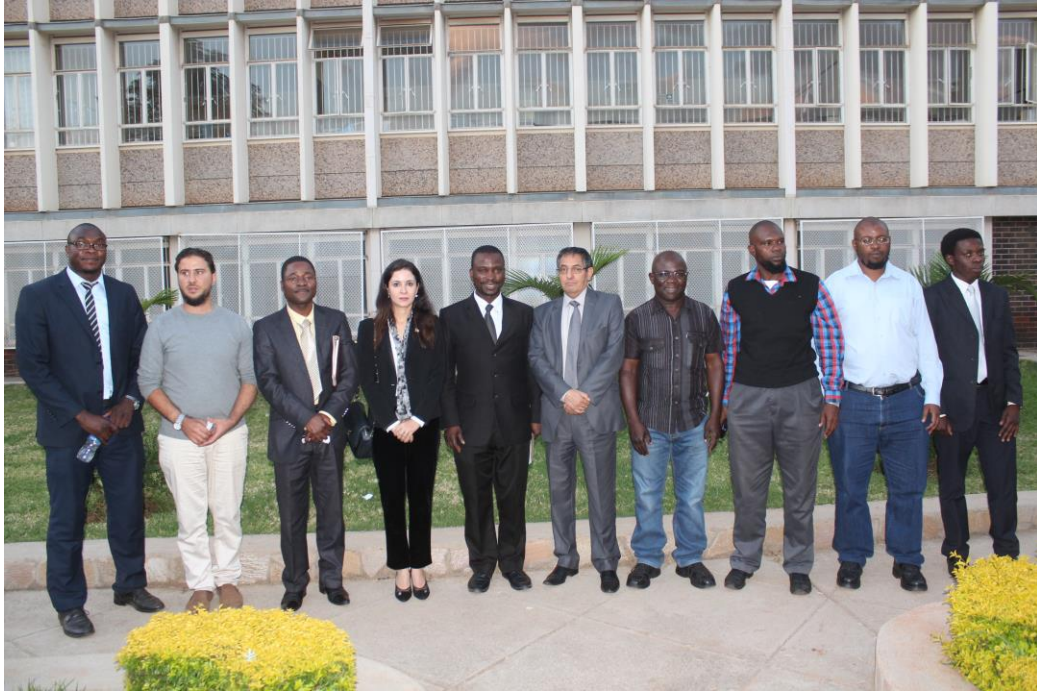
The presentations from the Embassy representatives were quite motivational since they helped students to be aware of the importance of learning foreign languages. This was also evidenced by the reaction from the French section students who were disappointed by the fact that there was no representative from the French Embassy.

Below is a collage of pictures of the event.



Brand Ambassadors Group Photo

Foreign languages Students and Staff just before the Celebrations Began



Group photo with the VIP: Chairperson, Embassy representatives and New Hope board Members

Group Photo with VIPS; Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature (Dr Mushangwe, fifth from left), Embassy representatives and New Hope Board Members.



Group Photo with the Brand Ambassadors for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature



Foreign languages Students and Staff just before the Celebrations Began



From right Mrs. Maia, German language representative, Chinese section Embassy representative, New Hope representative, Portuguese Embassy Representatives and Algerian Embassy Representative.



The Chairman, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature delivering the Opening Remarks.



The Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Hon. Taghrid delivering her speech



The Ambassador of Algeria, Hon. Sai N delivering his speech



The Chinese Embassy, First Secretary, Mr Liuning delivering his speech



The Mozambican Embassy, Minister Councilor, Mr Adinito delivering his speech



German Students' Kitchen Show



Confucius Institute Choir



French Section Choir



Arabic Students' Performance Skit



Individual Performances from Chinese and French Students



Individual Performances from German, French, Portuguese and New hope Students



New Hope, Arabic Choir



Donation of German Books by Mrs Maia

