



### **STATEMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF ACADEMIC FRAUD CIRCULATING ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Mzuzu University (MZUNI) has learnt with dismay the recent and troubling reports on social media alleging that some of the degrees with first class (distinction) and upper second class (credit) have been improperly awarded. These claims are said to stem from a compromised Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), which has raised concerns about the legitimacy of academic qualifications granted by the institution. It is further alleged through same reports that some final level students have been asked to come back next year to start level one all over again. In light of these assertions, we wish to clarify the misrepresentation of facts and to call on all those wishing to report on the institution to verify information with the appropriate authorities.

First and foremost, we want to emphasise that MZUNI has a robust IMIS with security features that detect any discrepancies that occur. It is through the same security features that the system in September 2025 detected some changes that had occurred to the portals of 103 students. The matter was reported to the Institutional Integrity Committee for investigation. The detected discrepancies were immediately reversed and the concerned student portals were blocked to facilitate investigations. Currently, the investigations are continuing with technical support from the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Mzuzu University Legal Counsel. It is worth mentioning that among the 103 candidates whose portals were affected, only 55 students were from the graduating class and their graduation was withheld, pending conclusion of the investigations. None of the suspected students is a first class award candidate which, in the social media claims, would be equated to a distinction. Such students were duly informed of their situation and they are providing information to the investigating team. As at now, no final position has been taken regarding the suspected students.

As the investigations continue, some staff members have been mentioned as suspects. To this end, the University has acted swiftly to suspend them to pave way for smooth investigations. No final position has been taken on the suspected staff members and they will be accorded a hearing in compliance with the rules of natural justice. The University will not shield any member of staff from the ongoing investigations.

From the background presented above and the immediate actions taken, MZUNI is proud to state that the University has a robust and secure home-grown Management Information System, fully connected to the banking system for the management of student fee payment and accountability,

limiting any human intervention in between. The University is deeply committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and transparency in its operations. The credibility of our academic programmes is of paramount importance, and we are able to deal with issues using the available governance systems both internal and external to handle fraudulent and corrupt practices.

We want to assure our students, alumni, the general public and all stakeholders that MZUNI has never conferred any fake academic awards. We have functional quality assurance systems for processing recommendations for the award of appropriate academic qualifications. This is testament to the various achievements our products are demonstrating to society and the industry in various sectors, both locally and internationally. We have in place strict policies and protocols designed to prevent any form of academic fraud, sextortion and any form of exploitation. Such policies include Fraud and Corruption Prevention, Sexual Harassment Policy, Code of Conduct and Ethics, Gender Policy, among others, aimed to safeguard the vulnerable. We are continuously reviewing these measures to enhance our safeguards. Currently respondents are fully cooperating with the inquiry process. We will implement any measures that may arise from the findings in order to uphold the integrity of our academic programmes and to ensure that any instances of academic dishonesty are dealt with swiftly and justly.

The Institutional Integrity Committee is expected conclude investigations and present its report by the end of February 2026. We are committed to sharing key findings with our key stakeholders at that time in line with our dedication to transparency and accountability. We, therefore, encourage any individual with information pertaining to these allegations to come forward so that we can address this serious matter in a swift and effective manner. However, the University shall not condone deliberate misrepresentation of facts or malicious attacks on the institution or its members of staff. The University reserves the right to take action against perpetrators of such malicious acts.

MZUNI remains steadfast in its mission to deliver exemplary higher education, grounded in honesty, quality and trust.

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