



## DVC'S COMMUNIQUE



**Professor Moses John Chimbari**  
College Dean: Research

It gives me great pleasure to officially announce the appointment of Professor Moses John Chimbari to the post of College Dean: Research. Professor Chimbari hails from the University of Botswana where he currently serves as Deputy Director of the Okavango Research Institute (ORI), previously known as the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC).

Professor Chimbari is an Associate Professor with extensive experience not only in conducting field research but also in research leadership. For 7 years (1990-1997), he led the DeBeers Research Laboratory that conducted research on malaria, Schistosomiasis and HIV/AIDS, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare in Zimbabwe. From 2000 to 2006, he worked as Scientific Director for the University Lake Kariba Research Station (ULKRS) in the University of Zimbabwe. The Station conducted research in the areas of Ecology, Fishery and Health and was staffed by multi-disciplinary researchers. During his stay at ULKRS, he mobilized research results that resulted in the attainment of 4 PhD and 3 MPhil qualifications by staff.

Towards the end of 2006, he left ULKRS to join the National University of Science and Technology (NUST – Zimbabwe) as the inaugural Director of Research. His task was to establish the Research Office at the University and coordinate research in the university. During his stay at NUST, apart from establishing the research office he assisted 10 research teams to develop proposals that received funding from the Kellogg Foundation.

In February 2008, Professor Chimbari joined the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC), now Okavango Research Institute (ORI) as Deputy Director – Research Management. During his stay at ORI, he has coached and motivated researchers to focus on large research projects (USD200 000 and above). He is currently the Principal Investigator of three large projects Capacity Development in Africa through Research Methodology with an EU budget of EUR450 000; Impacts

of Climate Change on Flood Recession Farming Activities and Farmers' Wellbeing with an International Development Research Centre budget of CAD 600 000 as well as Research Capacity Development for the Southern African Science Services Centre on Adaptive Land Use with a budget of EUR200 000.

Professor Chimbari is also leading regional research teams competing for an ESPA (Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation) grant of 2 000 000 pounds and a TDR-IDRC grant of CAD600 000.

His strong research leadership qualities are reflected by research related portfolios that he has held, and currently holds. He was the chairperson of the Association of Medical and Veterinary Malacologists in Africa (1997-1999), chairperson of Research Network for Schistosomiasis in Africa (2006-2008) and Technical Committee Member for the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (2006-2008). Professor Chimbari is currently the representative for Africa on the International Program Advisory Committee (I-PAC) of the ESPA Program, chairperson of the Southern Africa Climate Change Network (SACCNet – [www.saccnet.org](http://www.saccnet.org)) and chairperson of ECOHESA –Network for ecohealth researchers and practitioners ([www.researchcapacityafrica.org](http://www.researchcapacityafrica.org)).

Professor Chimbari was awarded the best research leader in the University of Botswana in 2009. In his earlier career, he was also awarded the best researcher of the year award at the Blair Research Laboratory in 1999 just a year after Junior Chambers Zimbabwe awarded him the Ten Outstanding Young Zimbabwean Award, in 1998. University Lake Kariba Research Station was also accorded the best national institute for natural resources management during his term as Director.

Professor Chimbari has published 48 papers in peer reviewed journals and supervised 6 PhD and 6 Masters students who have successfully completed their studies. He currently supervises two PhD and 3 MPhil students.

The College of Health Sciences aims to create an environment that will promote and advance research amongst staff and students, and Professor Chimbari is well qualified to facilitate this vision. Welcoming such a prolific scientist as Professor Chimbari into the College is a pleasure, and we wish him all the best at UKZN and in our subtropical seaside city of Durban.

Professor Rob Slotow  
Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head  
College of Health Sciences