

7TH
EDITION



SPEAK AND SOLVE INITIATIVE (SASI) DEBATE CHALLENGE



SASI 2024:

Speak And Solve Initiative (SASI) Debate Challenge

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INTRODUCTION

This narrative report captures the proceedings and highlights of the **7th edition of the Speak and Solve Initiative (SASI) Debate** held from the 30th-31st of May 2024 at the Studio of Choice located in Hatfield, at the Students and Youth Working on Reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT) headquarters in Harare. Twelve State Universities drawn across Zimbabwe battled for honours an exciting program that allows students to engage, learn from each other and actively participate in the SRH and public health policy discourse at local and international level.

ABOUT THE SASI DEBATE

SAYWHAT began the SASI Debate Challenge in 2018 as platform for students and young people to have a convergence and cross pollination of ideas through debate to address contemporary and pre-existing challenges they encounter on their day to day lives. The challenge has continued over the years with support from various development partners including the Swedish Embassy in Zimbabwe and the Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH). The challenge is meant to harness the critical thinking skills for advocacy on health policy matters at local, regional and international levels. The platform provides students and young people the academic freedom to interrogate local, regional and international issues to propose lasting solutions and critique the efficacy of existing programs and policies on sexual reproductive health matters.

In the 7th Edition of the SASI debate, SAYWHAT partnered with organizations from the private sector - Faith Wear and UNICAF, a key milestone in SAYWHAT's bid to collaborate with the private sector in youth SRH programming.

University of Zimbabwe was crowned champions in the 2024 edition. Previous winners are:



2023



Midlands State University



UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

2021



Harare
Institute of
Technology

2019 & 2018

THE SASI DEBATE STRUCTURE

SAYWHAT adopts the modified British Parliamentary format in its SASI Debate Challenge. This approach is dynamic and spontaneous; It trains students on the art of quick thinking and the ability to respond to unexpected questions and situations. This resembles the urgency of the need to find lasting solutions to challenges that are faced by students and youth in their daily lives especially on public health matters. The British Parliamentary format consists of 4 teams: -

► **OPENING GOVERNMENT (OG)- INCLUDES**

Prime Minister (PM)- presents a debatable and persuasive case in support of the motion

Deputy Prime Minister (DPM)- closes for the opening government i.e. PM

► **OPENING OPPPOSITION (OO)- INCLUDES**

Leader of Opposition (LOO)- opposes the motion and refutes the case presented by the PM

Deputy Leader of Opposition (DLO)- concludes the first half of the debate for the opposition and defend the position of the leader of opposition

► **CLOSING GOVERNMENT (CG)- INCLUDES**

Member of Government (MG)-opens the second half of the debate and offers an extension to arguments raised

Government Whip (GW)- articulates the rationale of their arguments as the best alternative and closes the debate for the government

► **CLOSING OPPPOSITION (CO)**

Member of Opposition (MO)- refute claims made by MG, make contributions and add new arguments or factors

Opposition Whip (OW)- closes the debate for the opposition while cementing the arguments raised during the debate as the best standpoint to win the debate

Two teams per university represent the government i.e. in support of the motion and another two representing the opposition i.e. opposed to the government and the motion. In this regard, each team is assessed individually based on the quality and presentation of their arguments. Twelve universities across Zimbabwe are selected to participate in the challenge each represented by two participants - one male and one female to achieve gender parity. The challenge is held over five rounds, each round with a different debate motion with inference to five thematic areas. A total of 4 teams participates in each round and students are assessed based on three key areas:

CONTENT:

Judges assess the weight of arguments and adherence to debate style.

STYLE:

The manner of speaking in which debaters find creative ways to make their arguments compelling and persuasive.

STRATEGY:

The structure of the debaters' arguments and timing of the speech. This includes a check on whether the participant understood the major issues in the debate.

OBJECTIVES OF THE 2024 SASI DEBATE

- To analyse students and youth cognitive abilities in retrieving information of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and its related frameworks.
- To facilitate transferring of accurate information on national, regional, and international public health frameworks.
- To foster critical thinking that results in the development of innovative solutions to address emerging health and education challenges being faced by young people.

THE 2024 EDITION OF THE SASI DEBATE CHALLENGE

The SASI debate Challenge was held under the theme **Opposing views, Same goal: Unleashing Innovative solutions for Sustainable Development**. The theme represents a clarion call for students to exchange ideas and proffer prescriptions to the unmet sexual reproductive health needs of young people, contemporary and emerging issues such as climate change, the fulfilment and enjoyment of sexual reproductive health and rights complemented by quality of education, the eradication of gender-based violence and reducing the pre-existing inequalities within the region and beyond.

In this 7th Edition of the debate competition, the following 12 state universities from across Zimbabwe competed for the SASI championship.



Bindura University of Science Education



Midlands State University



National University of Science Technology



UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE



THE FIVE THEMATIC AREAS FOR THE 7TH EDITION OF SASI DEBATE

Sustainable Development Goals also known as global goals are a blueprint for all United Nations member countries to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, they denote a call to action to resolve the challenges faced by humanity in the 21st century. These are meant for both developed and developing countries to forge global partnerships to improve among others health and education, reducing inequality and tackling climate change.

ICPD30 and Addis Ababa Action- a contemporary rights-based approach to sexual reproductive health that guides interventions today with the Addis Ababa Action plan that establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It recognizes reproductive health and the empowerment of women and gender equality as pillars to sustainable development. Governments made commitments to ensure the full effective and accelerated implementation of ICPD programs in Africa by the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Maputo Protocol- a comprehensive and progressive instrument for women's human rights. It guarantees extensive rights to African Women and girls with progressive provisions on reproductive health and rights, harmful traditional practices such as child marriages and female genital mutilation. It is responsive to the diverse realities of women on the African continent and promotes substantive equality hence a landmark instrument on the African human rights landscape.

United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis - a political declaration made by countries that committed themselves to enhance equitable access to tuberculosis (TB) services in high and low burden countries, address TB determinants and reduce vulnerability while fast-tracking progress towards meeting SDGs. It was a platform meant to track progress and identify gaps and attendant solutions to accelerate progress towards ending the TB epidemic by 2030

Eastern and Southern African Ministerial Commitments- these were agreements by signatory countries on the need to scale up systematic sexuality education and youth friendly sexual reproductive health services in the region. It accelerated legal and policy development that strengthened adolescents and youths' sexual reproductive health.

THE SASI DEBATE CHALLENGE PROCEEDINGS

Round 1 Episode 1

HIT vs GZU vs MUAST vs MSUAS

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Motion: This House Affirms the Global South countries should adopt nation specific approaches rather than collective efforts in Achieving

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“Adopting SDGs in a strait jacket manner is dangerous to the global development agenda. What we need are nation specific approaches to development; approaches that foster ownership to development solutions; approaches that promote accountability,” HIT Debate Student (PM)”

”



<p>Opening Government- PM-HIT</p> <p>The government strongly supported the idea for tailor specific approaches that resonate with global South countries' environment and unique challenges. Key points submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adopting SDGs as a strait jacket was dangerous as nation specific approaches ensured ownership of initiatives and promotes accountability. - These nation specific approaches would leverage on domestic expertise and resources necessary while aligning with national goals to effectively allocate resources. - The PM stressed that specific SDGs should be adopted by global south countries as challenges faced by global nations are not exactly the same. 	<p>Opening Opposition-LOO-GZU</p> <p>The SASI Debate defending champions refuted the claims by the opening government citing that these global south countries face similar problems hence need SDGs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They indicated that global south countries fail to implement their home-grown policies hence they require collective efforts to achieve SDGs. - The leader of opposition stressed that global south countries lack resources and expertise to achieve SDGs thus it is in their best interests to partner with the developed world. - The existence of non-governmental organisations, foreign aid is testament to the struggles of the global south. - The defending champions strongly felt that global south countries subscribing to SDGs had a legal obligation to implement them as they are.
<p>DPM-HIT</p> <p>To buttress the opening arguments by the PM, the DPM pointed out that collective efforts to achieve SDGs through partnerships from the developed world would be catastrophic just like the Economic Structural Adjustment programs from the World Bank that ruined economies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nation specific approaches enable the use of indigenous knowledge systems- for example developmental solutions such as Pfumvudza- a homegrown initiative suitable for the climate in Zimbabwe. - The opening government were against foreign aid in favour of locally brewed initiatives as external aid came with attendant terms and conditions that benefit the funders. - Examples given were that of the Chinese investments which seem to only plunder mineral resources in Zimbabwe in exchange of their financial aid. 	<p>DLO-GZU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The champions refuted claims by the OG. They highlighted that SDGs are not foreign ideas as the global south countries are in agreement to these blueprints. - They argued that SDGs are collaborative in nature and global south countries stand to benefit through shared burdens as they are characterised by corruption, ailing economies - They also noted that the Chinese investments issues were not part of the debate agenda.

Closing Government- MG-MUAST	Closing Opposition- MO-MSUAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They echoed similar sentiments to the OG in that, SDGs should be tailor specific to the needs of global south countries. - They argued that these countries have resources and required more innovative and local initiative to achieve SDGs such as the afforestation programme in Ethiopia that which has helped in environment protection and ensure food security, contributing to SDG 2. - Emphasized that resource allocation is effective in adopting nation specific approaches that are tailored to specific challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The member of opposition pointed out that the 21st century challenges facing the globe require all hands-on deck. There was dire need for holistic approaches that are all inclusive and this includes the SDGs. - They argued that the principle of isolation is irrelevant as there is need to learn from developed countries who may have faced similar problems. - The provision of collective efforts to countries in the global south ensures cross pollination of ideas.
Government Whip- MUAST	Opposition Whip- MSUAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In concluding, the whip stressed that collective ideas are not always fruitful and national approaches best serve the purpose of achieving SDGs. - They argued that for instance, in Zimbabwe, devolution funds in all provinces are meant to spearhead development. - Countries should focus more on individual problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As they concluded the debate, MSUAS as the opposition whip pointed out that global south are not just countries in the southern hemisphere. They include all other underdeveloped nations. - They argued that national specific approaches are not comprehensive to redress all problems faced by the global south hence the need for SDGs to look at the world as a whole.

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

The first episode was won by opening government i.e., HIT. They impressed the judges with their debate that illustrated a sense of urgency even though it needs more analysis. They further noted that opposition whip (MSUAS) failed to distinguish themselves and lost the plot of the debate.

Round 1 Episode 2

GSU vs CUT vs WUA vs UZ

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Motion: This House prefers environmental movements heavily prioritizing local agendas over global ones. (e.g, focusing on local pollution rather than climate change)SDGs

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Global problems require global solutions...
pollution respects no borders...”
CUT debating student

”



Opening Government-PM- GSU	Opening Opposition-LOO-CUT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government opened their argument through defining environmental movements as social movements that spearhead sustainable development in reducing pollution. They defined global agendas as universal targets that ensure prosperity for all. - The government stressed that local movements positively impact communities. They cited Kenya Geothermal energy as an example and noted that it was a national agenda for sustainable energy. They argued that local agendas contribute to the SDGs. - The PM further noted that environmental movements are essential for leading local agendas such as the Rwanda biodegradable plastics and the Ethiopian green legacy- a water composition scheme to generate power. It has local buy-in from the surrounding communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition refuted the claims made by opening government citing that third world countries are characterised by waste dumps and lack resources. - They note that their budgets focus more on the eradication of poverty than any other local agendas. - They argued that these countries need to leverage on international movements to address climate change, and adopt mitigatory measures - They further highlighted that developed countries may provide lasting solutions to preexisting challenges faced by countries in the global south.
DPM-GSU	DLO-CUT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government disregarded the sentiments by the opposition arguing that homegrown solutions to local problems are best solved using the existing structures in a particular country. - They argued that local agendas on pollution are politically feasible, and collaborations may arise only to complement these localised efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argued that focus on global efforts by environmental movements will alleviate the problems plaguing the global south as they lack resources, data, and drive to achieve development. - DLO further stated that fragmentation of efforts defeats the purpose of collective action and efforts regarding global agendas - There was need to rely on international movements for concerted efforts as they have expertise, political and economic influence to drive the necessary changes - as local efforts are time consuming

Closing Government- MG-WUA	Closing Opposition- MO - UZ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The member of government was of the view that global problems are not local problems but are a reflection of the 1st world countries. - Thus, they argued that there is need to prioritise cultural grassroots levels in adopting local agendas as implementation in small scales contributes immensely on a larger scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The member of opposition argued that global goals are not one size fits all but rather countries ought to interpret them as they see fit. - They argued that local problems like pollution are easily mitigated by national programs such as the Clean Up Campaign in Zimbabwe, however responding to global issues trickles through to local problems such as climate change. - The member of government shared that solving global issues inadvertently improves the status of the concerned countries.
Government Whip-WUA	Opposition Whip- UZ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whip emphasized the factors raised by the MG. He argued that cultural relevance was a necessity as local people may easily relate to it ensuring collaboration across the cultural divide. - Local agendas were argued to be sustainable as they ensure continuity with countries utilizing their own resources to meet their objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whip was critical in highlighting that focus on global agendas does not equate to neglecting local agendas as pollution is easily rectified. - Rather, all energies ought to be channelled towards the imminent threat such as climate change. The global goals are frameworks that act as a guideline to ensure the preservation of the climate - This was attributed to the fact that climate change is non-discriminatory, and everyone should contribute to the attainment of global goals.

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

The second episode, based on the adjudication of judges was won by closing opposition (UZ) as they best characterised the debate motion. The judges were of the opinion that arguments raised on the irreversibility of climate change required urgent attention coupled by disaster risk mitigation. Opening government (GSU) lost the debate as they failed to adequately characterize the debate and show why focus should be on local agendas. .

Round 1 Episode 3

MSU vs NUST vs BUSE vs LSU

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Motion: THW introduce financial incentives to encourage businesses to align with Sustainable Development Goals

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‘This is a speak and solve initiative, not a speak and squander initiative....’
LSU debating student

”



Opening Government-PM-MSU	Opening Opposition-LOO-NUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 5th edition SASI debate champions argued that businesses are predominantly profit driven hence financial incentives and tax exemptions are essential in securing their support and alignment to SDGs. - They noted that, these businesses are significant stakeholders and respond positively to incentives. - The government stated that the world was in a state of crisis that requires a sense of urgency to get results quickly through the provision of incentives. - Thus, the private sector has significant influence on behavioural patterns and can influence the narrative such as mitigating gender-based violence and advocate for equal opportunities across all genders. 	<p>The leader of the opposition disagreed with the submissions made by opening government that provision of financial incentives provided the desired outcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He argued that there was need to do away with capitalistic tendencies that already exist as this system perpetuated worsened the environment through negative effects of industrialization and consumerism. - The LOO opined that it was imperative to incentivise innovative ideas that emanate from grassroots level people that contribute to SDGs.
DPM-MSU	DLO-NUST

Closing Government- MG-BUSE	Closing Opposition- MO-LSU
<p>The MG shared similar sentiments as OG. They regarded financial incentives as a motivational factor that facilitates innovation to promote social accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they opined that, there was need to advocate for market driven solutions to global problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The closing opposition was firm in stating that financial incentives do not work as tax holidays - They shared an example of the Chinese firms in Zimbabwe whom they say promote land degradation through their mining operations. - They fail to contribute to attaining SDGs as their operations are largely extractive.
Government Whip-BUSE	Opposition Whip- LSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In closing, the whip reiterated that financial incentives are offered after the attainment of reduced emissions. These incentives are offered in the form of tax credits and procurement contracts - These exemptions were argued to stimulate innovative measures in doing business in a manner that causes less harm to the ecosystem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whip reaffirmed that businesses stand to benefit from financial incentives. They argued that the approach to SDGs is not advantageous to those on the lower tiers of the social strata. - There was need to eradicate a dependency syndrome from business to bring about change - Further, people should be empowered to bring about change themselves.

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

The judges noted that this episode was won by opening opposition (NUST) and closing government (LSU). They encouraged participants to continuously respect each other as debate is contact mind spot.

Round 1 Episode 4

WUA vs UZ vs MSUAS vs MUAST

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: MAPUTO PROTOCOL

Motion: THW introduce financial incentives to encourage businesses to align with Sustainable Development Goals

“ The classification of women as vulnerable is unfortunate. It overshadows their strength and ingenuity. Today's women might be subjected to various forms of abuses, but it does not imply that they should be classified as vulnerable. Women are not weak, it is that classification and labelling of women which has subjected them to exclusion from political, and socio-economic affairs, from local to international level,” WUA student (PM) **”**



Opening Government-PM-WUA	Opening Opposition-LOO-UZ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the government refuted the motion citing that it is stereotyping women as vulnerable and denies their capacity to participate in the economy. - It argued that classification of women overshadows their strength and ingenuity. They may be subjected to abuse; however, it does not imply that they should be classified as vulnerable. - The PM regarded vulnerability to be synonymous with weakness thus undermining the innate abilities of women in political, socio-economic affairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The LOO was quick to point out that vulnerability does not imply weakness, rather it is understanding that there exist structural barriers that ought to be redressed hence the implementation of the Maputo protocol. - Opposition argued that this classification catalyses change as countries commit to implementing lasting solutions for the betterment of society. - It was further argued that women are a key population that are disproportionately affected by conflict hence their classification as vulnerable is meant to garner support for them to be empowered.
DPM-WUA	DLO-UZ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In buttressing the arguments presented by the PM, it was stressed that vulnerability implies passivity, that dissuades women from participating in socio-economic affairs. - Such classification was regarded as promoting unfavourable power dynamics and denies the capacity of women as change makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DLO said this house argued that the idea of women's vulnerability existed in social contexts, hence it was critical to leverage on that narrative to bring about structural changes. - They argued that classification of women as vulnerable initiates progressive conversations at a global stage as they have been marginalized for decades due to the patriarchal system. - The classification inspires change and shares the spotlight on the struggles of women as advocated for feminist movements brought about through the Maputo Protocol.

Closing Government- MG-MSUAS	Closing Opposition- MO-MUAST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MG was on the idea that the classification of women proposes a narrative of victimhood and reinforces stereotypes that lead to gender based violence. - It undermines the contributions of women in the society and over emphasises women's vulnerabilities. They noted that this creates the same problem that will see men being oppressed and neglected leading to the rise of mental health cases amongst men 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared the opinion that women are susceptible to sexual, physical and political abuse and their classification as vulnerable encourages them to actively participate in electoral processes. - This was exemplified in Rwanda where 30 parliamentary seats are solely reserved for women. The MO refuted that men are sidelined as women are yet to reach their full potential. - The classification of women creates a conducive environment for women to thrive.
Government Whip-MUAS	Opposition Whip- MUAST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whip was in agreement with the opening arguments by the government that classification of women as vulnerable overlooks their role in conflict resolution. - It reinforces the narrow view of gender specific needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They emphasized that they had no regrets on the classification of women as they are systematically vulnerable in economic, social and religion sectors. - Physiologically, women were argued to be weak hence policies such as the quota system is meant to avert their vulnerability

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

The judges complimented the opening opposition (UZ) and opening government (WUA) for being ranked first and second respectively as they characterised the debate in tandem with the international frameworks.

LSU vs HIT vs GSU vs MSU

"For the purpose of this debate, a global strategy refers to an activism shared and implied globally. This may include but is not limited to the breaking of glass ceilings in the workplace, reversing gender roles etcetera. A local strategy refers to differentiated policies among regions and political contexts. This may include but is not limited to pushes for specific policies such as carceral feminism, and campaigns for sexual liberation etcetera."

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: MAPUTO PROTOCOL

Motion: THP a world where feminist movements have separate strategies and stances for each region rather than a global strategy

“

“Global strategies are okay, but regional strategies respond best to the feminism needs,”
GSU debate student

”



Opening Government-PM- LSU	Opening Opposition-LOO- HIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government believed feminist movements are best suited to tackle issues such as female genital mutilation and sexual reproductive health. - It argued that feminist movements with specific regional strategies promote inclusivity for women to own their struggles and responsibilities. - Regional strategies were regarded as the preferred mechanism that recognises the diversity of women and thus suitable to spearhead change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The LOO expressed their disagreement with the submissions presented by the government as they preferred a shared global strategy. They argued that internationalization would pool resources and knowledge management together. - He further argued that a cocktail of national approaches yields better results through shared information. - It was opined that religion was used to suppress women thus feminism will emancipate them while collaboration fosters immense bargaining power to initiate structural changes.
DPM- LSU	DLO- HIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government stated that regional strategies are best suited for feminists' movements as women are homogenous groups hence use of regional lenses, an approach that caters for the challenges faced by women. - A regional approach appreciates the cultural contexts i.e. political, social and economic thus women need assistance based on their unique circumstances they endure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocated for a global movement as fragmented movements defeat the purpose of the overall goal as women face similar challenges the world over. These include but not limited to oppression, sexual exploitation, abuse and inequality. - Fragmenting movements has the potential to back track on the positive strides brought about by feminism. Thus, global feminism strategies ought to be embraced as they challenge traditional patriarchy

Closing Government- MG- GSU	Closing Opposition- MO- MSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MG emphasized that focus must be on regional strategies as they redress the same challenges as the global strategies, however, they are context specific to the needs of the region. The end results are the same as they entail eradicating inequalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argued that feminism entails a special bond formed by a common cause i.e. oppression the world over regardless of variance in its extent. Global strategies are preferred as they preserve the essence of feminism and foster collaborations across racial, cultural, political and social contexts.
Government Whip- GSU	Opposition Whip- MSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whip posited that feminism is a tool for advocacy to gender equality and realization of women's rights. - He highlighted that similar contexts yield the same results to regional problems and solutions have to be context specific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted that feminism is a community, safe space for women when viewed from a global perspective pose as a united front against injustice and inequality of women the world over. - Ownership of the struggle has to be a global issue to stimulate conversations and bring about lasting change.

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

The episode was won by opening government (LSU) seconded by closing government (GSU). The judges noted that the characterisation by opening government of Eurocentric approaches to feminism illustrated what the struggle looks like.

CUT vs BUSE vs GZU vs NUST

"For the purpose of this debate, a global strategy refers to an activism shared and implied globally. This may include but is not limited to the breaking of glass ceilings in the workplace, reversing gender roles etcetera. A local strategy refers to differentiated policies among regions and political contexts. This may include but is not limited to pushes for specific policies such as carceral feminism, and campaigns for sexual liberation etcetera."

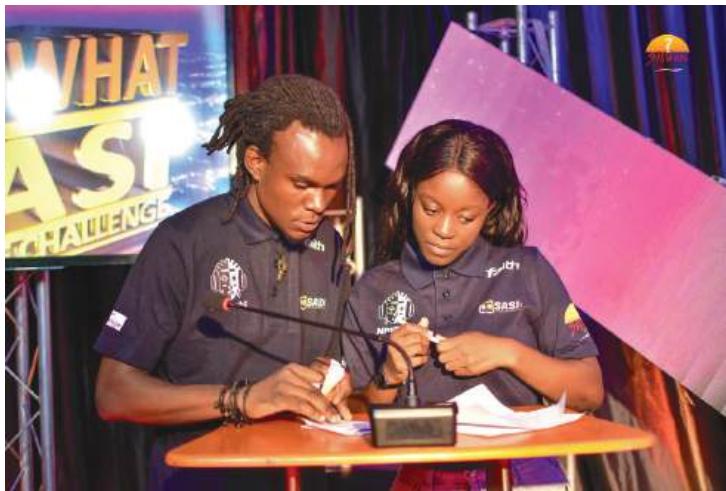
DEBATE FOCUS AREA: MAPUTO PROTOCOL

Motion: THP a focus on societal factors (i.e., socioeconomic factors) as opposed to individual factors (i.e., personal history) when addressing the causes and consequences of mental health issues.

“

Society is always greater than an individual
CUT debating student

”



<p>Opening Government-PM- CUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In their opening statement, the government noted that unemployment and poverty were societal factors and socioeconomic factors contribute to the spike in mental health patients. - The government noted that these factors were regarded as compounding the preexisting mental health issues that are hereditary and some attributed to post traumatic stress. Individual factors may not be ignored; however, society has to be conducive enough and not trigger depression. 	<p>Opening Opposition-LOO-BUSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition defined individual factors as personal characteristics such as genetics and childhood trauma. Thus, they opposed the opening government stating that individual factors need to be redressed together with societal factors - Mental health was regarded as complex demanding a two-pronged approach of resolving societal and individual factors to manage mental health. Genetics were argued to predispose people to mental health thus it was essential to cater for individual needs.
<p>DPM- CUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In making their case, the government stipulated that socio-economic factors must be prioritized to avert discrimination as the world is capitalistic in nature where people are determined by their wealth due to consumerism. - Lack of access to quality education and poverty have an overall bearing in contributing to mental health cases. The society stigmatizes mental health hence a culture of silence persists compounding the effects of mental health. - The government emphasized the need for stable socio-economic environment that is safe and accommodating to manage mental health. 	<p>DLO- BUSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In agreement with the LOO, the deputy leader of opposition acknowledged the existence of societal factors however, argued that psychological factors take precedence in contributing to mental health. - Individuals make up the society, thus, resolving their individual concerns trickles into the overall society they co-exist.

Closing Government- MG-GZU	Closing Opposition- MO-NUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The defending champions critiqued preference of solving individual issues over societal factors. They opined that individual face a plethora of challenges that are unique thus making it impossible to formulate policies that tackle such challenges. Therefore, societal factors are inclusive and policies may be formulated to ensure the mental well-being of young people as socio-economic challenges are non-partisan. Mental health was argued to be a universal problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They were critical of the opening government highlighting that they failed to pin-point the problem. The MO said managing mental health is a personal continuous journey that also affects the elite in society. Individual factors influence change of perception.
Government Whip- GZU	Opposition Whip- NUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In closing, the whip suggested that societal factors encompass individual ways of living, needs and wants of people. These are determinants to personal problems or lack thereof. They further argued that statistics illustrate socio-economic factors contribute more to mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the opposition concluded, the whip recommended therapy sessions for mental health patients as their challenges are peculiar; for instance, childhood trauma may not be fixed by improving socio-economic factors. Personal issues are the leading cause of suicides and high death rates has negative impacts on the economy through the loss of an active labour force The whip stressed that, mental health is an intimate issue and ought to be treated as such as society is judgemental and often fails to acknowledge the presence of lesbians, gays, transgender among other excluded populations.

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

The panel of adjudicators commended debaters for the eye-opening ideas they raised. They acknowledged the complexity of the debate that was hinged on characterization and on which team best illustrated what the world would look like from their stand point. In that regard, closing opposition (NUST) and closing government (GZU) won this episode.

MUAST vs GSU vs LSU vs WUA

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESA) MINISTERIAL COMMITMENTS

Motion: THP a world where the dominant norm is one where it is acceptable to talk about sex, sexual interests, and advances with adults in all contexts (i.e., strangers, friends, work etcetera)



Opening Government-PM- MUAST	Opening Opposition-LOO-GSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government was of the opinion that sex and sexual interests have been frowned upon for years, hence the freedom of expression and empowerment will remove societal taboos. - It was argued that, it has the ripple effect of destigmatizing sexual orientation and initiate open conversations on sexual reproductive health and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections due to the lack of knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition was convinced that free and open discussions have several disadvantages as too much freedom may perpetuate sexual harassment - These discussions take away the respect and dignity of young people, therefore, it was imperative to promote awareness campaigns but preserve boundaries. - The LOO was firm in stating that these conversations trigger high rates of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infection as young people would explore their sexuality due to the information they have gained.
DPM-MUAST	DLO-CSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government chastised the opposition for focusing on sexual intercourse instead of gleaning on sexual expression and interest. They noted that discussions do not forgo boundaries, rather, open communication promotes sexual education on issues such as age of consent, menstrual cycles and other SRH issues. - These discussions were regarded as a conduit that facilitates a culture of sexual consent and effectively communicating on encroaching boundaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition noted that peer education through comprehensive sexuality education was a better alternative than having these open discussions with everyone. It was a comfortable seat and was a safe space. - They argued that discussions pertaining to sexual interests and expressions were not conducive in a working environment. -

Closing Government- MG-LSU	Closing Opposition- MO-WUA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MG critiqued the opposition that they cannot prove their claim on loss of dignity as sexual intercourse is not an embarrassment. Rather open discussions ensure that adults have control over the narrative; while rebuking traditional norms and awareness campaigns do not solve all problems as high rates of STIs and unplanned pregnancies are still prevalent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They opined that open dialogue blurs the lines of consent and sex with a rise in unwanted pregnancies in a country with an ailing economy. - Open conversations violate cultural norms which are the fabric of society.
Government Whip- LSU	Opposition Whip- WUA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In closing, the whip indicated that the government desires a healthy and inclusive society, in a world of open conversations that is progressive. - Open discussions promote healthy relationships and understanding one's sexuality with the aim and focus on building a nation free from stereotypes surrounding sex and creating a future young people desire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In closing, the closing government noted that individuals are predatory and take advantage of one's curiosity. It was important to make use of safe spaces as failure to do so inadvertently lead to the rise of sexual harassment.

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

The adjudicators noted that the debate had missing analysis, as teams failed to logically prove why their world is better. However, closing government (LSU) won the 7th episode.

UZ vs BUSE vs CUT vs HIT

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESA) MINISTERIAL COMMITMENTS

Motion: TH, as leaders of marginalized minority groups, would urge respective communities to partake in greater social integration at the expense of sustaining unique cultural attributes i.e., teaching comprehensive sex education at schools.

“

Culture is the woven fabric of society; the lack of it renders us lost- without identity' BUSE debating student

”



Opening Government-PM- UZ	Opening Opposition-LOO- BUSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government argued that culture is malleable and there was need to abandon cultures that are harmful to people, and the integration of cultures explores a world of possibilities not confined to the same laws. - They argued that cultural trade-offs are necessary as they poke cultural beliefs that are harmful such as female genital mutilation. Religious leaders were argued to have a moral duty in leading cultural integration as they have access to communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The LOO refuted the case presented by the government citing that culture gives people an identity. - They argued that cultural integration leads to the disintegration of one's uniqueness- it needs to be preserved against dilution as failure to do so leads to cultural erosion. They noted that for these reasons, cultural integration may be resisted by the communities.
DPM-UZ	DLO-BUSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bolstered the argument made in the opening speech, that the government is doing away with harmful cultural practices. - Resistance to a new culture is lessened by collaborating with local leaders. Thus, societal integration ensures the adoption of values that are not harmful and widely accepted to end segregation of marginalized communities who practice harmful acts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argued that comprehensive sexuality education must balance human rights and cultural rights for it to be fully accepted. - Integration may dilute unique cultural practices.

Closing Government- MG-CUT	Closing Opposition- MO-HIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The closing government noted that leaders should prioritise the protection of their people and strive to eradicate systematic and structural oppression as culture should not instigate violation of human rights, for example, the killing of albinos and twins. - The goal of societal integration is to end sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies and FGM against women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MO believed assimilation must not be at the expense one's cultures. Sex education is shunned upon in the Muslim community because knowledge promotes promiscuity through experimentation. - They stressed that different ways to live do not make it wrong, rather, it is a testimony of cultural diversity and tolerance.
Government Whip-CUT	Opposition Whip- HIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refuted the arguments raised by the opposition government, arguing that culture is not static, rather dynamic and consistently changing. - Societal integration was the preferred alternative as it rids marginalized communities of challenges such as child marriages and the unhealthy circumcision of boys in mountains, with scientifically approved resources. - The whip emphasized that integration is not the destruction of people's culture, but it is a perfect blend that is progressive to make the world a better place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In closing, the opposition whip argued that the collaboration of religious leaders was not ideal as these leaders are self-serving. - They are divorced from the lived realities of their people and needs of their communities. This is exemplified by the case of Madzibaba Ishmael of Nyabira in Zimbabwe, who violated several human rights. - The whip felt strongly that, the proposition of societal integration is a foreign agenda to promote neo-colonialism and a threat to African cultures.

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

They applauded the debaters for their compelling arguments. It was observed that the debate was won the teams' ability to demonstrate clear understanding of the topic. In this regard, open government (UZ) and closing government (CUT) were first and second respectively on this episode as their analysis on the malleability of culture. Closing government were second as they failed to provide an extension on analysis and repackage of their arguments. .

GZU vs MSU vs NUST vs MSUAS

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESA) MINISTERIAL COMMITMENTS

Motion: This house believes that human rights standards ought to be absolute and independent of cultural context



Opening Government-PM-GZU	Opening Opposition-LOO-MSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 6th edition defending champions defined human rights as universal, a global standard agreed upon by all countries. They argued that it was futile to incorporate culture in human rights as culture is too broad and diverse. - The government argued that accountability is necessitated through human rights as cultural norms are not all universally acceptable. - Human rights ought to be absolute as they protect vulnerable groups across the globe who may be subjected to systems of oppression enshrined in national constitutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition government was of the opinion that human rights emanate from shared values from the culture of people and become effective if they are consistent with cultural relevant values. - They argued that human rights cannot be absolute as they come with excesses such as freedom of speech that may cause civil unrest if left unchecked.
DPM-GZU	DLO-MSU

Closing Government- MG-NUST	Closing Opposition- MO-MSUAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MG stated that culture influences people as it shapes their perspectives. - Homogenisation of culture may take away people's right to self determination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argued that human rights should not violate cultural norms as they are dynamic and may be amended to suit cultural contexts. - People should be self-determinant, culture is not entirely bad, however the MO felt that human rights should not be absolute as they must respect cultural norms.
Government Whip- NUST	Opposition Whip- MSUAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In closing, the whip argued that the dynamism of culture makes it strenuous to continuously ratify human rights, - Some cultural practices are counter progressive such as virginity testing which violates girls' right to privacy. - To this end, the whip argued that universally acceptable ideals are preferred as they may be applied uniformly across borders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the whip concluded, he argued that cultural beliefs are subjective and culture may not be eradicated. There was a dire need to respect cultural diversity as it gives a sense of identity. - Human rights evolve through engagement of cultural norms. The two need to be complimentary to ensure compliance.

THE JUDGES CALL/VERDICT

Adjudicators acknowledged that it was difficult to make the call as there was need to assess how the debate was framed and characterization of human rights. They needed more time to thoroughly deliberate, however in the end the episode was won by opening government (GZU)

At this stage four teams/universities with the least points from the adjudicator's scoresheet were eliminated. These teams were HIT, MSUAS, BUSE and MUAST.

UZ vs LSU vs CUT vs GSU

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: ICPD30 AND THE ADDIS-ABABA ACTION

A birth strike refers to a social movement or individual decision in which people choose not to have children or delay having children due to concerns about the future. It is a form of protest or activism aimed at drawing attention to various issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, overpopulation, economic instability, and social inequality. In the Most recent years, South Korean Women have carried out the "Birth Strike", making South Korea to have the lowest birth rate in the World as of 2023.

Motion: This house believes that African women would carry out a birth strike.



Opening Government-PM-UZ	Opening Opposition-LOO-LSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government illustrated that the dominance of patriarchal power should prompt women into a birth strike. - The strike would be radical and provoke the status quo as protest to liberate women and celebrate their bodily autonomy. This would afford women an opportunity to contribute to the socio-economic context. - The government stressed that child bearing was forced upon women in environments with dysfunctional health care systems due to the existence of the patriarchal system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition believed that the government harbours aggression. They argued that a birth strike reinforces gender stereotypes and cultivate a culture of negative stigma from society. - The stigma associated with the birth strike entailed derogatory labels of barrenness. - Birth strikes were argued to disrupt the family structure
DPM-UZ	DLO-LSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government further argued that living conditions are not favourable and women are not keen to see their children suffer in environment characterised by economic regression, dilapidated health care facilities with high mortality rates and political instability. - Birth strikes initiatives spark conversations on the emancipation of women and are instruments to ensure that women receive what they want. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refuted the arguments shared by the government citing that methods used to prevent women from conceiving are harmful to their maternal and reproductive health. The use of contraceptives was frowned upon by the opposition. - They argued that birth strikes reverse the gains and investments channelled towards the reduction of infant and mortality rates by state and non-state actors. - Birth strikes are extremist in nature and undermine the family and African culture

Closing Government- MG-CUT	Closing Opposition- MO-GSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opined that there is need to control childbirth as there is over population in the world; with an acute lack of access to adequate health care and safe water, which leads to high child mortality rates – the case in Nigeria. - Birth strikes would ensure that young people focus on contributing to economic growth and improve their social welfare prior to child bearing and fight against climate change as it is an urgent concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argued that Africa is predominantly agrarian and thus labour intensive. There is a continuous need for labour to help in the provision of family to ensure food security. - A birth strike was noted to be unnecessary as countries have been fighting gender-based violence since the 2000s and significant progress has been made. - The member of opposition felt strongly that birth strikes are suitable for overpopulated countries and African countries are yet to achieve their population density.
Government Whip-CUT	Opposition Whip- GSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In conclusion, the whip argued that it was irresponsible to bring forth children in an unfriendly environment. Women's bodies are not tools and their dignity must be preserved. - halting child birth does not equate to loneliness as individuals have family, friends and the internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whip concluded by stating that African women are brilliant and should be empowered, to foster inclusivity. - Africa relies heavily on population and overpopulation resembles economic growth and prosperity thus a birth strike is counter productive

11th Episode GZU vs NUST vs MSU vs WUA

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: ICPD30 AND THE ADDIS-ABABA ACTION

The degrowth movement, as it's called, argues that humanity can't keep growing without driving humanity into climate catastrophe. The only solution, the argument goes, is an extreme transformation of our way of life – a transition away from treating economic growth as a policy priority to an acceptance of shrinking GDP as a prerequisite to saving the planet.

Motion: This house supports the degrowth movement

“

Human beings are destructive, with an innate
desire to continuously push boundaries”
NUST debating student

”



Opening Government-PM-GZU	Opening Opposition-LOO-NUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The defending champions noted that consumerism and capitalism require a radical approach to avert a global crisis causing harm to the environment. - The government argued that profit seeking initiatives must be abandoned as they displaced people from their ancestral lands to expand their industries. - The degrowth movement is a social movement meant for the betterment of humanity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposing government was critical of halting production as that translates to low gross domestic product, which leads to hunger and poverty. - It entails the loss of financial resources that are much needed to combat climate change. They argued that countries like Germany reward companies that recycle materials and contribute to the advancement of eco-friendly motor vehicles. - The opposition felt strongly that, people are easily taxed when there is economic prosperity and the taxes are channelled towards the fight against climate change.
DPM-GZU	DLO-NUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government refuted the claims made by opposition and stressed that, the motion demanded a comparative analysis as they are not doing away with consumerism. - They argued that there is need to strike a balance between development and preserving the environment. Priority of the economy over the plundering of the planets' ecosystem was not part of the agenda. The degrowth movement aspires to curtail the exponential growth of economies at the expense of the planet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition were of the notion that climate change is in effect and the degrowth movement is no-longer practical, thus profits generated from private corporations may be used to improve sustainable ways to preserve the environment. - There was need to use public transportation systems and electric cars to scale down the rate of emissions. - The opposition further argued that, there was a dire need to thoroughly asses the causes of climate change and fund the initiatives that reverses the climate change phenomenon.

<p>Closing Government- MG-WUA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The member of government was of the opinion that economic growth does not guarantee the quality of life, rather it exacerbates environmental degradation. It serves to make the wealthy, wealthier and widen the preexisting inequality gaps in society. It also has the compound effects of raising inflation, illustrating that a degrowth movement is necessary. - To them, degrowth entailed downsizing in pollution waste and produce that people need to consume without excesses do avert extreme consumerism. - The rate of progression for climate change was argued to be too fast and wide than can be immediately addressed. Thus, steps were to be taken gradually to curtail the climate phenomenon 	<p>Closing Opposition- MO-MSU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A different stance was taken by the opposition who regarded the degrowth movement as an unsuitable panacea to climate change. They strongly believed that, developed countries were the perpetrators of climate change and the movement should only apply to them. - Third world countries are at the infancy stages of development, hence the degrowth movement imply that hunger and poverty will remain a generational challenge. - They argued that countries with fewer resources will be adversely affected without clear indications of how they would recover.
<p>Government Whip-WUA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In closing, the government whip argued that the degrowth movement will not affect developing countries as they focus more on agriculture. - She argued that emissions emanate from fully industrialized countries hence those churning out more emissions were encouraged to downscale. - The whip encouraged countries to be innovative in redressing climate change through planting of trees and halting industrialization will provide eco-friendly ways to preserve the environment 	<p>Opposition Whip- MSU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the opposition whip closed the debate, he encouraged the use of renewable energies such as solar and economic growth ascertains innovative measures to tackle climate change. - He argued that, the degrowth movement only leads to inadequate financial resources that are much needed to catapult climate change initiatives.

**A further four teams/ universities were eliminated at the semi-finals.
These were LSU, WUA, GSU and GZU**

LETTER FROM DR KWARAMBA DEAN OF STUDENTS, UZ

Representing university authorities, Dr Kwaramba acknowledged and applauded the brilliance of participating students who were competing and representing their universities. He noted that, the world over, youths form the largest demographic in several countries that may leverage their passion, commitments and energies towards the attainment of sustainable development goals. He further noted that the debate afforded students an opportunity to proffer solutions to contemporary challenges they face.

The Dean commended the dedication of SAYWHAT in empowering students and young people to enhance their skills as innovators and future leaders. He added that the debate illustrated the shared global concerns of young people and how they may improve the status for their benefit. Dr Kwaramba concluded by urging students to continuously encourage each other to participate in innovative platforms such as the SASI Debate and nurture aspiring debaters. He extended his appreciation to SAYWHAT supporting partners and all those who worked behind the scenes to make the debate competitions a reality.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

“ I am overjoyed to see young people as active architects of the 2030 agenda supporting its implementation with the inter-institutional debate battle’ UNFPA Country Representative Ms. Miranda Tabifor

”

Ms. Miranda Tabifor graced the 7th edition of the SASI Debate challenge at the Studio of Choice. The Country Representative noted that the theme of the SASI Debate resonated strongly with the principles that UNFPA supports to advance SDGs for a better, healthier, more equitable sustainable future. She noted that the debate coincided with the UNFPA 30th anniversary and celebration of the 30th year anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development program of action. She applauded SAYWHAT for successfully producing the 7th edition of the SASI debate competition and continuous efforts to equip young people as agents of change in their respective communities. Moreover, the country representative noted that young people in Zimbabwe below the age of 25 years constitute over 60% of the population, thus, the competition afforded young people an avenue for solution focused discussions that may be adopted to inform regional and global events such as the Southern African Regional Students and Youth Conference. In wrapping up her address, the country representative challenged students and young people to thoroughly understand SDGs and make concerted efforts to contribute to their attainment. More so, young people were encouraged to take an active role in the monitoring of relevant legislation and policies that have a bearing on their lives. Ms. Tabifor pledged continued support to SAYWHAT and other like-minded organizations to ensure that young people reach their full potential.

Finals

The final was held in the presence of the UNFPA Country Representative; Ms. Miranda Tabifor, Swedish Embassy in Zimbabwe Representative, SAYWHAT Head of Programs Dorcas Chikorova, SAYWHAT Board Member Ms. B. Taguta, University of Zimbabwe Dean of Students Dr. Kwaramba and the National Coordinating Committee chairlady Miah C. Tsinakwadi. They witnessed the clash of the last four universities battling to reign supreme the 7th Edition of the SASI Debate

The Grand Finale Round 5 Episode 12

12th Episode NUST vs UZ vs MSU vs CUT

DEBATE FOCUS AREA: STUDENTS FOR GLOBAL GOALS

In recent years, there has been a rise of Generation Greta who are teenagers and young people (i.e., Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, The Parkland Students) who have increasingly been central parts of campaigns by social movements for Global Goals processes (i.e., the Climate Movement, Feminism, and in favour of gun control.) This means they have advocated publicly for their positive outcomes, received external media attention, and campaigned directly to politicians. .

Motion:

This House Regrets the rise of Generation Greta at the forefront of social movements.

“There is no better time to celebrate generation Greta than now. A unique opportunity for young people to lead from the front; shape the society they desire to exist in and form movements that are palatable and societies that are more adaptable,” UZ Student.

Opening Government-PM-NUST	Opening Opposition-LOO-UZ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government noted that young people are vulnerable at the forefront of social movements. This was attributed to the fact that; a young Muslim girl Malala Yousafzai was almost murdered due to her role as the face of a public campaign. - The government argued that progress was inevitable, however, minors should not lead social movements disregarding their welfare. More so, the use of young people at the forefront was argued to undermine the human and social investments by other organization to spearhead lasting changes within the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition refuted the arguments raised by the government citing that the motion of the debate was on the enhancement of generation Greta. - They argued that, in the 21st century, the world is tolerant and sympathetic, therefore, it was crucial for young people to leverage on this and take the lead. - Generation Greta was opined to consist of young people with social influence and fame, hence, their participation at the forefront of social movements makes it appealing for young people to be part of the agenda. - The opposition firmly believed that generation Greta at the forefront of movements provided the youths with a unique opportunity to shape the society they desire to exist in and form movements that are palatable and societies that are more adaptable
DPM-NUST	DLO-UZ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government was opposed to having young people leading social movements as it promoted individual heroism disrupting concerted efforts and progress made by grassroots movements. - They believed, there was need to prioritize community led movements. - The existence of social media and the internet prohibits generation Greta from living normal lives as their socialist advocacies may negatively impact their employability as they would be judges on ideologies they represented. - The DPM stressed that, young people should be in the background, contributing privately to existing movements without them being at the forefront of social movements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argued that young people rose to popularity for fighting worthy causes such as climate change. Their engagement illustrates their efforts in the creation of their future while identifying and exposing existing vulnerabilities in their communities. - Social movements are big, and the young people's equally have the right to lead in the campaigns. - Opposition buttressed their arguments stating that, social movements have safeguarding policies that guarantees the protection of young people.

Closing Government- MG-MSU	Closing Opposition- MO-CUT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The member of government highlighted that there is need to assess traction versus impact. Young people fall victim to random acts of violence due to their vulnerability in lacking adequate support systems. - The MG was bold in noting that young people are merely used for affirmative action as their contributions are often ignored at international and regional forums such as UN summits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was opposed to the arguments presented by closing government, arguing that young people at the forefront of social movements gunners' attention and initiates conversations at a global stage. - Young peoples' contributions are worth of recognition as they will inherit the earth. In that regard, their ideas aid in shaping the environment they will lead in the future.
Government Whip-MSU	Opposition Whip- CUT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In closing the debate, the whip was of the idea that young people must be preserved for the future as they shall solve socio-political-economic issues of their time. Unsanctioned loss of their lives robs social movements of future leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opposition concluded that the debate revolved around giving young people a platform to be heard in social movements. They argued that social movements are fraught with challenges, however, sacrifices are made for the struggle with the aim of achieving particular goals.

With the finals of the debate completed, the University of Zimbabwe was crowned as the 7th Edition SASI Debate Champions of the year 2024.

AWARDS CEREMONY

In recognition of the hard work, determination and resilience showcased by the students throughout the debate challenge, in particular, the grand finale, participants were slated to receive prizes. The ceremony was presided over by the UNFPA Country Representative, SAYWHAT Board Member and the UZ Dean of Students.

Individual Awards

Best Male speaker : Methembe Mthimkhulu (UZ) -received a Samsung Mobile phone

Best Female speaker : Nombulelo Ndlovu (NUST) -received a Samsung Mobile Phone

Institutional Awards

1st University of Zimbabwe

Participants won HP Laptops, medals and certificates of recognition for their participation in the debate competition and the University was awarded a multi-purpose printer.

2nd Chinhoyi University of Technology

Participants were awarded medals, Samsung Tablets and certificates of recognition for their participation in the debate competition

3rd Midlands State University

The participants received mobile phones, medals and certificates of recognition for their participation in the debate competition

4th National University of Science and Technology

The participants received certificates of for their participation in the debate competition and their endurance throughout the competitions.



UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE



Chinhoyi University of Technology



Midlands State University



National University of Science and Technology

AWARDS CEREMONY IN PICTURES



SASI DEBATE DINNER CELEBRATIONS & BOOK LAUNCH- THE BEGINNING

The SASI debate challenge ended with an exciting dinner to celebrate the students for Global Goals and mark the official launch of a book written to inspire and educate young people to refrain from drug abuse. The event was held at Cresta Oasis Hotel in the Central Business District. Miah C. Tsinakwadi, the National Coordinating Committee Chairperson welcomed the students and SAYWHAT secretariat. The dinner was graced by the founder of Faith Wear, Mr Brett Van Rooyen and Tony Chihota, a musician cum author whose audio book launch was the highlight of the dinner. Highlights of the event are as follows:

SAYWHAT and Partnerships in Brief

- The head of Programs, Dorcas Chikorova welcomed the guests and students present during the dinner. She provided a brief synopsis of the organization which is also a movement whose work is underpinned by the students and other supporting organisations such as the UNFPA.
- She pointed out that SAYWHAT collaborates with other partners/organizations to support the cause of young people's sexual reproductive health matters.
- She acknowledged and appreciated the ideas shared by students during the debate to an extent proposed the idea to document the ideas that came from the students in the form a booklet that can be shared to various stakeholders
- She noted that drug and substance abuse is one of the critical emerging challenges which needs collaborative approaches to address it. To this end, The Beginning approached SAYWHAT to amplify the fight against drug and substance abuse and the partners behind it included West Properties, Faith Wear and Nhumbi clothing brands. The partnerships are anchored on the Faith Hope and Love Tour that will be reach out to all 12 state universities in Zimbabwe.
- The head of programs welcomed to the podium the founder of Faith Wear, Brett Van Rooyen to provide insights into his organization. He had the following to say:

Overview of Faith Wear

- The company has been operational for over 30 years and Brett developed it to cater for his family using his talents. As a child, Brett formed a close bond with Tony Chihota who later ventured into music and was a survivor of drug and substance abuse.
- Brett recalled that Tony had been sober for over two and half years and had created a clothing brand Nhumbi together with Brett to support his music career. In that regard, Brett welcomed Tony Chihota to the podium to share his story.

Background of Tony Chihota

- Tony Chihota introduced himself as a hip hop artiste cum author also known as Chief Capone in musical circles who made early success in the music arena when hip hop music was reserved for the international market. He was part of a band in the early 1990s and relocated to South Africa in pursuit of his musical journey.
- However, he faced challenges with his music career while in South Africa and due to hardships lived on the streets abusing drugs. He was subsequently arrested.
- As a survivor of drug addiction, Chief Capone dedicated himself to share his personal experiences with young people to raise awareness on the negative impacts of drug abuse.
- As such, the artist uses his musical talents as a gospel hip hop artiste to spread the message. In one of the songs, he partnered with a popular local artiste Brian K.
- Tony Chihota chronicles his life in the book, *The Beginning*, that also has an audio version to educate young people on the dangers of using drugs and substances.

AWARD CEREMONY

As the guests of honours wrapped up their contributions, they presided over the award ceremony flanked by the NCC chair where focal persons from all 12 universities received certificates of participation in recognition of their contributions in making the SASI Debate a success. Students were also awarded individual certificates, recognising their diligence, hard work and commitment to the cause of sexual reproductive health.



The evening concluded with a live musical performance from Chief Capone and Brian K accompanied by a dance crew to entertain the young people. Chief Capone sampled some of his latest offerings including the new track titled Praises much to the delight of the audience.

THE SASI DEBATE CHALLENGE IN THE MEDIA

Mainstream Media

The 2024 SASI Debate Challenge received wide coverage within from local media attributing to the continued growth of the Challenge, as it has become an initiative that young people and the media look forward to in each calendar year.

[UZ takes SAYWHAT's SASI Debate championship - HealthTimes](#)

[Debate competitions foster solutions to global health challenges - The Standard](#)

[\(7\) Facebook](#)

Social Media

The Debate Challenge was also covered across all SAYWHAT mainstream social media platforms, triggering a sharp increase in engagement and reach, especially on the SAYWHAT Facebook page. During the SASI Debate Challenge Week, the SAYWHAT Facebook page had a cumulative total reach of 50,000 with a daily average reach of 10,000 which peaked to a 2024 all-time high of 342,600 impressions, 118,800 reach and 11,600 on content interactions. The high engagement rate received during the week provided proof of the competition's popularity within the youth community in Zimbabwe and beyond.



134



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309

319



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