The Corporatization of the University in Zimbabwe

By

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**Abstract**

For some time now there has been a major paradigm shift in Zimbabwe’s higher education landscape that entails a shift from the earlier dispensation in which the state shouldered the burden for the provision of higher and tertiary education in the country to one where universities are now run as corporates. When did this paradigm shift gather momentum and when can it be said to have become so pronounced? How do we explain this radical shift in policy and what have been the implications of this corporatization of the university on access to higher education? What has this corporatization entailed? Has the shift had any implications on quality of education from the higher learning institutions? Using the cases of the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) and the Midlands State University (MSU) this qualitative paper interrogates the corporatization of the university in Zimbabwe. Drawing on purposive interviews with a cross- section of university students and staff at the two purposively selected case studies, the paper argues that the corporatization of the university in Zimbabwe, though with its own merits, has had serious implications on equal access to higher education in the country by learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. Has higher education become a preserve for the well off? Massification in terms of enrolments has become the order of the day at universities. What have been the quantity- quality trade- offs in this regard? What have been the wider implications on this “rolling back of the state” in the provision of education on quality of education as well as human capital development? The paper argues that the provision of higher education in Zimbabwe needs a major re-think if the skilled manpower needs of the country are to be met with the current “rolling back” of the state revisited.

**Key Words:** Corporatization, Higher education, strategic business units, massification.

Makaye’s Bio Data

Peter Makaye is a Zimbabwean who is undertaking D.Phil in Development Studies at Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He is also a lecturer in Development Studies at Midlands State University, Zimbabwe.

To date Makaye has authored 3 book chapters and published about a dozen journal articles in reputable outlets. He has participated at a number of international conferences and training workshops such as: Research Methodology organised **by OSSREA in Addis Ababa**, Parliamentary Oversight organised by **CIPPEC in Benous Aires**, Argentina and International Election Observation organised by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Centre (KAIPTC) at the LECIA Centre of The University of Ghana.

The last international conference he attended was the **42 World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology** from **5 to 7 September 2018 at the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg** ,South Africa. He presented a paper titled: The Evolution of Zimbabwe’s Higher and Tertiary Education from its Colonial Character.

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