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Editorial comment: Empowering Communities through Context-Driven Research

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This issue of the Mulungushi University Multidisciplinary Journal showcases a diverse range of studies that tackle pressing challenges and opportunities in Zambia, from cultural intersections to economic advancement, practical innovation, and educational development. The featured research includes studies on Lamba-Lamba healers-diviners navigating indigenous spirituality within a Christian framework, cultural values shaping educational aspirations of female pupils in Chisamba, barriers limiting Zambian SMEs' global expansion, and strategies for optimizing Building Information Modeling (BIM) adoption among Luapula Province enterprises.

The journal also highlights practical innovations, such as the development of low-cost, sustainable plastic-modified concrete pavers for infrastructure applications. Additionally, contributions tackle critical issues in education and well-being, including disablers of teaching mathematics to visually impaired learners, effectiveness of experiential storytelling in enhancing youth assertiveness, and COVID-19 knowledge among Kabwe residents. Theoretical explorations into linguistic modality's role in self-expression and entrepreneurship education's capacity to build international business competencies in TVET settings further enrich this multidisciplinary tapestry.

Collectively, these studies demonstrate the power of locally grounded research in driving socio-economic development and contributing to global knowledge. This journal continues to be a vital platform for scholarship that matters – for Zambia and beyond. By showcasing rigorous academic inquiry directly engaged with Zambia's socio-economic development priorities, we aim to empower communities while contributing valuable knowledge to the global academic discourse.

By **Dr. Charity Meki Kombe**

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