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# RADIO WARS

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# INSIDE



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# British radios shipment raises stink

Review & Mail Writers



The shipment of 1 500 solar radios by the British Embassy in Zimbabwe has raised a stink among some sections of society who have questioned the timing of the gesture, coming a few months before the country's watershed elections slated for next year.

This comes at a time when Government and the ruling party, Zanu-PF are increasingly wary about likely foreign interference in next year's elections. Last week, President Mnangagwa warned against "brazen effrontery" by some unnamed foreign missions.

In a tweet at the weekend, the British Embassy in Harare announced it would soon be launching the radios, ostensibly to support the country's radio programming in rural areas.

"The long awaited next shipment of 1500 solar radios that the UK has funded will be launched in a few weeks to support excellent radio programming that was developed and broadcast during the pandemic. These solar radios have USB ports so that the most remote schools can still pay these lessons, even when there are connection issues," the Embassy said.

The Embassy said over the last two years, it had provided more than US\$1 million of materials including reading and numeracy cards and teacher and school heads guides to first determine the levels of foundational literacy and numeracy needed by students to enable them to learn effectively and then provide teachers with methods to increase those literacy levels.

But some observers, while acknowledging the importance of empowering rural communities, especially school children through information, questioned the timing of the delivery of the radios.

ZANU PF Director of Information, Tafadzwa Mugwadi, said the gadgets should be brought into the country through proper procedures and their purposes properly explained.

He said this was not the first time that such gadgets had been brought into the country ahead of crucial elections, suggesting they were meant to push a regime change agenda in the country.

"Just to advice that the state of Zimbabwe has legislation managing and providing for procedure on how those things are done through the Broadcasting Services Act and the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) under the Ministry of Information and Publicity.

"So I am not informed whether those radios have been cleared along that procedure, but be that as it may, I will tell you that from our side as ZANU PF this is not the first time that such regime change driven radio devices have been given or donated for free for want to create pockets of propaganda in our rural communities supposedly such that they will be in a position to push ZANU PF out. We saw that in 2000, we saw that in 2005 and we saw that in 2008.

"In 2013 they came again but in all those years except in 2008 what did we have, each time that those radios came, ZANU PF got more strengthened than ever before and the successive electoral victories attest to that. So that is not an incident in as far as we are preparing for the watershed 2023 elections,"

said Mugwadi.

He said the party was poised for victory because its mobilisation was scientific such that it could not be driven by 'cheap pieces of silver or cheap donations like propaganda materials as it were'.

No comment could be obtained from Government spokesperson and Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary, Nick Mangwana

Political analyst Maxwell Saungweme, however, said providing people with more channels for receiving information was not only the right thing to do, but a way of according them their right to access information.

"If more underprivileged people have more channels to access information, this means also ability for political actors to channel their messages. Its only political actors bereft of new ideas who frown at radios meant to improve citizens' access to information," he said.

He said Zimbabweans in rural areas needed more radios beyond the 1500 donated by the British for them to have better access to information.

"One cannot claim to be in favour of development in communities and democracy and at the same time seek to muzzle people's access to information and communication channels," he said.

Another analyst, Vivid Gwede said the radio donation was a welcome gesture which would go along way in closing the information gap between rural and urban learners. "The government of Zimbabwe if it is committed to democracy must be committed to wider access to information by

citizens. Rural pupils are most disadvantaged in terms of access to information and radio programming for schools in those areas would help narrow the gap of opportunities," he said

President Emmerson Mnangagwa early July singled out the British Embassy in Harare as one of the diplomatic missions in the country that were meddling in Zimbabwe's internal political affairs.

He said Western countries were weaponising culture and communication in order to meddle in the internal politics of the country and to undermine political stability.

While the Vienna Convention provides for Foreign Missions to further economic, scientific and cultural relations in the receiving State, the Convention does not sanction Missions to weaponise these key areas in order to meddle in electoral processes, or to undermine political stability in the receiving State. Again, we have seen some Missions mobilising our artists and communicators for partisan political ends. We have had to order one Mission to drop such hideous plans.

"Lately, we have witnessed attempts at interfering in our internal affairs by some Foreign Missions accredited to our country. This worrisome propensity is likely to get even more blatant closer to our Harmonised General Elections slated for next year, in 2023. Needless to say, Government frowns upon this brazen effrontery against our sovereignty, which is in clear violation of basic provisions of international law and norms governing inter-state relations," President Mnangagwa in his weekly column in a local newspaper.

## COH workers, ZANU PF youths clash over land

Chris Mahove



Some City of Harare workers who were allocated land in line of their back pays were shocked last week to find the land they were to be allocated in Tafara occupied by ZANU PF youths, who have already put up structures.

More than 4 500 workers, who were owed over three months' salaries, were promised stands in lieu of 2016 salary arrears after the employer indicated he did not have money to pay them.

But a batch of 350 workers who were meant to be allocated stands in Tafara last week came back empty handed after they found the piece of land already occupied by some ZANU PF youths who had erected temporary structures.

A worker representative who is also a prospective beneficiary, Rudo Chigoche said the youths occupying the land told them they were ZANU PF supporters and were also entitled to the stands.

"We went to Tafara last week and returned empty handed. This was the second time we have been there and failed to get the stands. The youths said they also wanted the land because they were ZANU PF members. But what they don't know is that I have also been a ZANU PF member for a long time, I actually got the job through the party. I have been a chairperson for a long time and also Political Commissar," she said.

Chigoche said it was much better for the workers to get the stands instead of the salaries which she said were now worthless.

"It is better for the workers to get the stands because the salaries we are getting are useless. We can't afford to send our children to school, can't buy food for the family let alone buy a house or stand. We can't even afford transport, even if we travel by ZUPCO. If there are any workers who are struggling, it is council workers.

"It would be much better if we could get our stands, build our shacks there and at least have our own roof over our heads, it is much better," she said.

She said despite the land having been occupied by the youths, there was still space

for up to 50 people which could have been allocated to some of the workers and reduce the backlog.

"If they had given 50 people they wanted to allocate on the day we could have all gotten the stands, but then council officials insisted that the youths should first vacate the land," she said.

Zimbabwe Municipal Workers Union Chairperson, George Matongerera said the City of Harare was in talks with the ruling party officials and a meeting has been slated for this week to iron out the issues.

"Things will work out well. A meeting will be held this week and the workers will get their stands. Some will be allocated at Chizhanhe and Ashton," he said.

ZANU PF Secretary for Information, Tafadzwa Mugwadi was not responding to messages sent to him.

Harare City Council has allocated 305 stands to its employees to offset salary arrears.

The development comes at a time when the city is struggling to pay workers who are reportedly owed three months' salaries.

The city is understood to be processing February salaries at the moment. Sources say about 4 150 employees were promised residential stands in lieu of outstanding salaries in 2016. Recent minutes of a meeting of the education, health, housing and community services and licensing committee show that the acting human capital director Retired Major Matthew Marara reported that the city had so far allocated 305 stands in Mabvuku.

"The acting human capital director reported that very little progress has been made, only 305 stands were allocated to employees in lieu of salary arrears," he said.

"The 305 stands were in Mabvuku and the site plan had 600 stands, but after survey, the stands were reduced to 305."

Rtd Major Marara said other workers would be allocated stands at Eyrestone Farm. Town clerk Engineer Hosiach Chisango told a full council meeting that the city was paying salaries for the month of February.

"We are making progress in terms of paying our workers and right now we are paying for February," he said.

## Gvt urged to ratify ILO Convention 190

Albert Chavhunduka



Unions and labour experts say government must now ratify the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 190 in order to strengthen the Sexual Harassment Policy 2022 which was launched recently.

The policy launch comes at a time when the country has been experiencing a steep increase of sexual harassment and gender based violence at the workplace and has been viewed as a sign of government's commitment to curtail this scourge.

Public Service and Social Welfare Minister Paul Mavima said the Sexual Harassment Policy which was launched through the Public Service Commission (PSC) was a brainchild of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government which aims at promoting reforms in the public service sector.

Speaking to the Review & Mail, Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ) president Dr Takavafira Zhou said while they appreciated the enactment of the Sexual Harassment Policy 2022, they were worried about whether it would be implemented or not.

"We have seen several policies instituted by the PSC but such policies failing to be implemented properly. So we remain sceptical about the ability of the PSC to ensure that the policy is put into effect in order to arrest sexual harassment at work places," he said.

Zhou bemoaned the high unemployment rate in the country, which he said was the driving force behind most cases of sexual harassment in the country.

"As long as there is such a scenario where there is high unemployment rate and where a number of people also get employed through hook and crook, sexual harassment in workplaces will continue. As much as there is a policy, it remains difficult to ascertain that such a policy will ensure that sexual harassment is eradicated," he said.

Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe (LEDRIZ)

senior analyst Nyasha Muchichwa welcomed the Sexual Harassment Policy but also urged government to go ahead and ratify other provisions stipulated by the ILO including Convention 190.

"The adoption of the policy by government goes a long way in terms of developing and ensuring that issues of harassment and violence within the workplace are addressed and there is policy legislation that caters for it.

"So this is a very much welcomed development and it's something that we want to see in place. We also hope to see the Government of Zimbabwe ratifying ILO Convention 190 and also a process of the labour law reform also will see the inclusion of key provisions from the Convention in terms of curtailing issues of harassment and violence within the workplace itself and create a safe workplace which ensures that there are procedures and remedies in cases where such unwarranted events happen," said.

Muchichwa said Issues of harassment were key and had to be addressed just as issues of development and human security within the workplace itself.

Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) head of Education, Women and Gender desk Fiona Magaya complimented government for introducing the new policy, saying it would go a long way in addressing issues of sexual harassment that had become common in the public sector.

"The Sexual Harassment Policy is a welcome development because there have been serious reports from public service workers on sexual harassment and GBV. If implemented, the policy will create an avenue for protection of victims, reporting procedure and punitive measures to perpetrators. But the key issue is implementation or enforcement that is important," she said.

Magaya, however, said the ZCTU was still demanding a comprehensive sexual harassment law that would protect the entire citizens as well as ratification and domestication of ILO Convention 190.



# Zim to curb mineral smuggling: Kazembe

Albert Chavhunduka



Government says it is working on a number of measures apart from policy review which include capacitating the police force as way of curbing illicit mineral outflows including gold and diamonds at the country's entry and exit points.

Zimbabwe loses US\$100 million worth of gold every month and in 2020, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development reported that it had lost at least US\$1.8 billion in potential mineral revenues.

Last week, the trial of Zimbabwe Mining Federation (ZMF) president Henrietta Rushwaya started in which she is accused of allegedly bribing a Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe (CAAZ) official while attempting to smuggle six kilograms of gold to Dubai.

Speaking before the National Assembly recently, the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage Kazembe Kazembe (pictured) said he was working with other line ministries to deal with the issue of gold smuggling and urged the need to further equip the country's police force.

"The issue to do with the alleged smuggling of gold touches a number of ministries. It requires a holistic approach. We are working together with the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development who are also doing their bit to ensure that this problem is dealt with, but from a policing view point," said Kazembe.



"All we have to do is to capacitate our police. We need to capacitate them in terms of resources that they need but more-so in terms of technology.

"Our borders as we all know are not that tight and that is the starting point. Even our legal entry and exit points, but as I alluded earlier, I am glad that this issue touches on a number of ministries including the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development who chairs the Port Authority."

Kazembe added that government is making sure that all the country's exit and entry points have beefed up security to avoid any loopholes that can be used

for smuggling.

"What we are doing as Government, and not specifically Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, is to ensure that our borders are secure – that is the starting point. This is so that there are no loopholes or points that people can use to smuggle gold," he said.

"There is a lot of work that is being done at Beitbridge Border Post in terms of deploying technology that will make it very difficult to smuggle goods in or out. When you go there you will see that they have deployed cameras, surveillance systems and access control systems.

"Those are efforts to ensure that our

borders are tight. Even our own airports, the new airport, with your indulgence Minister Mhona can add to what I am saying. The new airport includes the latest technology in terms of security. It will detect almost anything and it will be very difficult, next to impossible rather to smuggle in or smuggle out. So those are some of the efforts that Government is making."

Kazembe added, "Then internally, it is also critical to ensure that our police are resourced. Our police have all the equipment that they require. They have vehicles and all the necessities to ensure that they can enforce the law. I am also aware that the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development is also amending the Mines and Minerals Act to ensure that those loopholes are closed."

In 2019, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development Mthuli Ncube announced the country's intention to join the Extractive Transparency Industry Initiative (EITI) by mid-2020 but to date, nothing has been accomplished.

EITI is a transparency initiative meant to govern member states to handle their mineral wealth in a proper manner, and in such a way curtail any illegal sale of the minerals which usually smuggled out of the country.

Last year, Police Commissioner-General Godwin Matanga admitted that these losses through mineral leakages were mainly due to porous national borders and poor security detection equipment and the country's entry and exit points.

## New law to curb electricity theft

Albert Chavhunduka



Government has enacted the Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 which seeks stiffer penalties for the abstraction or diversion of electricity or the use of such electricity knowing that it was illegally abstracted or diverted.

This comes at a time the country is grappling with prolonged power outages which besides low generation capacity, has also been attributed to illegal connections and vandalism of infrastructure.

Parliament approved the amendment of the Electricity Act (Chapter 13:19) with the new amendments now attracting an imprisonment sentence of not less than 10 years.

Cited as Electricity Amendment Bill H.B.7, 2022, the Bill removed the option of a fine in the event that one is convicted of a crime and introduces stiffer penalties for the transportation of material used in connection with the generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity without the option of a fine.

The Bill, which was published in the Government Gazette on 29 July 2022 was assented to by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, making it immediately effective.

"This clause provides for the introduction of stiffer penalties for the abstraction or diversion of any electric current, or the use of such electric current, knowing it to have been unlawfully abstracted or diverted. Currently the Act provides for an option to pay a fine where one is convicted for such a crime, and the Bill proposes to remove the option to pay a fine generally, unless they are special circumstances peculiar to the case that may warrant awarding the option to pay a fine," read the Bill.

"This clause provides for the introduction of stiffer penalties for transportation of material used in connection with generation, transmission, distribution or supply of



electricity. Currently the Act provides for an option to pay a fine where one is convicted for such a crime, and the Bill proposes to remove the option to pay a fine and instead for one to be liable to imprisonment for a period not less than 10 years. The clause also makes provision for the Court to consider special circumstances, which might be exempted from this stiffer penalty."

The Government gazette added that the Bill substituted the payment of a fine or imprisonment which exceeds five years with a stiffer penalty of imprisonment for not less than 10 years.

"This Act may be cited as the Electricity Amendment Act, 2022. Transportation of material used in connection with generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity of the principal Act is amended in subsection (2) by the deletion of "and liable to a fine not exceeding level 14 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or to both such fine and such imprisonment" and the substitution of "and if there are no special circumstances peculiar to the case as provided for in subsection (2a), be liable to imprisonment for a period of not less than ten years by the

insertion of the following subsections after subsection (2a)," read the Bill.

"If a person referred to in subsection (2) satisfies the court that there are special circumstances peculiar to the case, which circumstances shall be recorded by the court, why the penalty provided under subsection (2) should not be imposed, the convicted person shall be liable to a fine up to or exceeding level fourteen or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years, or to both such fine and such imprisonment. "(2b) A court sentencing a person under subsection (2) shall not order that the operation of the whole or any part of the sentence be suspended." (c) by the repeal of subsection (3)."

ZESA Holdings, the country's power utility, has lost millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure through vandalism over the years and has been struggling to replace some components as a result of the shortage of foreign currency need to buy spares.

The country is currently facing serious power shortages which have seen some parts of the country going for up to 12 hours without electricity per day.

### CLARIFICATION

In our edition of July 25, 2022, we ran a story titled, "Turkiye Tale of missed chances" in which we wrote, inter alia, that outgoing Ambassador of Turkey, H.E. Hakan Kivanc had "asserted that Zimbabwe's bureaucratic inefficiencies in licensing business as well as corruption had stymied investment". H.E. Kivanc has since brought it to our attention that he did not mention "inefficiency" and "corruption" or accuse the Zimbabwean State of the same. This was our inference, and we were wrong to attribute to the envoy. Instead, H.E. Kivanc referenced "long bureaucratic procedures".

Further, in the same article, we reported that the Ambassador "believes Zimbabwe needs to have another inclusive government for it to wriggle out of its problems". H.E. Kivanc has corrected that this was not a factual interpretation of what he said. He referred to "national unity government" rather than "inclusive Government", the term we used; and referred to "all democratic parties" invited rather than specific number of 20. We, once again, would like to apologise profusely for the inconvenience and misunderstanding that may have arisen from, or caused by, our publication which we fully understand has an effect on diplomatic relations between Turkiye and Zimbabwe, which are cordial. On our part, as a publication with an edge on foreign affairs and diplomacy, we seek to advance more understanding and create platforms for dialogue rather than create misunderstanding.

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# Tourism sector workers threaten nationwide strike

Chris Mahove



Workers in the tourism sector have threatened a nationwide strike after employers reneged on Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) on USD salaries reached between the two parties.

National Union of Tourism, Wildlife, Leisure and Allied Workers (NUTWLAW) Secretary General, Farai Chitsinde said despite agreeing on USD salaries for all workers in the sector, some employers were now refusing to pay arguing that it was against government regulations.

He said this was despite the fact that the tourism sector was a foreign currency industry where all players charged their services exclusively in foreign currency and were given a 100 percent retention by government.

"While we all agreed on the position, some unscrupulous employers are now seeking to nullify the agreement. These are the same people who are burning USD in the streets to pay workers in RTGS, thereby fueling the black market because they are feeding into the parallel market.

They are getting 100 percent retention from government and go on to sell the USD on the street to pay workers. That alone is negotiating in bad faith.

And we are saying we should be meeting very soon but if they do not agree and they keep negating on that arrangement, then definitely we are left with no option but

to go on a national strike in the tourism sector," he said.

Chitsinde said during wage negotiations, they had a two phased CBA, one in USD and the other in RTGS, with the USD agreement running until September.

However, most of the employers were not sticking to the agreement and refusing to pay the USD component and offered to award the workers a 30 percent hike on the RTGS component which was meant to be negotiated every two months.

"They were offering 30 percent of which it was now a fraction of the other component so we said it was not possible because in line with the ILO Conventions and even the Labour Act, there has to be equal pay for equal work, we can't have some people paid little while others are getting more while they are doing the same job.

"So we rejected that and suggested that we could index it with the running agreement using the official exchange rate and have 50% in USD and 50% in RTGS as most would not pay, and then they did not agree. It was then referred to full council from the negotiating committee before full council, but still we could not reach an agreement. We entered into a vote and the vote was a stalemate and the chairperson had to cast a deciding vote, of which he voted in favour of adoption. It was then signed by both the full council and the executive committee," he said.

Chitsinde said what was shocking was that not a single employer was charging

for their services in local currency, except for a handful who only charged a very small component in RTGS.

"There should be above 99 percent getting USD and only a few who might get a few RTGS because tourism is a tourist and forex based economy. Take for instance, hunting; there is no way that companies that are doing hunting should pay their employees in RTGS because don't get RTGS."

He said the workers have since called for another meeting, adding that should it fail to yield positive results for them, they would be poised for a war as workers would never accept the RTGS option.

"We have approached them and some have agreed but if they change their minds and say they are not going to pay in USD then definitely we are poised for war because we cannot let the workers keep earning peanuts when these capitalist elites are creaming off the sweat of the workers and are eating by burning USD dollars and paying workers in RTGS," he said.

On July 23, Ncube Attorneys, who are the legal representatives of the Employers Association of the Tourism and Safari Operators, wrote to their clients advising them not to pay workers in USD, saying doing that would be ultra vires some sections of the Finance Act.

The lawyers argued that agreement raised several issues, among them section 23(2) of the Finance Act, No. 2 of 2019 which they

claimed stated categorically and without equivocation, that from 24th June 2019, the Zimbabwe dollar would be the sole legal tender in all domestic transactions save for the exceptions set out in the law, i.e. the operation of nostro accounts and payment of customs in foreign currency.

"As such, the agreement to pay in United States Dollars is contrary to the law as it seeks to have the employer parties and the employee parties transact in United States Dollars. It does not matter that this was agreed, as alleged. To agree to act contrary to the law can never assist any party to such an agreement."

They said since this agreement was inconsistent with the Finance Act, it was not likely to be registered as the minister would not engage in an illegality.

"Even if the minister did register it, the employer party can ask the High Court, in an application for a declaratur to set aside such a registration. No employer is obliged to act in terms of the alleged CBA when there is no statutory instrument as required by section 80(2) of the Labour Act as the CBA is not yet effective, assuming it is legal. It can be legally ignored," the lawyers advised.

A full blown strike in the sector would hurt the industry, which is still recovering from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic which forced the closure of all tourist activities since December 2019.

The sector is targeting a US\$5 billion economy by 2025 and any disruptions at a time when the sector was beginning to make steady recovery would likely spell doom for the targeted growth.

Government workers have also been agitating for USD salaries over the past few months, with nurses and teachers having already embarked on job action on several occasions

## Zim must launch polio mass vaccination: Cabinet

Albert Chavhunduka



Cabinet has urged Zimbabwe to urgently join other Southern African countries and launch a vaccination campaign in order to protect all children under five years of age from an outbreak of poliomyelitis (polio) in the region.

So far, a number of cases have already been reported in neighbouring Mozambique and four of the country's districts in Mashonaland East province share a border with Mozambique's Tete Province.

A total of 36 million vaccine doses so far have been administered during the first two phases of the vaccination drive by four countries which include Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

During the recent 22nd post-Cabinet Press briefing, Cabinet advised Zimbabwe to quickly embark on vaccination drive which already started in other countries in the region to ensure that the polio outbreak is contained.

"On another health matter, the Southern African Region is currently experiencing a poliomyelitis (polio) outbreak. During the week under review three polio cases were reported in Tete Province, Mozambique," read the statement.

"Although no polio cases have been reported in Zimbabwe, four of our districts in Mashonaland East Province share a border with Tete Province. Thus Zimbabwe should urgently join a synchronized vaccination campaign in the Region (Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique) to contain the outbreak."

The ongoing vaccination in the Southern African countries were launched an outbreak in Malawi.

This was the country's first wild poliovirus cases in 30 years, while Mozambique also detected a case in May and so far three cases of wild poliovirus



have been confirmed in the region this year.

In relation to global outbreak of Monkey Pox, cabinet said the country is well prepared and conducting surveillance in the national interest.

"Regarding the MonkeyPox Global Outbreak, a total of 15 328 cases have been reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) from 74 countries since the beginning of May 2022. Countries in Africa that have reported cases are Benin(3), Cameroon(7), Central African Republic(3 cases and 2 deaths) DRC(163), Congo Brazzaville(2), Ghana(19), Nigeria(101 cases and 3 deaths) and South Africa(3)," cabinet said.

"Once again, there are no Monkeypox cases reported in Zimbabwe so far. However, surveillance and awareness continues to be heightened in the national interest."

Zimbabwe will be joining the vaccination campaign for the third and fourth phases and later this year, the country will conduct two more rounds to ensure full vaccination coverage of all children under five years.

Although, the country does not share a physical border with Malawi, frequent cross-border movements increase the risk of wild polio outbreak.

## Zim a step away from ending AIDS by 2030

Albert Chavhunduka



The National Aids Council of Zimbabwe (NAC) says Zimbabwe has made impressive progress in achieving the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 Fast-Track targets to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.

NAC credited much of these achievements to the AIDS Levy which was introduced as part of the country's national response to HIV and AIDS.

Launched in 2014 by UNAIDS, the 95-95-95 targets aimed to diagnose 95 percent of all HIV-positive individuals, provide antiretroviral therapy (ART) for 95 percent of those diagnosed and achieve viral suppression for 95 percent of those treated by the year 2030.

In a statement recently after exhibiting at the International AIDS Conference, NAC showcased the progress Zimbabwe has made towards ending AIDS by 2030, achievements made by AIDS Levy as well as HIV prevention models being used for targeted populations.

"Zimbabwe is a step away from ending AIDS and records progress in achieving 95-95-95 targets by 2030. 95 percent of people living with HIV know their status, Zimbabwe is at 95.6 percent. Of the 95 percent of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) who know their status must be put on ART, Zimbabwe is at 95.6. Lastly, 95 percent of people on ART must have their viral load suppressed, Zimbabwe stands at 93.2 percent," read the statement.

According to NAC, in 2021 alone there were a total of 32 787 deaths which were averted following the use of ART.



Last year, the parliamentary committee on health chairperson Ruth Labode commended how government handled the AIDS Levy funds which enabled the country to meet all its targets in managing HIV/AIDS.

The fund is managed by NAC and it was established in 1999 and entails a three percent deduction from every employed individual and another three percent on profits of employers and Trusts to support the fight against HIV/AIDS in the country.

According to the second Zimbabwe Population-based HIV Impact Assessment survey (ZIMPHIA 2020) survey, the rate of annual new HIV infections among adults in Zimbabwe is 0.38 percent (0.54 percent among women and 0.20 percent among men) or approximately 31,000 persons over a year.

The prevalence of HIV among adults was 12.9 percent, which corresponds to approximately 1.23 million adults in Zimbabwe living with HIV in 2020. Generally, the survey found that HIV prevalence was higher among women than men (15.3 percent vs. 10.2 percent).



# Health workers fill the gaps for millions of Zim villagers

The workers play a pivotal role in the country's health system, providing care and fighting misinformation.

Reaching remote residents where they live is arduous — and crucial.

On a drizzling Sunday, Lucia Chinenyanga, 42, navigates her bicycle through the bumpy terrain of Makusha Township in Shurugwi District in rural Zimbabwe, 200 miles outside the country's capital city of Harare. A handful of people, heading home from church, scurry for cover along the rocky dirt road.

Chinenyanga, a village health worker, is headed to a nearby home to educate a family on vaccines and other Covid-19 protection measures. On her way, she meets Robert Nyoka, a local. As they talk, he expresses concern about his pregnant wife receiving her second dose of the Covid-19 vaccination.

Chinenyanga assures him it's safe. "Your wife can receive her second jab," she says. "But should she feel any slightest side effect afterwards, she must report to the nurses to check her."

As a village health worker, Chinenyanga oversees and responds to the health needs of people in Makusha Township's Ward 9. She works at the local clinic. Her tasks include education around tuberculosis, home-based care for the elderly, monitoring pregnant women, and health awareness programs — especially on Covid-19 vaccines. The position required three weeks of training conducted by the Ministry of Health and Child Care, which coordinates health workers. She has worked in the village since 2019, the year before the pandemic hit Zimbabwe.

While nearly two-thirds of Zimbabwe's 15.3 million people lived in rural areas like Makusha Township as of 2020, rural health facilities in the country are often under-resourced, with fewer nurses and doctors compared to urban hospitals. Village health workers such as Chinenyanga fill the gap. And although the village health workers play an essential role in the primary health care system, providing care for the marginalized or remote communities in rural areas, they receive little pay — the equivalent of \$42 every month from nongovernmental organizations that work with the government.

The health sector in Zimbabwe is a mix of public and private facilities; the latter are costly, charging more and offering better services compared to government-run institutions. In Shurugwi, there are three private facilities, but most local residents cannot afford those services due to poverty and opt for the public clinics. Others rely entirely on the services of health workers who do community rounds. Shurugwi consists of 13 wards, with a population of 23,350 according to a 2014 census.

The pandemic has stretched the system even more. "Over the past months, Covid-19 has increasingly become a dominant problem, killing high numbers of community members," Chinenyanga said in January following a spike in Covid-19 cases in the country. The deaths came with shortages of pretty much every necessity: quarantine facilities, personal protective equipment, medicines, and doctors. Like many places around the world, the country has also struggled with people sharing fake news about the dangers



of vaccination.

Enforcing Covid-19 protocols can be draining for Chinenyanga. Every day she has to convince the rural villagers, mostly small-scale gold miners in the area, many of whom are skeptical of vaccines, to mask up, practice physical distancing, sanitize, and avoid gatherings at places like pubs, where people tend to forgo prevention measures.

Despite some pockets of vaccine hesitancy, as of June 7, 2022, a total of 4.3 million Zimbabweans have been fully vaccinated for Covid-19, amounting to about 28 percent of the population. More than a million have received a booster shot.

"In Shurugwi, people grew scared when family members started dying of Covid-19," Chinenyanga says. "One family would lose both the wife and the husband at the same time. This is when locals started understanding that Covid-19 wasn't just a flu, but a deadly disease which had come to our community."

When Zimbabwe gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1980, the new country's health sector adopted a strong focused health care system, moving from only providing more advanced health care services for the urban population to involving more vulnerable sections of the society in rural areas. Health workers like Chinenyanga now play a pivotal role in the country's health systems, says Samukele Hadebe, a senior researcher at the Chris Hani Institute, a South African think tank.

In rural areas, the health workers must be empowered with both finances and resources to do their job effectively, he adds, as a majority of people rely on them.

"If you come from a health background you will realize those who have succeeded in building universal health care or a viable health care system, it is not the specialist doctors," he says. "Wherever there is a successful health care system, it is actually the basic community health care, the one that in some countries where they don't even earn salaries. Those are the people fighting to just get recognized. Those are the people who manage the fundamental work."

But over the years, Hadebe says,

Zimbabwe's government neglected the rural health sector by not taking care of its health care professionals and paying them inadequate salaries, which pushed many qualified workers to leave the country for better opportunities overseas. In Zimbabwe, the infrastructure is gone, he adds, and health workers "from the basic to the specialist are leaving the country. Why? Not just because of the salaries, but because someone will leave the country because they are worried about social security."

Zimbabwe's 2010 Health System Assessment from USAID, a U.S. federal agency focused on foreign development, shows that there was a dramatic deterioration in Zimbabwe's key health indicators beginning in the early 1990s. The current life expectancy for Zimbabwe in 2022 is just under 62 years, a 0.43 percent increase from 2021, according to projections from the United Nations.

With little hospital funding from the government, village health workers have to do their work with limited resources. Clinics like Chinenyanga's in Makusha are poorly resourced and cannot accommodate patients with severe Covid-19 or other critical ailments, as there are no relevant medicines or oxygen tanks.

Even larger hospitals in Zimbabwe don't always provide oxygen to every patient, especially if the patient can't pay. "You must have money upfront," Hadebe says. "And how many people can access that? So, it's a dire situation."

Itai Rusike, who heads the Community Working Group on Health in Zimbabwe, agrees that most rural health care facilities in the country were not equipped to deal with severe cases of Covid-19. In addition to the lack of oxygen tanks, he says, "we also do not have intensive care units in our rural health facilities." Most of the rural facilities have no doctors, he adds, and the nurses who do work in rural areas may also not be well-equipped and skilled enough to deal with severe cases of Covid-19.

In November 2021, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mthuli Ncube, announced that the country had acquired 20 million doses of vaccines. China reportedly

committed in mid-January to donating 10 million doses over the course of 2022, which can be used for both initial and booster shots.

Rusike says that to ramp up the vaccination drive program, community outreach is needed, especially in rural areas. "We need to take vaccination to the people," he says, "rather than just wait for the people to come to the health facility and get vaccinated."

"I think it is important, especially in remote locations, we come up with innovative strategies to take vaccination to the people," he adds. "We know there are certain hard-to-reach areas where we can even use motorbikes to make sure that people can be vaccinated where they are, in their communities."

In addition to resource shortages, Chinenyanga has experienced another serious challenge most days in her work: vaccine misinformation and disinformation.

The problem is common across rural Zimbabwe, according to Rutendo Kambarami, a communication officer at UNICEF, who says that the most common reason communities are not taking the vaccine is fear.

Even though much of Zimbabwe's population lives in rural areas, they still are connected on social media through mobile devices — and the mobile devices and social media platforms allow for plenty of access to inaccurate information and outright conspiracies about vaccines. "So we realized that we needed to give more information in order to dispel misinformation," she said at a December workshop on Covid and mental health for journalists in Zimbabwe.

"Village health workers, as front line workers, and even the teachers were saying: We needed to do more interpersonal communication within those areas," she added. "So, front line workers play an incredibly huge role in terms of even misinformation and disinformation."

As Chinenyanga wraps up her day, after visiting several homes, she agrees that social media has contributed to misinformation. The people she serves in the Makusha community often share with her unproven remedies to treat Covid-19. She lists some of the misinformation that she's seen so far. "People believe in steaming, that it helps. They also believe that eating Zumbani," a woody shrub that grows in the country, "also prevents Covid-19," she says.

Still, she manages to smile as she leans against her bicycle. She says she loves her job and its usefulness to the community. "As village health workers, our role is to share information we are taught by the Ministry of Health," she says. "We prioritize prevention as the most effective tool against Covid-19."

--VaccinesWork





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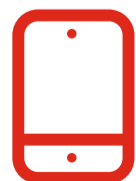


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# Zimba grows food for Tottenham Hotspurs

A ZIMBABWEAN with a green thumb grew up spending his downtime growing food for his family, friends and the community at large. Now those same green thumbs are feeding the Lilywhites (Tottenham Hotspurs Football Club) at their Enfield Training Centre base in England.

Kuda Chimbudzi (43) loves to spend his time in the garden: "Growing in Zimbabwe, everybody got little pieces of land. My uncle is a grower. He used to grow bananas and all kinds of fruits. I've always been a kitchen gardener and this has always been my passion. I feel like I can use ornamental energies to actually make the edible plants look good. It was a dream come true to really come and work in something that I really like to do," he told BBC.

Fortunately for Tottenham Hotspurs, as the Lilywhites are formally known, he is feeding everyone at the club what he grows.

"The other thing is I like to give something to the environment," he said, "and I like to give something to the people and Tottenham Hotspurs as well."

It has been a most adventurous journey for Chimbudzi whose stay in the United Kingdom was fortuitous given that he had travelled to visit friends and family but ended up staying. He was advised to get himself some sort of course and he elected to enrol for the Extended Diploma in Horticulture at Moulton College in Northamptonshire. Course work included but was not limited to all kinds of horticultural things, from surveying to plant science, integrated pest management, greenhouse production, fruit and vegetable culture, identification and Latin names.

"I have never had such an

experience in terms of education, and felt empowered. If you have this knowledge, you can grow crops anywhere – if they had this in Zimbabwe, they could feed the whole country."

After he realised that herbs and vegetables were his thing, and wanted to give something back to horticulture. When he saw the job advertisement for Assistant Kitchen Gardener at Tottenham Hotspur Football club online, "it jumped out at him from the screen." He went for the interview and was delighted to be offered the job.

The Head Kitchen Gardener at the time was a highly skilled Italian guy, who was also a keen cook and Chimbudzi learned a lot from his organic Italian style. When the Italian retired in 2018, Chimbudzi took over as Head Kitchen Gardener.

"I love that I am able to garden sustainably and efficiently, knowing that the kitchen needs to feed 58–70 people and growing the right amount of food accordingly. Nothing I grow is wasted. I think of myself as being part of a chain – the chef and I are friends and we work together, deciding together what we should grow.

"I like to share what I have learnt and have students coming in to the garden where I demonstrate things such as seed sowing and other practical gardening tasks. I like everyone in the community to have the chance to learn how to grow their own food to make them healthier and environmentally responsible."

Chimbudzi said the club garden grows lots of fruit – alongside white, red and blackcurrants there are gooseberries and dessert pears too. There is also an orchard dedicated to apples, most on dwarfing rootstocks,



Kuda Chimbudzi

where he will be adding more disease-resistant cultivars this winter. Stone fruit like cherries and plums are going to be grown at the end of the kitchen, trained as fans and cordons. In the long term, Chimbudzi said he would like to be more adventurous, and try growing more tender plants such as pomegranates – perhaps in pots so they can be put outdoors in summer and brought under cover for the colder winters.

"All of the crops I grow have medicinal and nutritional value, so the aim is to provide a diet of good and interesting foods. Elite athletes need to be properly fed for their bodies to perform at the highest level – everything I grow is with the welfare of the players in mind. Our seed is organic and our soil is free from artificial fertiliser.

"I grow chomolia kale, from Zimbabwe as well as those more recognised here. African kale is a staple vegetable in Zimbabwe, it is

a powerful plant, without it people would die. For me, in the UK kale is still a 'must grow' vegetable. It is packed with calcium, iron, beta-carotene (the precursor of vitamin A), as well as vitamins E and C," he told BBC.

Chimbudzi's club is in the Uefa Champions League this season and is home to England captain Harry Kane and Fifa World Cup winner Hugo Lloris. They rely on Chimbudzi for the constant supply of fruits and vegetables.

Chimbudzi's work helped Spurs to a successful spell in the early days under current coach Antonio Conte. According to The Sun, the coach had his players eat weeds.

"We have lost our knowledge of edible indigenous plants – some are of greater value than many of the crops we eat day in, day out," Chimbudzi was then quoted. Sunday News

--newsdzezimbabwe

## Zimbabwean expatriate builds school for impoverished community

Cecil Sibanda who hails from Zimbabwe and lives in the US has built a school in Matabeleland to ensure pupils do not travel long distances to get an education.

Supplied

When the school opened this year, it had four teachers and 40 pupils, 12 of them girls.

Years after African countries gained independence, education is still a privilege in some of them, particularly for people living in rural areas where development is slow or limited.

Children walking or running kilometres to and from school is an all too familiar story.

For one Zimbabwean, Cecil Sibanda who is based in the US, memories of walking three hours to school on an empty stomach were enough for him to lead an initiative to build a school for his community.

He said: I have personally experienced what it's like to walk long distances to school while hungry. I walked for four years going to and coming from school.

Born and raised in the Umzingwane District, Matabeleland, which is the most undeveloped province in the country, Sibanda remembered



"freezing temperatures, hot summers, and crossing the mighty Nsezi River were all part of that journey".

Sibanda's formative years inspired him to start building a school in 2014 to better the lives of children who are experiencing the same thing he went through.

"After university, I went to live and work in the United States. I wanted to do something for my community. The main idea I had was to build a school," he said.

"I'm not rich. I am average, but I built the school. Through determination, the project took off after the

government allocated 24 hectares to our community," added Sibanda.

He said the aim of the school was "the provision of high-quality, practically useful and reasonably accessible education which must never be withheld based on geography, gender, economy, income, social class or any other uncontrollable circumstance of a child's birth."

The private school, which opened its doors this year, is called Mlomotsha School of Excellency.

Abson Sibanda, the village head of Tshalimbe where the school is located, said he was happy to be alive to see

such an amazing initiative come true. "I praise God for keeping me alive until today. Seeing such work done by the young brings joy," he added.

This year, the school enrolled Form 1 pupils, and Cecil Sibanda said more classes would be added next year.

"In the short term, we have Form 1 classes but the bigger picture is to have up to Form 6. Next year, if all plans go well, we will have a boarding school enrolment. We will have low-cost boarding and ordinary boarding facilities.

"This is because while we have come up with the school to ease the distance and access for many, there are others who are still walking long distances to get here," he added.

At its inception, the school had 40 pupils, 12 of them girls, and four teachers.

By next year, the school will have science and technology laboratory to help the pupils get access to an education similar to their peers in urban areas.

Sibanda said the school would not only specialise in academics, but also on agriculture and other technical skills.

"We are going to engage in intensive farming projects. We have water in the area, and villagers have access to this water too for home use," he added.

The school is Sibanda's way of improving Zimbabwe through development.



# Story of Angola's post-conflict partnership with China

**Background of resource-rich Angola:** Falling into the category of 'richest poor countries', Angola, located on the Western Atlantic Coast of Southern Africa is home to massive quantities of oil and gas deposits, gold and diamond reserves, minerals such as iron ore, manganese, copper, platinum, nuclear energy sources such as uranium etc. However, with conditions of abject poverty impacting over 54% of the rural and 32% of the urban population[1] and a constant tussle with economic adversity, Angola is a classic example of the phenomenon of the 'natural resource curse' whereby a country fails to translate its natural resource wealth into better economic conditions and development. However, this is largely the case for post-colonial states like Angola which remained under the yoke of exploitative Portuguese colonial rule until 1975.

Angola's poor economic conditions and standard of living also stem from the volatility of its political condition and almost three decades of unrest (1975-2002) owing to the post-independence civil war between the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). While the conflict was to a certain extent driven by ethnic and identity politics, it stood out as one of the areas of proxy conflict during the Cold War with foreign powers such as the USA, Soviet Union and Cuba providing support, training and funding to the different adversaries. Gradually, the conflict morphed into a resource competition between conflicting powers for control of diamond and oil sectors. The devastating nature of the Angolan civil war caused widespread human tragedy (1.5 million people died, 4 million faced displacement and 500,000 fled the country) and economic casualties decimating agriculture as a livelihood option for Angolans perpetuating cycles of poverty and lack of access to essential services.[2]

## China's role as Angola's Post-Conflict Recovery Partner:

Angola's post-war reconstruction was boosted by a meteoric rise in oil production translating into rapid GDP increase and economic growth in the country. Statistically speaking, oil production accelerated from 44.6 million tonnes in 2003 to 92.2 million tonnes in 2008.[3] During this period, China emerged as the largest importer of Angolan oil and began its infrastructural engagement in Angola marking the onset of the latter's economic dependency on China henceforth. Gradually, a preferential pattern of seeking loans and financial investment from China over global monetary institutions was demonstrated by the Angolan political leadership. Conversely, Chinese loans were extended to Angola against conditionalities such as favouring Chinese companies in infrastructure re-development and changes in domestic labour regulations

to fit the needs of such companies. Subsequently, Angola became a hub providing employment to cheap, unskilled labour, particularly international migrant workers. It has been noted that the local Angolan labourer population working in infrastructural projects led by Chinese companies encounter poor working conditions and institutionalized maltreatment. [4] Angola witnessed the creation of pockets of wealth particularly, its capital Luanda due to the oil and construction boom. Nevertheless, this form of economic progress was largely disengaged from the needs of the local Angolan population and widespread income inequalities persisted.

## Mining in Angola:

Angola's mining industry holds potential due to its resource richness. Due to Angola's extensive diamond reserves, diamond production accounts for a sizable portion of Angola's mining activities and government revenue. However, the practice of diamond mining is marked by illegal mining activities, human rights violations, child slavery and smuggling. In fact, 'blood diamond' mining has been prevalent in Angola since the Civil War where natural resource extraction was used as the means to fund war efforts.

Due to China's growing domestic resource needs, it has been vying for access in mineral-rich countries like Angola. In 2011, China initiated its entry in the diamond industry of Angola through Sonangol International[5]; a joint venture between the Angolan state corporation and Chinese private investment; a commercial venture which served to increase the Chinese government's reach in Angola.

More recently, the local government has been emphasising on diversification of mineral extraction to reduce dependence on a diamond and oil fuelled economy. Accordingly, China's Sociedade Niobonga - Comércio Geral is set to begin mining niobium in the southwestern region of Angola; a mineral used in the construction of spacecrafts, missiles, power-plants etc.

## China's Oil Interests in Africa and the case of Angola:

Occupying the position of third largest oil supplier to China in 2019[7] Angola served as a suitable avenue for Chinese energy interests in the African continent. China had long been striving for oil access in Angola for energy and strategic interests (China could gain access to oil routes and SLOCs via the Angolan coast). An early example of this ambition was the Angolan Defence Minister Kundy Payhama's visit to Beijing in 2000.

The primary attraction for Chinese investment in Angola after the civil war were oil against loans and infrastructure deals. China's entry into the Angolan oil sector was initiated with Sinopec, the Chinese oil giant purchasing stakes in oil blocks across the country and establishing a partnership with Sonangol, the state oil corporation in 2004. [9] The centrality of oil as a determinant factor in the China-Angola relationship is illustrated by the



fact that China gradually surpassed all other players in the Angolan oil market to become one of the largest importers. Moreover, due to its strategic ambitions in Africa, China displayed a tendency of prioritising oil trade with Angola over its other long-term partners. Oil deals proved extremely lucrative facilitating the development of 'petro-elites' and by February 2006, Angola accounted for 13% of Chinese oil imports dethroning Saudi Arabia as its primary oil supplier. The oil for infrastructure arrangements continued to be preferred by both countries until the 2015 oil price decline which pushed the Angolan petrostate into economic recession. Nevertheless, China's stake in the oil sector of Angola remains critical to this bilateral dynamic.

## Neo-colonialism or Development Partnership? Contrasting Narratives:

China's ambitions regarding African states have been the subject of much analyses and debate in international studies. China's stance of a 'developmental approach' towards Africa is often met with scepticism. China's lending practices of large loans to African countries such as Angola, Ethiopia, Sudan etc. raise questions regarding the risks of a possible debt crisis by increasing debt burdens on lesser developed African countries. Moreover, China makes economic and political gains by creating 'debt-trap' situations. Chinese presence in Africa also involves the influx of Chinese corporations to undertake large-scale infrastructural development initiatives in various sectors. In the case of Angola, diamond mining, crude oil and construction is where Chinese interests lie. However, such infrastructural projects seldom produce tangible benefits for the people of those countries as seen in the case of Angola.

Therefore, it has been propounded that China's strategy in Africa involves a pragmatic combination of its strategic and political ambitions along with its business interests. Increasing Chinese economic and soft power influence across Africa delineates a new brand of 'neo-colonialism' encapsulating policies which enable China to exert greater control over the political, economic and security dynamics of its 'partner countries' in pursuance of its interests as a world power. China is believed to accomplish this through economic cooperation, trade partnerships and investment in states with relatively lesser bargaining potential in the international sphere.

Nonetheless, contrarian perceptions of China's actions in Africa are favourable to China's influence and developmental

initiative. According to a survey, 63% of Africans across 39 nations considered China's influence in Africa to be positive.[10] More so, China emerges as a viable alternative for investment, loans and economic cooperation which is believed can boost economic growth without the imposition of strict conditionalities. Ultimately, the rhetoric is one of contrasting narratives to viewing China's aims in Africa.

## Current Situation in Angola:

Angola has continued to grapple with economic recession since the lowering of oil prices in 2015; the oil sector which accounted for about 95% of the export share and one-third of the GDP has exhibited a vivid decline according to World Bank data[11]. With the onset of the global pandemic in 2020, Angola's trend of negative rate of growth only accelerated. The economic decline has exposed China's potential play of "debt-trap diplomacy" vis-a-vis Angola. Angola is presently one of the largest borrowers from China in the African continent; between 2000-2019, Angola's debt to China amounted to 42.6 billion USD which was repaid via oil exports.[12] Reductions in oil exports thus, automatically threatens the Angolan government's debt sustainability.

The continued period of economic downturn has brought to the fore the need for economic diversification and reducing dependency on an oil-driven economic model by boosting non-oil sectors post-2022 as oil prices are witnessing a hike. Moreover, Angola remains astonishingly behind in other development parameters such as nutrition, healthcare access, education, gender equality etc. in addition to income disparities. Despite being priority areas of development, state focus on improving these developmental aspects has been negligible.

## Conclusion:

While the question of whether Angola is a means to the fruition of China's geopolitical ambitions in Africa and the potentiality of its impact worldwide remains a prominent topic in international politics, it must be comprehended that due to a weak state structure, the ramifications of a destructive civil war and a strategy of 'putting all eggs in one basket' in its search for global partners, Angola has evolved as a state with major dependencies on China. China as a development partner and a creditor appears to be indispensable for Angola, at least in the immediate future. Additionally, Angola now faces greater competition from other countries which act as oil suppliers to China such as Brazil, Russia, West Asia etc.

Acknowledging the increasing debt to China and recession conditions, the new political leadership of Angola may attempt strategies to reduce its reliance on China although that would imply major structural changes in Angolan politics and economy. As such, moving ahead, Angolans encountering a complex challenge which it is largely unequipped to tackle at this juncture: the challenge of balancing its dependency on China for economic investment and the need to develop a growth model prioritising its local population who have been at the outskirts of the China-aided development strategy incessantly.

--modern diplomacy



# Zim among African countries seeking return of colonial loot

Apollo John Rwamparo speaks forlornly of the eight-legged stool, a symbol of authority for his ancient kingdom in Uganda, now glimpsed through a glass barrier at a museum thousands of miles away in Britain.

The wooden stool is permanently exhibited at the University of Oxford, one of at least 279 objects there taken from Bunyoro-Kitara kingdom during the colonial era. Oxford has resisted attempts to have the stool repatriated, saying it was donated by a royal from a breakaway kingdom.

"It's quite frustrating," said Rwamparo, a deputy prime minister and minister for tourism for the kingdom. "The best is for them to swallow their pride, like the French and the Germans have done, and return the artifacts."

African countries' efforts at restitution, after long resistance from authorities in Europe, are now blossoming with the return of treasured pieces that once were thought unattainable.

Most recently, Nigeria and Germany signed a deal for the return of hundreds of artifacts known as the Benin Bronzes. The deal followed French President Emmanuel Macron's decision last year to sign over 26 pieces known as the Abomey Treasures, priceless artworks of the 19th century Dahomey kingdom in present-day

Benin.

African officials seek much more, from the exquisite to the macabre. Some are concerned that the British government in particular has been evasive, offering no commitments on restitution.

In Uganda, which won independence from Britain in 1962, antiquities officials are preparing for a November trip to the U.K., where they will negotiate with the University of Cambridge for an unknown number of artifacts there. Cambridge, which recently gave back to Nigeria an elaborate bronze cockerel, appears forthcoming, said Rose Mwanja Nkaale, Uganda's commissioner for museums and monuments.

London's British Museum by comparison "is difficult to penetrate," said Nkaale. "We can start with those that are willing to cooperate. It is not useful to fight these people."

The British Museum, which holds an extensive collection from across Africa, is protected by a 1963 law forbidding the trustees from repatriating items except under certain circumstances, including if an object is deemed unfit or useless. Some African officials believe that stand is increasingly weak as other institutions in Europe respond more positively.

Nigeria is applying pressure so that laws in the U.K. and

elsewhere are amended to allow for the repatriation of disputed collections, said Abba Isa Tijani, director-general of Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments. But he expressed concern that while some countries are starting to open up, in Britain such efforts "have not even started." Many of the desirable artifacts from Africa can't even be traced, leading an organization founded by the late Congolese art collector Sindika Dokolo to offer to buy looted African art from collections abroad. By 2020, when Dokolo died in a diving accident in Dubai, his campaign had successfully retrieved 15 items.

Restitution remains a struggle for African governments, and the African Union has put the return of looted cultural property on its agenda. The continental body aims to have a common policy on the issue.

Zimbabwe has pushed for the repatriation of about 3,000 artifacts from Britain. They include spears and swagger sticks as well as the skulls of fighters who resisted colonialism. They were decapitated and their heads shipped abroad as war trophies.

Talks between British and Zimbabwean authorities have produced no breakthrough, but the matter is so important for the southern African nation that

President Emmerson Mnangagwa last year suggested an exchange: the remains of colonialist Cecil Rhodes, who's buried in Zimbabwe, in return for the ancestral remains that mean so much to his people.

Some Zimbabwean activists have started an online campaign called #bringbackourbones, protesting last year outside the British High Commission in neighboring South Africa.

Items of funereal or ritualistic interest have no resonance outside Africa, said Raphael Chikukwa, who runs the National Gallery of Zimbabwe.

"Why should we allow those so-called museums, which in fact are crime scenes and houses of stolen goods, to dictate to us, telling us that we have to prove that the items belong to us?" he told The Associated Press. "As much as we celebrate the return of former Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba's tooth (from Belgium), let's not celebrate too much. Let's remind ourselves that the work has just started."

Similar efforts are underway in South Africa, where the Ifa Lethu Foundation seeks to repatriate a range of items taken during the apartheid era, often by diplomats or private collectors. The organization has repatriated more than 700 pieces including valuable works by South African artist Gerard Sekoto, who died in Paris in 1993.

In Rwanda, recent cooperation with former colonial master Belgium included the sharing of digital copies of over 4,000 songs and other recordings kept at the Royal Museum for Central Africa outside Brussels. --*wdio*

## Commonwealth: Seven things you might not know

More than 5,000 athletes are taking part, representing states from around the world which are part of the Commonwealth group of nations.

But which countries are in the global club?

1) It's home to almost one-third of the world's population

Chart showing what proportion of world's population is in the Commonwealth

About 2.5 billion people - out of 7.9 billion globally - live in the Commonwealth's 56 countries.

More than 60 per cent of the Commonwealth's population is aged 29 or under. Globally, a third of all young people aged between 15 and 29 live in Commonwealth countries.

The biggest country by population is India, which accounts for about half of the total.

Pakistan, Nigeria and Bangladesh are the next biggest by population, with the UK fifth.

2) Some members were never part of the British Empire

Rwanda and Mozambique became members in 2009 and 1995 respectively, and neither were colonised by the British.

Rwanda was colonised by Germany and Belgium, not the UK

Gabon and Togo are the most recent joiners, becoming members in June 2022, but both are former French colonies.

Why ex-French colonies are joining the Commonwealth

The club has also lost members.

South Africa withdrew in 1961 after it was criticised by Commonwealth members for its apartheid policies. It became a member again in 1994.

Pakistan was thrown out after a military coup in 1999, but was readmitted in 2004. Membership was suspended again between

2007 and 2008.

Former president of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe took his country out in 2003 after its membership was suspended amid reports of election rigging.

It applied for re-admission in 2018, but no decision has been reached.

The last country to leave was the Maldives in 2016, but it re-joined in 2020.

3) The Queen is head of state in only 15 of the countries

Most of the Commonwealth states are republics, with Barbados becoming the latest, having removed the Queen as head of state in 2021.

Commonwealth heads of state

Five countries - Lesotho, Eswatini (previously known as Swaziland), Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Tonga - have their own monarch.

The Queen remains head of state in Australia and Canada, although for many years there has been an active movement in Australia in favour of becoming a republic.

Who's in the UK Royal Family and how does it work?

4) It's big

The Commonwealth makes up a quarter of the world's land mass.

The giant of the group is Canada, the world's second largest country by area. India and Australia are huge too.

Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in Tuvalu in 1982

HM Queen Elizabeth II with the Duke of Edinburgh in Tuvalu in 1982

But many of the states are small - such as the Pacific island nations of Nauru, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and Antigua and Barbuda, and Dominica in the Caribbean.

Prince Philip: The Vanuatu tribes mourning



the death of their 'god'

5) The UK is no longer the biggest economy

The UK is no longer the biggest economy in the Commonwealth, according to the latest GDP numbers from the International Monetary Fund, with India overtaking it for the first time this year.

GDP chart

The combined GDP of the 56 members is more than \$13tn (£10.8tn). That's more than twice the size of Japan (\$5tn, £3.75tn), but some way behind the US on \$23tn (£17.2tn).

Trade with the Commonwealth accounted for 8.7% of the UK's total trade in 2020 - around the same as the UK's total trade with Germany.

UK exports to the Commonwealth that year were worth about £56bn, while imports from the Commonwealth were about £48bn.

6) It changed its name

The modern Commonwealth was formed in 1949, after "British" was dropped from

the name and allegiance to the Crown was removed.

Only two people have been head of the organisation - King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II.

It's not a hereditary role, although the Prince of Wales is widely expected to take it up when he becomes king.

The organisation is run from its headquarters in London by its secretary-general, currently Baroness Scotland. She is seeking a second term in office despite facing criticism from some member states over her performance.

The other founding members were Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

The Commonwealth Charter was adopted in 2012, and commits members to the values of democracy, gender equality, sustainable development and international peace and security.

The Commonwealth has been criticised for being a post-colonial club and for having little influence in the modern world.

Supporters argue the benefits which membership brings include developmental support and co-operation on international goals.

7) There's more than one commonwealth

Commonwealth of Independent States

There's also the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was set up in 1991 by Russia and other former members of the Soviet Union.

And don't forget the International Organisation of La Francophonie - a group of French-speaking countries which aims to promote the French language and increase mutual co-operation.



# How to help your child with mental health issues



**Gamuchirai Chinamasa**  
Mental Health Talk



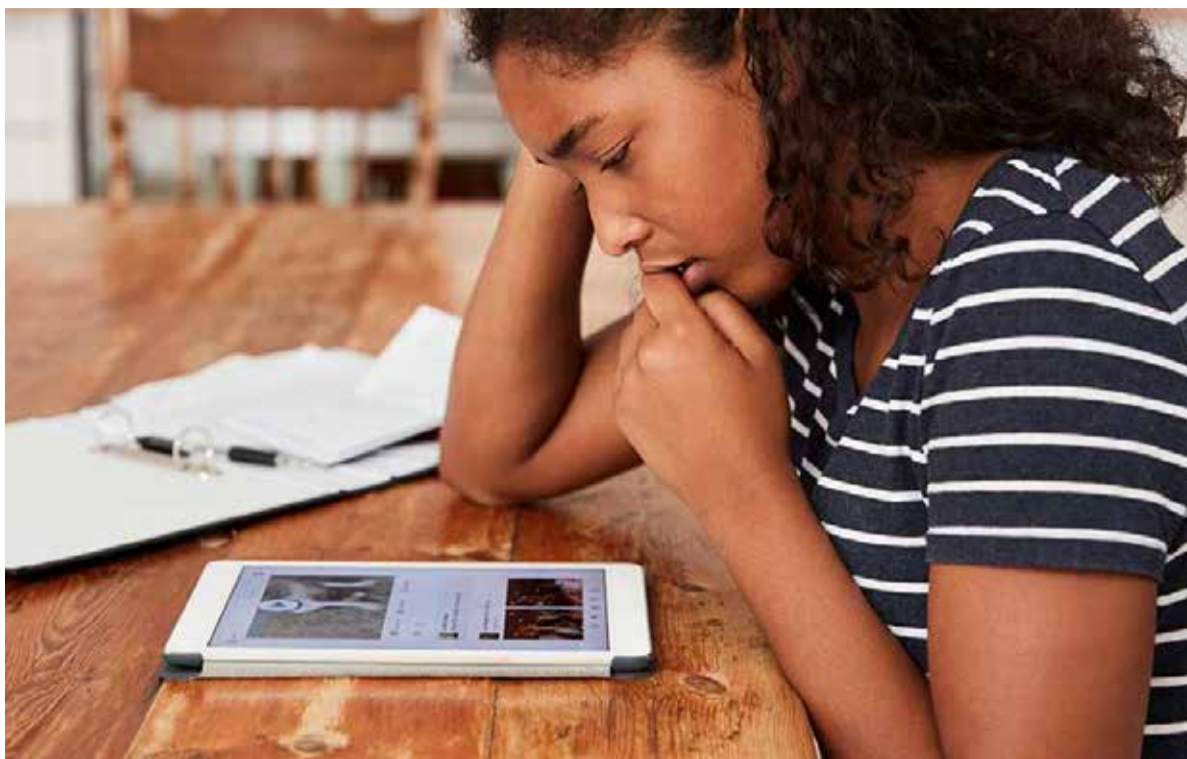
Depression affects more children and young people today than in the last few decades. Self-harm is a very common problem among young people. Some people find it helps them manage intense emotional pain if they harm themselves through cutting or burning, for example. They may not wish to take their own life. The pain that comes from cutting yourself has been described by some as a release for what they are feeling. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can follow physical or sexual abuse, witnessing something extremely frightening or traumatizing, being the victim of violence or severe bullying or surviving a disaster.

Children who are consistently overactive ('hyperactive'), behave impulsively and have difficulty paying attention may have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Many more boys than girls are affected, but the causes of ADHD aren't fully understood. Eating disorders usually start in the teenage years and are more common in girls than boys. The number of young people who develop an eating disorder is small, but eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia can have serious consequences for their physical health and development.

What help is available?

**Parental help**

If they have a warm, open relationship with their parents, children will usually feel able to tell them if they are troubled. One of the most important ways parents can help is to listen to them and take their feelings seriously. They may want a hug, they may want you to help them change something or they may want practical help.



**Professional help**

If your child is having problems at school, a teacher, school nurse, school counsellor or educational psychologist may be able to help. Otherwise, go to your GP or speak to a health visitor. These professionals are able to refer a child for further help. It is also key for the above, especially school teachers who spend the majority of time with your child, to be able to pick up the signs and know what to do, meaning it should be mandatory for teachers to have counselling diplomas or attend mental health workshops annually.

**Talking it through**

Assessments and treatments for children and young people with mental health problems put a lot of emphasis on talking and on understanding the problem in order to work out the best way to tackle it. For young children, this may be done through play if the child is very young, they may be asked to show them what is happening at home or how they feel through drawing, acting or toys, usually done for suspected abuse victims.

**Medication**

Most research into medications for

mental health problems has focused on adults, rather than children. Children and young people need to be assessed by a specialist before they are prescribed any drugs. There is a lot of evidence that talking therapies can be effective for children and young people, but drugs may also help in some cases where it has been a long struggle or silence.

Young people have a right to privacy if they do not want to talk to you about their conversations with professionals, but you should still respond sensitively if they seem to be upset. Your consent is usually needed for them to get medical care if they are under 16 depending on the country you are in.

Children's minds are very delicate and should be handled with care and love. Sometimes it is not easy for them to articulate or narrate what they are feeling or going through, if it is abuse they could be scared of the abuser or have been brainwashed. It is key to always make them feel like they can come to you for anything and to believe them, the minute you name call them or call them liars

before doing your own investigation you have silenced someone that was willing to speak up about an injustice.

It is also key for teachers to know how to handle these children because for most, school could be their safe place. School and its environment should make them feel safe, a place where they can learn but also be themselves. It is also key to monitor what children see and are exposed to on TV or social media. You need to know the areas in your child's life where they can easily get triggered by it wishing for their own room when they go over to a classmate's house and see how lavish their life is or allowing them to be around irresponsible family members or friends that can pose a bad influence. You need to protect your children as much as possible from the evil in this world, it is your job as a parent or guardian.

Another trigger for children could be that they feel they have no belonging. This usually happens in single parent households where one of the parents abandons their responsibility as a parent and denies being a parent to the child. A lot of people don't realize the emotional impact that this has on a child, feeling unloved or unwanted. It was not their decision to be born or brought into this world. It is our duty as a community to safeguard these children and play the role whichever parent gave up.

What a child experiences when they are younger that we may ignore, they will deal with when they are older and they may struggle to process it. Then as it has been many years of trying to and failing because they were doing it alone. Just as much as adults need a mental health break or to relax or have a heart-to-heart, venting or chat, so do children. As a parent it is necessary to be very patient especially if you have more than one child and have to juggle many emotions and characters, each child is special and unique.

## The law on arrest without warrant



**Legal Corner**  
with  
Reuben Mukavhi

The law permits the police to arrest a person without first obtaining a court order instructing/allowing them to arrest that person. This is what is called "arrest without warrant", and is an important part of our criminal procedure. It enables the police to effectively and efficiently fight crime by promptly arresting those suspected of having committed crimes or who are about to commit crimes. The police, however, could also abuse this procedure. The law thus has safeguards to prevent the abuse of the arrest without warrant procedure.

As the gatekeepers of criminal justice, the police need to be afforded some level of discretionary powers in regards to arresting suspected criminals. The Constitution guarantees the right to liberty for every citizen, but a person can lawfully be deprived of liberty upon reasonable suspicion that he or she has committed or is about to commit a criminal offence. This is where the Constitution gives police the discretion to decide whether someone should be deprived of their liberty.

To make it difficult for the police

to abuse their arresting powers, the law provides a number of requirements that the police must satisfy in respect of any arrest.

Firstly, for an arrest to be lawful, the arresting police officer must himself/herself have a reasonable suspicion that the person has committed or is about to commit a criminal offence. In other words, there should be some facts/information upon which a reasonable person might suspect that the person concerned has committed or is about to commit a criminal offence, and those facts/information must be known to the police arresting officer. It is not enough for the arresting police officer to say that another police officer is the one who had the facts and instructed him/her to arrest. The reasonable suspicion must reside in the arresting police officer. What is more, even if the reasonable suspicion exists, the police officer still has to consider whether the arrest is necessary. Some of the factors to be taken into account include the possibility of escape, the prevention of further crime and the obstruction of police enquiries. There are quite a number of cases where the superior courts have ruled arrests to have been unlawful where there was no reasonable suspicion that the person had committed or was about to commit a crime.



Another safeguard is the requirement that the arresting police officer should inform the arrested person as soon as reasonably practicable and in detail of the reasons for his or her arrest and detention. Such person is also entitled to engage a legal practitioner to represent him or her and to hold communications with this legal practitioner. The arrested person must be permitted to see his or her lawyer immediately.

The police officer knows that the arrested person or their lawyer will need to know the reasons for the arrest. This forces the police officer to think before making an arrest.

A further safeguard comes in the requirement that any arrested person must either be released or be taken to court within 48 hours of the arrest. Taking someone to court entails preparing a docket or a request for remand that shows that there is a reason to suspect that the arrested person might have committed a crime. This again forces the police officer to seriously consider the circumstances before making an arrest.

If the police officer arrests someone where there are no circumstances indicating a reasonable suspicion that the person might have committed a crime, the arrest will be unlawful. If the police officer arrests someone when it was not necessary to do so, the arrest will be unlawful. If the police officer does not inform the arrested person in detail of the reasons for the arrest, the arrest will be unlawful. Once a competent court declares an arrest unlawful, there are consequences that might follow for the police, including civil damages against the arresting police officer and/or the Ministry of Home Affairs. Any person who is unlawfully arrested is entitled to compensation from the person who arrested or detained him or her or the authority on whose behalf or in the course of whose employment the arresting person operated.

**Get in touch on [rmukavhi@gmail.com](mailto:rmukavhi@gmail.com)**



## EDITORS COMMENT

### TOURISM SECTOR CANNOT AFFORD DISRUPTION

The tourism and hospitality industry is one of the major foreign currency earners in the country whose survival is of great importance to the country and the wellbeing of its economy.

Having gone through turbulent times during the COVID-19 pandemic period when most, if not all operations shut down, stakeholders had to bring their heads together and come up with ways and means of reviving the industry.

The disruptions which came as a result of lockdown measures aimed at curtailing the spread of the pandemic saw the industry losing in excess of USD1 million in potential revenue.

During the third quarter of 2021, the sector started to see some growth, albeit slow, with the Victoria Falls, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, recording back-to-back bookings as Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) returned to boost the local economy.

And this year, the sector continued to record reasonable growth as lockdown restrictions were relaxed across the globe allowing for international travels.

However, the impasse between workers in the industry and their employers which is threatening to degenerate into a strike by the employees, could wipe away all the gains made so far in the country's efforts to resuscitate the sector.

This calls for earnest negotiations between the two parties that would bring a win-win situation so that the sector is not disrupted again.

While the halting of operations during the pandemic were unavoidable, the worker employer relationship that is now threatening the collapse of the industry is something that can be solved amicably without necessarily having to embarrass the country through unwarranted cancellation of bookings because of industrial action by workers.

It is true that the country is facing foreign currency shortages, but it is also true that companies in the tourism and hospitality industry charge for their services in foreign currency, for which they were granted 100 percent retention by the government.

It would also follow that those who work in that industry should be paid in foreign currency, at least for half of their salaries and wages.

The argument by the employers that they would have breached some sections of the Finance Act does not hold water. This is so because the tourism sector is peculiar in its nature and this peculiarity should not only benefit the employers at the expense of the workers whose sweat helps them earn the foreign currency.

One would also wonder where these companies would get the local currency to pay the workers when they earn exclusively in foreign currency.

We cannot allow a situation where the employers take advantage of their privileged position to abuse the same monetary system they purport to protect by involving themselves in arbitrage activities in order to pay workers when they can simply pay them in the currency that they earn instead of sabotaging the economy by fuelling the parallel market.

Any right thinking businessman, or any other Zimbabwean for that matter, would not want to see a whole sector as crucial to the economy as that of tourism and hospitality, go down because of a few hard headed employers who do not want to do the right thing by paying their employees what they deserve.



## Transitional Administration: The way to go for Zim



The light at the end of the tunnel seems to be still too far away. They say the solution is in the ballot box. Yes I may agree, but to a certain extent. My editor pointed out that "voter apathy will not help anyone". So who will drop ballots in the box to cause the change to happen, when most of us no longer find elections a solution to our agony?

This inspires deeper scrutiny on reasons for absconding voter registration. But before I go into it, I shall take this time to reply the editor on who benefits from voter apathy. It is simple Cde Editor; the country is under siege at the behest of those who are deliberately causing confusion in the economy. They will be crafting and reading countless monetary policies which yield absolutely nothing of national benefit. We entrusted mandate in the hands of insecure and corrupt cartels who work to please their insatiable appetite for wealth. They do not trust what tomorrow holds, hence they are on a spree to make hay while the sun is still naked. They are all about self-serving, safeguarding that which they have acquired crookedly, they are not going to surrender to whoever would have won the national election because they know that their ill-gotten wealth will be at stake. They are the people who do not want stability in the economy. This may sound too generalised, not because we do not know that among the leaders are some who work for a better Zimbabwe, only to be spoilt by some bad apples in the same basket.

Reason for shunning voter registration emanates from past experiences; hope of election ever bringing relief to Zimbabwe has since been rendered far-fetched.



The anticipated virgin voters, the youth constituency, who would make five million voters apiece for the two main contenders have been fed with education on experiences of the past and have adopted a stance that election is a mere waste of time because it will not change the status quo. So, there is no appetizing bait to draw the fish to the hook. The current generation of politicians has displayed some grievous acts during election time in the eyes of prospective new voters, thereby pinning a 'dirty game' tag on politics. A possible working solution to our sad story will be an inclusive transitional authority which will run the country free of election for a period of fifteen or twenty years. At least this approach will keep leaders away from election militancy which causes unnecessary loss of lives and damage to property. The modus operandi for such an arrangement will need to have a wide consultation so as to avoid devastating administrative flaws. I am strongly convinced that the things we avoid on purpose are where our salvation will come from, and our leaders know this very well. This suggestion comes

against a background of the harm which election mode has caused over the past decades in a country which was supposed to heal from effects of Second Chimurenga war and Gukurahundi episodes.

Peace time Stakeholder Consultative Negotiations will usher Zimbabwe to the anticipated prosperity, rather than election dispute negotiations. There is need to consider this option if we are all serious about a prosperous Zimbabwe. The wealth which Zimbabwe is endowed with is so vast that we should not be in this sad situation. We cannot continue having few individuals benefiting from resources which are supposed to be a base for a strong economy. Progressive citizens must take this initiative and bring stakeholders to the boardroom.

Our country has failed to manage political matters; our people are made to see different political viewpoint as enmity, which is very wrong and must be corrected. The proposed transitional authority will have to incorporate such educative campaigns in a bid to realign the narrative of different political ideologies, and clear the toxicity which is reigning today.

I do not see why it should be difficult to formulate and implement such progressive arrangements when we were close to doing the same back in 1980; the Reconciliation Policy whose government was made up of different political parties, including white Rhodesians whom we fought against. In 1987 we had the Unity Accord after years of civil unrest which got thousands of people massacred; in 2008 we had the Global Political Agreement following a disputed election which culminated into gruesome killings of innocent civilians. I believe we can do much better than the previous pacts and get Zimbabwe on a progressive trajectory. We need to bury our swords in the trenches and fight a common enemy as a people together.

## About us

We are an independent, critical and alternative media platform established in the year 2021, specializing in quality or good journalism made up of professional journalism and well-curated content from various contributors, writers as well as authoritative interviews with a range of sources that make news locally and internationally.

We strive to be an independent, non-partisan alternative platform that serves our clientele, in its diversity, well and timely.

As a media establishment, we are also dedicated to play the normative role to educate citizens, play a watchdog role through exposure of abuses and excesses of the powerful in society, including politicians and the corporate world.

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## Female monumental Mason Pikitayi defies odds

Shelly Guni



Finding success in a male-dominated industry is a challenge for many women, but it is not impossible.

If you are willing to put in the work, show up with results and use the resources available to you to expand, you will be able to overcome any obstacle in your path.

This is the story of 37-year-old Melody Pikitayi who has defied all odds to become one of, if not the only woman Monumental Mason in Chitungwiza.

A monumental mason is a stone carver who designs and creates tombstones to commemorate a loved one's legacy.

If you have been in Chitungwiza lately, just by the conjunction of St Mary's and Zengeza, you would probably have seen this woman.

"This work is very difficult. No wonder why it's dominated by men," she told Review and Mail.

But again, tell me of a job which is very easy," she adds.

Pikitayi is only a year old in this industry but she is happy with the little progress she is making.

"I started last year. I didn't go to any special school for this, but the passion and zeal drove me here.

I was lucky to have a number of people



taking me through this journey. Now I'm doing my own thing. I am yet to see a woman in this industry."

"Prior to this, I used to do vending and I had to leave that. I was tired."

Unfortunately, Pikitayi suffered a disappointing loss a week after she started displaying her work.

All her tombstones she had put on display were vandalised by the Chitungwiza Municipality following a warning by then

acting Town Clerk Evangelista Machona to all vendors and residents who were involved in illegal activities.

"It was a challenging time for me because that was the very same week that I had put up my work on display. I was left with so many debts, you know when you are starting something, you get into so many debts trying to make things work and hoping that everything goes according to plan. But that was a different story for me.

"I however didn't go backwards. I took that challenge as a lesson and moved on. Yes I still have some debts to pay but I will soldier on," she said.

Pikitayi says she is now eyeing for a stand where she can be able to work freely without any disturbances.

"When I get money, I will try to enquire from the Chitungwiza Municipal to see if I can be able to get this piece of land."

Asked on what she specialises in, Pikitayi said.

"I do everything granite, this ranges from polishing, designing to the shape the client wants, writing amongst many other things."

Pikitayi says she has received some positive responses from the community but is worried that most women have not shown interest.

"I have seen that women are not interested in this job. They say it's for men and some even mock me saying I'm doing basa revarume (a man's job)."

Asked about her advice to other women she said.

"Remember, you are an asset and someone who brings value to the table. Do not limit yourself to the expectations of others. Think bigger. Do bigger. There is always room at the table for those who are willing to earn their seat."

## Mai TT's marriage shaking again

Belinda Mucheuki



Socialite and comedian, Felistas Murata popularly known as Mai TT, has accused her husband Tinashe Maphosa of betrayal, saying he is renegeing on his promise to pay back the money that she used for their wedding preparations.

Mai TT said all her savings had been gobbled up by the wedding preparations, which saw the couple hiring a helicopter.

"You have no idea how it feels to use all your savings expecting to be paid back then you get angry when delayed. Your anger becomes the topic but what triggers it??? In this life I'm owing nobody but all I can say is I lost all that I sweated for because of trust."

She also said she has been holding in everything due to the fear of being labeled as short tempered and loud.

"When you are loud you are always wrong even deep down when you know you are right. I hate myself for being me, I wish I would pretend to be who I am not but unfortunately I can't change me" said Mai TT.

In what many saw as a battle for supremacy against fellow socialite Olinda Chapel, Mai



TT and Tinashe hosted a lavish wedding party in Harare attended by the who is who's in the country.

However, just a few weeks after the wedding, the couple had a fallout when some socialites exposed Tinashe Maphosa's efforts to hit on them. The couple however managed to resolve the issues.

"Our past is nothing new to us, you were still searching and I was still searching. Unfortunately they did not respond to the messages because the ring was not meant for them," said Mai TT after fixing issues with her husband.

Amidst all this, Mai TT has assured people that she is not yet back to the streets.

"I wouldn't opt for leaving Malbereign so I can rent in Chitungwiza, above all I am not available for marriage, I'm not yet back in the market," said Mai TT.

Meanwhile Tinashe Maphosa has updated their wedding pictures on his Facebook profile to prove that their marriage is still intact.

## Gemma Ready for Dubai Tour

Zvkwana Soweto



Afro-fusion artist Gemma Griffiths is ready for her maiden tour in Dubai, UAE alongside the legendary sungura musician Alick Macheso.

Comment from Gemma  
Gemma is one of the most hardworking and focused artistes in Zimbabwe as she keeps people on the hook making sure they can sing along to her songs, writing lyrics people can relate to and will not forget.

The Ndinewe crooner is expected to dish out new songs on her debut tour of the Middle East country and fans are expecting a great show.

"I've admired Gemma ever since she collaborated with Winky D, and I was better able to understand her creative path thanks to her consistency during the lockdown. I must admit that I am a huge admirer and am quite enthusiastic about this tour. I'll be attending her live performance for the first time, and I'll travel roughly 150 miles specifically for her show," said Zain Nyaude, a fan based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Before rising to stardom in 2019 with Winky D on the song MuGadern, Gemma was well known for doing cover songs. She did covers of Jah Prayzah's Mudhara Vachauya and Winky D's Musarova BigMan.

Since she gained the spotlight Gemma has not looked back but put in more time into her creative prowess and putting together a string of hits and collaborations.

In a mission to chase her dream, Gemma traveled 24 000 kilometers through 10 African nations in 500 days, writing and recording music.

Born in South Africa, Gemma started music when she was very young. She grew up in a musical house, where there were always



instruments around. In high school Gemma started gigging at bars and restaurants and then went to study music in university.

The unapologetic creative songstress has worked with some notable musicians in Southern Africa, including Oliver Mtukudzi, Matthew Mole and Sho Majazi. Notable songs from Gemma Griffiths include "Ndinewe," "Only You," "Gara Pano," "Murudo." and 'Titungamire' which was an instant hit when it was released.

The show is on the 5th of August, 2022 at the spacious Secret Lounge, Grand Excelsior Hotel in Al Barsha, Dubai. Tickets will be sold at the venue on the date of the show

Meanwhile, show organizers have called upon Alick Macheso and Gem





# Zimbabwe: Noviolet Bulawayo's new Novel is an instant Zimbabwean classic

In Zimbabwean author NoViolet Bulawayo's new novel *Glory* – longlisted for the Booker Prize 2022 – animals take on human characteristics. Through this she explores what happens when an authoritarian regime implodes, using characters who are horses, pigs, dogs, cows, cats, chickens, crocodiles, birds and butterflies.

Bulawayo's (pictured) celebrated first novel, *We Need New Names*, was a coming-of-age story about the escapades of a Zimbabwean girl named Darling who ends up living in America. Its hallmarks are accentuated in this new work: the troubled real world of class struggles, psychological dualities, colonial and postcolonial histories, war and the dog-eat-dog politics of contemporary Africa.

*Glory* is set in a kingdom called Jidada, which could be Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe, Idi Amin's Uganda, Hastings Banda's Malawi, Mobutu Sese Seko's Zaire, Emmerson Mnangagwa's Zimbabwe or any other authoritarian regime in Africa, for there are many. The tropes Bulawayo makes fun of are so recognisable and familiar.

Perhaps as memorable as the names in her first novel (*Bastard, Godknobs*) are those of these animal characters (Comrade Nevermiss Nzinga, General Judas Goodness Reza). There is also a Father of the Nation, Sisters of the Disappeared and Defenders of the Revolution, Seat of Power and the Chosen. And there's the Soldiers of Christ Prophetic Church of Churches.

In fact, there is something almost playful about this book. When politics becomes a farce, it only requires a virtuoso like Bulawayo to marshal the faux pas into a

memorable fictional narrative.

The novel fictionalises the real politics of Zimbabwe, from the removal of Mugabe to the rise to power of his former vice-president, Mnangagwa, in 2017 and the years since, during which Zimbabwe's economy has suffered and the political promises of the "second republic" have gone unfulfilled.

But in order to transcend the particular, the novel is allegoric, capturing the essence of the matter as told by a bold, vivid chorus of animal voices that helps us see our human world more clearly.

In Jidada, the tyrannical Old Horse is ousted in a coup after a 40-year rule. At first there is excitement about the change that will come. But Tuvius Delight Shasha (a former vice-president) leads the country into despair. Destiny Lozikeyi Khumalo, a goat who returns to Jidada after a decade away, becomes a chronicler of her nation's history and an advocate for its future.

In an interview in the immediate aftermath of the Zimbabwe coup d'etat in 2017, Bulawayo talked about attempting to write about the fall of Mugabe in nonfiction but abandoning that effort. She found the novel to be a better form for political satire.

Bulawayo's writing is distinctive. There is a lyricism to her prose, a poetics of language that mesmerises and surprises. This gives her fiction an applied, intense focus.

Translating a present-day political and cultural milieu is tricky. The political language of contemporary Zimbabwe is oppositional, underpinned in historically deep-seated ethnic "for or against" binaries. By refusing to limit her language, Bulawayo shows the



shallowness and historical ignorance behind political power in her utopian African country.

Bulawayo also knows how to use language to good effect by deploying irony and comedy. Her use of humour in the novel is a form of political resistance that splinters the make-believe world of an out-of-touch political class.

*Glory* is an unforgettable book that goes beyond the obvious comparison to its inspiration, the UK author George Orwell's 1945 classic *Animal Farm*. His book reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and provides a strong critique against Stalinism.

*Glory* has a lively rhetorical idiom; it is full of colour and vigour. As one reviewer wrote: "Bulawayo is really out-Orwelling Orwell." Both authors reference the disarray and traumatic conditions of the

world in a distinct and powerful way.

Bulawayo's novel is also an epic that narrates the misdeeds and violent adventures of the past history of Jidada, such as the time of "Gukurahundi" when the rulers tortured, raped and executed the animals. The Gukurahundi was a genocide that took place in Zimbabwe between 1983 and 1987 when more than 20,000 people were massacred in Matebeleland.

The challenge for Bulawayo, or any writer for that matter, was how to write about a coup still in progress that was described as a-coup-not-a-coup. How could one write about the events that started when Mugabe was overthrown with the promise of new Zimbabwe that is yet to come?

The end of his reign was a festival of dancing and singing for a generation that knew nothing else but his brutality. Young people posed for Instagram photos with friendly-looking gun-wielding soldiers. They welcomed back a disgraced former vice-president who – like Tuvius Delight Shasha – became the new "Ruler of the Nation and Veteran of the Liberation War, the Greatest Leader of Jidada, Enemy of Corruption, Opener for Business, the Inventor of the Scarf of the Nation, the Survivor of All Assassination Attempts..."

It's a particular challenge to write about regimes that enforce everything with violence. And yet Bulawayo's vibrant satire succeeds in telling a political parable that also reflects the times.

*Glory* is a tour de force. It is not a story about endings but about unravellings. It is not a book about the past, but a book about the present and the future.

--The Conversation Africa

## Java, Tawaz collaborate in a Holy 10 diss track

Belinda Mucheuki



Controversial prophet, Panganai Java popularly known as Passion Java has joined hands with Tawanda Tirivanhu-Dj Tawaz in releasing a song targeted at insulting Holy 10.

The song titled, 'Mungamudaro Here' is a reaction to the viral images of Kimberly Richard who is Holy 10's girlfriend with another guy at a local hotel in Harare allegedly cheating on him.

Holy 10 apparently had responded to the situation by insulting the popular individuals who were negatively commenting on his relationship with Kimberly and went further to threaten them.

"I spent the last 133 days telling myself 'Muku it's time to be mature, stop the beefs, but no, Java, Shadaya, Branson see you this weekend,'" posted Holy Ten on his Instagram story.

One of the involved, Tawona Knight Shadaya responded on Holy 10's retaliation insinuating that there is no true love between Holy 10 and Kimberly Richard.

"Young man, I have no beef with you, if anything I am a fan of your music. Like I have always said, musically you're one of a kind talent, your problem lies socially, the kind of women you let into your life only have an intention to milk you," said Shadaya.

However, the song released by Java and Tawaz failed to serve its purpose as Holy 10 and his girlfriend posted a video saying they are not bothered.

"I know you expected to see Kim in blankets crying but forget about it and focus on other important matters," said



Passion Java



Holy 10



Kimberly Richard

Holy 10 and Kimberly Richard jointly in a video.

## Zim welcomes artist with new exhibit in August

In Tapiwa Mapuranga's hometown of Nyanga, Zimbabwe – the birthplace of Shona sculpture – he fell in love with stone carving.

Learning from elders, Mapuranga's experiences growing up in the eastern Zimbabwe town formed his creations. His sculptures took on the shape of what he saw and knew: loving families, the power of music and song, the deep connections borne from close-knit communities, nature – and the simple, beautiful joys of life.

Now, after years of honing his talent, Mapuranga, 51, is bringing his uniquely expressive style of Shona sculpting to the Peterborough area. He is the artist-in-residence at ZimArt's Rice Lake Gallery – the first sculptor from Zimbabwe to make the outdoor gallery his temporary home and workplace since the pandemic began.

"Meeting the people here is just fantastic," Mapuranga, a first-time visitor to Canada, told The Examiner.

Mapuranga's work will be shown in an exhibition entitled *Stories in Stone*, which runs from Aug. 6 to Sept. 4, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Along with Mapuranga's pieces, more than 200 sculptures, created by 50 plus artists, will also be on display at ZimArt at 855 Second Line Rd. in Otonabee-South Monaghan Township. They're all available for purchase.

As the gallery's artist-in-residence, Mapuranga is also leading a series of immersive workshops – a two-day introductory program and a five-day "master carver" program – for beginners and experienced carvers alike.

"I love teaching people what I know about my experience, so I'm sharing this with the people of Canada. Back home, I teach the

young ones. I've also taught in neighbouring countries Zambia and Mozambique and South Africa," Mapuranga said.

ZimArt owner Fran Fearnley, who founded the gallery in 2000 after being introduced to Shona sculpture in Zimbabwe, is thrilled to welcome Mapuranga after two years of being unable to host an artist.

"There's an enormous amount of movement and energy in his work. He tends to focus on the human form, so a lot of his sculptures are about family, relationships, children, mothers, lovers," Fearnley said.

With piece titles including "Family of Hope," "Circle of Love" and "Receiving My Blessing," she said Mapuranga's carvings capture "feelings of dancing and singing and the celebration of life – positive pieces about the human condition."

"We've had two tough years where we've perhaps become a bit insular in our thinking and I think his work really helps us to feel uplifted," Fearnley said.

For Fearnley and the gallery, the pandemic posed challenges – the last two seasons were shortened – but new opportunities, too. As a result of COVID-19 the gallery spread out its displayed sculptures and introduced meditative "forest bathing" walks – two additions that will continue post-pandemic.

During the new exhibit, a Zimbabwean craft sale will be hosted on weekends, with proceeds going to ZimKids.

Guests can also support ZimKids' Books Build Better Futures program for children at Maori Primary School in Zimbabwe – a project that's being backed by Happenstance bookstore in Lakefield and private donors Scott Wilkie and Denise Quick.

Admission to the gallery is free and runs until Thanksgiving Monday.





## Nyaradzo launches three new digital platforms

### Review & Mail Writers

Funeral insurance company Nyaradzo last week launched three new digital platforms as part of its Nyaradzo Goes Digital campaign which seeks to integrate technology into its business strategy.

The services were launched last Thursday at a Digital Strategy Luncheon in Harare, where the company exhibited the Sahwi WhatsApp Assistant, the Self-Service Portal and the Sahwira Connect Card.

Below are the three platforms and how they operate.

#### Sahwira Connect Card

The Sahwira Connect Card is the easiest and most convenient way to receive funeral grocery allowance. It reduces delays and allows our clients to get grocery allowance to utilize during the funeral, regardless of whether it is a holiday or weekend.

A policyholder who has suffered a bereavement is given the Sahwira Connect Card to advance the processing of cash distributions. It is a policy-based system wherein the money is transferred to the recipient's account instantaneously. This shortened payment processing time will ensure that these funds are used during the funeral.

This is an innovative technique to ensure that customers receive their money on time, unlike traditional bank transfers, which often take two to three days to reach the account. Money should be the last thing on your mind after losing a loved one. Make round-the-clock payments with a single swipe of the Sahwira Connect Card.

The card is constantly being improved to make it better and more favourable for the policyholder. It can be used for deposits and cash withdrawals, although the amount is limited. We intend to change the traditional mag stripe card to one with a smart chip in the future, allowing a safer and more reliable banking and shopping experience. We also want to create a USD account for the Sahwira connect card so that people who pay their premiums in USD can also receive their grocery



allowance in USD; if they want to.

Nyaradzo has showcased that insurance firms can empower their customers in a way that inspires loyalty and advocacy by taking an innovative approach to customer service that establishes a relationship between provider and policyholder.

With ancient, complex systems, it is difficult to imagine these expectations being satisfied. Nyaradzo Life Assurance Company has implemented the Sahwi WhatsApp Chatbot to enhance customer experience and bridge this gap. A chatbot is a computer software that communicates with clients by imitating human interaction via voice commands, text dialogues, or a combination of the two.

For Nyaradzo policyholders, Sahwi is a welcome development, as it expands office hours around the clock and can obtain the proper answers and quotes instantly. "Customers expect smooth, on-demand services and a more personalized experience," says Nyaradzo Group Corporate Communications Officer Prudence Muganiwah. "They have far too many options to choose from, thanks to

increased competition in the insurance market. They will quickly switch to competitors if we fail to meet their expectations."

Traditional customer outreach methods, like websites and applications, use "computer language" forcing customers to browse menus and displays and enter data using instructions and clicks. Across the board, the benchmark for a new age in customer care is being set, and the life insurance business is no exception. Nyaradzo is on the cutting edge of new processes and technology, and as consumers become accustomed to quick, personalized service, expectations in other industries are rising.

Nyaradzo policyholders benefit significantly from the chatbot as Sahwi is readily available on WhatsApp and provides quotes and responds to queries 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Internally, it aids in the processing of new claims. Clients today demand the same level of service from their insurance providers as they do from anybody else; they want to be able to communicate with a company through the channel of their choice, just as

they would with anyone else.

The Sahwira self-service portal is a software solution dedicated to automating Nyaradzo Life Assurance Company processes and simplifying the way policyholders obtain insurance services such as policy data, plan type, life covered, balance statement, and much more. Customers can use the self-service web portal to check vital information about their insurance plans and update their personal information.

The online portal's primary purpose is to create a personalized client experience while also enriching engagement channels for customer acquisition. Using self-service portals and other digital channels, the business is able to provide a new approach to insurance services.

Policyholders might gain various advantages by enrolling with the portal. For starters, the service is available for remote access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The portal delivers ongoing client help regardless of the policyholder's time or location. Working hours or office location may no longer be a deciding factor if convenient access is given over the web.

Second, the portal helps to speed up the claim approval procedure. One of the technology's most outstanding characteristics is its ability to provide clients with a transparent claim management procedure. With progress bars and real-time notifications, the system can provide information about each stage of the approval process. It will remove any confusion that clients may have during the claim approval procedure.

Furthermore, the self-service portal allows for the analysis of consumer behaviours and, as a result, the creation of more customised products for policyholders. Users can access the self-service portal via the Nyaradzo Group website or at <https://selfservice.nyaradzo.co.zw/>.

The funeral group has since opened offices in South Africa and the UK, with the Sahwira International Plan (SIP) launch in 2018 having seen the group reaching clients in 132 countries across the globe.

## We must meet the energy gap: ED

### Albert Chavhunduka



President Emmerson Mnangagwa says the country has to increase its power generation capacity by ramping up investments in renewable energy in order to complement the growing economy as well as reduce its dependency on power imports.

This week, President Mnangagwa will be traveling to Mozambique on a working visit and also visit Zambia in the coming weeks to promote engagements that will ensure that Zimbabwe's power imports from these neighbouring countries are secured and uninterrupted.

Lately, the country has been facing power outages resulting in nationwide power cuts after the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company cited an escalating power demand due to decreased power generation.

This has forced government to import power from Zambia's state owned power utility ZESCO, through a 250MW import deal starting this month.

Writing in his weekly column "None But Ourselves" published in state media, President Mnangagwa said there was need to close the power gap in order to maintain the growth projector that was required for the country's development.

"Our energy profile as a country is a key indicator in terms of how we fare in respect of our set national goals. Clean energy availability and access is thus one key way of reading our Economy and our progress as a Nation," said President Mnangagwa.

"Going forward, key energy policy interventions are imperative. The economy is growing quite rapidly. With this economic growth, the demand is fast outstripping supply. Even more unsettling is the fact that the bulk of the demand for power is coming from the mining sector, including from projects for key minerals like gold, platinum, chrome, coal, diamonds and lithium as well as from smelters we badly need for beneficiation and for triggering domestic industrial value chains.

"We thus have to increase our internal power generation, possibly threefold, if we are to avoid throttling our growth and if we are to lessen our dependency on power imports."

He added, "Our energy and electricity mix shows a very unhealthy dependency on just two sources, namely, hydro which accounts for more than 65 percent of the power we generate and thermal, which accounts for slightly above 30 percent.

"We have to ramp up investments in all renewables, particularly in solar and wind energy. Before long, we will know what Muzarabani means for us by way of our energy mix and generation capacity."

President Mnangagwa challenged the Ministry of Energy and Energy Development to ensure it improved efficiency which fares badly in the sub-Saharan region as well as rooting out vandalism of electricity infrastructure in the country.

"Almost all sectors of our Economy view electricity supply and

telecommunication as obstacles to their operations and certainly as below the regional average. In addition, we fared very badly in the region on frequency and duration of electricity outages as well as distribution losses which is worse than sub-Saharan African average of 15 percent by nearly 10 percent points," he said.

"The Ministry of Energy and Energy Development and units under it must address this area of great concern, including ensuring that the management of the national grid is more efficient.

"We have just availed utility vehicles to ZESA. These must make a difference. We must also step up efforts to stamp out vandalism on electricity infrastructure."

He further called for the speeding up of the rural electrification programme in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"More critically, I want to see greater power consumption in rural areas, in keeping with population density in that sector and of course our goal of industrialising our rural areas and mechanising our agriculture," said President Mnangagwa.



# PSL- a tale of sacked coaches

Shelly Guni



The football season is almost over, but the coach-sacking season appears to be just getting started, with the scalps of five coaches having been claimed so far.

The latest casualty is former national team and Manchester City striker, Benjani Mwaruware, whose Castle Lager Premier Soccer League side, Ngezi Platinum Stars showed him the door just three months into his three-year-contract.

Mwaruware had replaced Rodwell Dhlakama who resigned amid corruption allegations. His (Dhlakama) decision came a few weeks after he was suspended by the club.

And now, barely 24 hours after Mwaruware's departure, another Premiership side, Black Rhinos, has sacked its head coach, Herbert Maruwa.

Maruwa, unlike most of his counterparts who were dismissed over poor results, was booted out for what the club described as a unanimous decision over the coach's unbecoming behaviour at matches".



**Benjani Mwaruware (middle) after Ngezi suffered defeat from Yedah last week Sunday**

The army, which bankrolls Black Rhinos, is known for its strict code of discipline.

However, since the season began, there have been a lot of movements in the league.

In May, Godfrey Tamirepi who was the ZPC Kariba coach was shown the exit door

by the club after a series of poor results.

ZPC had a poor start to the league campaign by their standards, having collected just 10 points from 13 matches.

That same month, Bulawayo giants, Highlanders FC fired Coach Mandla

Mpofu, after another poor run in the PSL. It's often a costly exercise, too – Mwaruware's sacking is thought to cost the club USD400 000 in pay-outs alone.

So, why do they do it? The obvious response is the pursuit of on-field success.

Winning more games has long been regarded as a means of attracting more fans, sponsors, and revenue for clubs.

This is undeniably true, though the importance of winning is frequently exaggerated.

Mwaruware took over the reins at Ngezi in March, and he presided over 13 games. He managed to win only three, drawing six and losing four.

Winning more games is a good acquisition strategy because it attracts new fans, but it has little effect on long-term fans, whose behaviours and attitudes are usually set.

It is also unclear whether replacing the coach improves on-field performance.

There is little agreement on whether coach replacement improves success.

It is clear that many other factors besides the coach influence team success.

The "ritual scapegoating" that is a common reason for firing a coach often results in very little change in the organization.

And it remains to be seen how many more coaches will be without jobs by the close of the season.

## Calgarians Matthew Oworu, Piper Logan primed for Canada rugby at Commonwealth Games

Not long ago, a trip to the Commonwealth Games seemed unthinkable for Calgary native Matthew Oworu.

After all, he grew up in Zimbabwe, which withdrew from the Commonwealth two decades back.

So there was no chance of playing his adopted sport – rugby – for his adopted country at the international sporting event.

But Canada came calling on the massive talent, and a few years later, the 21-year-old is part of the Canadian contingent focused on the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which open Thursday in Birmingham, England.

"Honestly, just really excited about it," said the affable Oworu, a nearly 6-foot-2, 245-lb. phenom of Canada's rugby sevens squad. "This has really been a big year for me, going to so many places that I've never really been to before and just playing the sport that I like. I don't feel there's any pressure on us as Canada – the outside world doesn't really know what we're capable of. So we are at the point where we can hit these teams with a sucker-punch, and that's always fun.

"We have a strong brotherhood. We want to get out there and show what we're really made of."

There's that Can-do attitude.

Here's hoping it's contagious among all Canadians at the Commonwealth Games, spreading through all 16 athletes with Calgary-area connections competing in the 12-day, 72-nation event.

Star diver Caeli McKay (Calgary) and stellar swimmer Rebecca Smith (Red Deer) are the most recognizable names of the local athletes gunning for gold in Birmingham.

Others include: shot putter Sarah Mickey (Redcliff); 3x3 basketball's Jordan Jensen-Whyte (Calgary); cyclist Sarah Orban (Calgary); diver Margo Erlam (Calgary);

field hockey's Melanie Scholz (Calgary); weightlifter Hannah Kaminski (Calgary); lawn bowlers Jennifer MacDonald (Calgary) and Greg Wilson (Cochrane); and swimmers Stephen Calkins (Calgary) and Finlay Knox (Okotoks).

But in rugby is where fans will find the most area talents at the U.K.-hosted Games. While Oworu is the only local product on the men's squad, the women's sevens crew features fellow Calgarian Piper Logan, Vulcan's Keyara Wardley and Canmore's Krissy Scurfield.

"It's quite a young squad currently," said 21-year-old Logan, a graduate of Ernest Manning High School. "Most of the older girls who have been around for quite some time have started retiring out of the program, unfortunately. But fortunately for us younger girls, especially with the Olympics coming up in a couple years, it'll give us a good amount of time to prep for that and get some experience under our belts."

Same goes for the Canadian guys.

"We're definitely in that same role," agreed Oworu, also 21. "We had nine, 10 guys retire right after the Olympics last year. The first couple of tournaments were lots of learning for the new guys, myself included. We kind of had more continuity in terms of squad selection and that stuff. Now we're just working on, 'OK, can we replicate these strengths and find some consistency in our game play so we can end the season on a high note and go into next season with higher expectations.'"

Right now, however, the focus is on a Commonwealth coup, beginning with pool play against Zambia, Wales and – gulp – Fiji.

"All big games – no teams that we're taking lightly," Oworu said. "Wales and Zambia, we're looking to really go at and beat. And Fiji is, obviously, one of the



**Calgary native Matthew Oworu is "really excited about" representing Canada in rugby sevens at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.**

best teams in the world. So they're pretty much in a spot that we're looking to get to eventually."

Perhaps it'll be with the help of forward Oworu, whose size and aggressive play is a boon for Canada.

He's there to provide big tackles and force turnovers.

Plus he carries the ball in heavy traffic.

"My role is to assist my team as much as I can with the physicality, so that's one of the glaring strengths in my game," declared Oworu, who grew up in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, playing with his older brother, James. "Our coach (in Zimbabwe) would say, 'So Matthew and James are amazing tacklers' ... that was a strength. If someone was in front of us with the ball, we would give it our all to tackle the guy. That was funny, because even up til today, that is one of the things I enjoy most in rugby – I'd always try and make sure that a high percentage of my tackles are the ones that get the crowd hyped."

Being from Calgary, rugby wasn't always his sport.

Not even close.

Basketball and football were more to his liking, but a move during his Grade 6 year to the Southern African country changed that.

"Definitely, rugby was easier to pick up there than in Calgary," said Oworu, born to Nigerian father Akins and Zimbabwean mother Maria. "Pretty much a month or two after joining the new school (in Harare), our P.E. teacher was like, 'Yeah ... you guys are bigger than everyone, so you're going to have to play rugby.'"

"The first year, it wasn't really passionate at all for us. We'd just go play because we felt like we kind of had to and we didn't have much to do after school. My dad's brother was a big rugby player at his high school in Zimbabwe, and he'd tell us how prestigious the sport is and how fun it is once you get into it. And our mom and dad were big supporters of us doing it, too.

"We were big and used to rough house a bit while growing up, being two boys a year apart. That was probably a nightmare for our parents."

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# Dumbu must fall run in pictures



See story page 18 Pictures by Clyde Tinashe Dondo & Shelly Guni











# Zimbabwe's unbeaten run comes to an end

Brian Goredema  
EnterSportNews



A defiant half-century from Sikandar Raza was not enough to prevent Bangladesh from cruising to a seven-wicket win over Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club on Sunday and level the three-match series one all.

The defeat which was watched by a near-capacity crowd ended a six-match unbeaten run under Dave Houghton.

Raza watched as wickets fell around him after Zimbabwe had won the toss and elected to bat on a good batting wicket.

When you play the brand of cricket the Chevrons are trying to play a banana skin moment will always come.

It however came at the wrong time when the home side was trying to pile more misery on the Tigers by clinching the series today.

Zimbabwe failed the spin test of Hossain Mosaddek as they tried to hit him out of the attack during the powerplay overs.

Regis Chakabva's eyes lit up when he saw a wide arm ball from Mosaddek but probably went too hard on the ball and could only manage an outside edge to the keeper Nural Hasan for a golden duck.

Wessly Madhevere suffered the same fate of going hard at the ball instead of timing it to be caught at cover point



by Mahedi Hasan in the first over off Mosaddek.

Zimbabwe continued attacking and why not? It's the cricket that has booked for them a ticket to the World Cup in Australia in October.

Craig Ervine, Sean Williams, and Milton Shumba fell in single figures to give Mosaddek 5 for 20 runs in his four overs.

Zimbabwe had lost half their side inside seven sovers with 31-5 on the board.

Raza and Ryan Burl had to take the game deep to give their team a chance.

The pair obliged with Raza curbing his natural attacking instinct but finding the boundary regularly.

Raza got to his second successive half-century his fourth in seven matches.

Unfortunately, he could not do it alone and the pressure eventually came to tie fore as he perished for 62 from 53 balls with eight balls to go as he played one shot too many.

Zimbabwe who looked like they were going to be bowled out for less than 100 managed to get to 135-8 in their innings.

The surface was so good for batting as Bangladesh plundered 56 from 33 balls runs in the power play led by Liton Das who was not taking any prisoners.

Das took a liking towards Tanaka Chivanga and had to be removed from the attack after just bowling one over.

The Bangladesh experienced batsman Das will surely be in trouble with match Ref Andy Pycrodt and lose his match fees after he was given out lbw by the umpire but showed dissent by staying at the crease demonstrating that the ball was probably going down leg side.

Das top scored for Bangladesh with 53 runs and had done his job to help his side to level the series and set up a thrilling decider on Tuesday.

Ahead of the decider, Zimbabwe will be sweating over the fitness of their captain Ervine who was injured whilst fielding.

Another stern test awaits Houghton and the boys on Tuesday as they stare at a rare series win against the Tigers.

A bigger crowd than normal for a Tuesday is expected and Zimbabwe will have to bring their A-game to appease their success-starved legion of fans.

## Euro 2022- England beat Germany to win first major women's trophy in dramatic style

England created history by winning their first major women's tournament in a dramatic Euro 2022 final against old rivals and eight-time champions Germany at Wembley.

Substitute Chloe Kelly poked home a loose ball from a corner to send the raucous record crowd of 87,192 into a frenzy with ten minutes of extra time remaining.

She waited for confirmation of the goal before taking off her shirt and waving it around her head, while being lifted by her team-mates in a moment of pure elation.

On a monumental day in English football history, Sarina Wiegman's side showed they were equal to anything a strong and physical Germany team threw at them.

Ella Toone had earlier come off the bench to score the opener in normal time before Germany's Lina Magull set up a nervous ending when she equalised in the 79th minute.

There were scenes of jubilation in the stands and an outpouring of emotion by players on the pitch at full-time as the magnitude of their achievement sank in.

The final was advertised as a battle between the competition's two best-performing sides, and for large parts they cancelled each other out - but the biggest crowd in the history of a men's or women's Euros was given their money's worth.

Striker Ellen White missed a few chances in the first half, Lucy Bronze was denied with a header, Germany's Magull struck wide and England defender Leah Williamson had to scramble a corner off the line before Toone was introduced to break the deadlock.

She had given England fans the winning taste before Magull stunned the home crowd, though it would only delay the celebrations that Kelly, who only returned to football in April



after suffering an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury, gave them.

England did what no other nation had done before - beat serial winners Germany in a European Women's Championship final, and the feeling was sweet.

It comes 56 years after England's men beat West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final, the only previous major trophy won by a men's or women's England senior team.

The players fell to the ground at full-time in tears of joy, in scenes which will be remembered and replayed for years to come on one of the greatest nights in English sport.

**Perfect ending for hosts England**

It was a final like no other in every sense - the build-up was on a scale above anything seen in women's football in Great Britain, and it provided the perfect ending.

Male fans were sporting England shirts with their female icons' names on the back on the London Underground on the way to the match, while fan parks around the country were filled with supporters watching the final on big screens.

Wembley Way was already packed on Sunday morning and there were boos when Germany were announced on the stadium tannoy before kick-off.

And it looked like things were going England's way when Germany's lethal striker Alexandra Popp, joint-top scorer in the tournament going into the final, picked up an injury and dropped out of the starting XI just before kick-off.

The feistiness off the pitch translated on to it too - referee Kateryna Monzul awarded two early yellow cards for innocuous fouls by England, and the crowd were frustrated for much of the first half when decisions didn't go their way.

The physical battle between the sides continued and the game swung back and forth. Germany had momentum going into extra time after Magull had hit the post before equalising.

But as this England team have shown throughout the tournament, they would not be beaten easily.

They continued to threaten and Kelly ran over to the fans to galvanise them when taking a corner, moments before she delivered the winner England

fans across the country have dreamed of for 56 years.

**Kelly's moment after comeback fairytale**

The familiar sound of England fans singing 'Sweet Caroline' while serenading the players at full-time was even sweeter this time around.

The Three Lions lyrics have finally come true as football came home at the national stadium in front of the largest crowd in England women's history.

Captain Williamson was sobbing at full-time, while vice-captain Millie Bright wiped tears from her face in an embrace with best friend Rachel Daly.

Wiegman, who has now become the first manager in history to win back-to-back Euros with two different nations after also guiding the Netherlands to glory in 2017, also removed her mask of calmness as she ran on to the pitch with her arms in the air and a look of disbelief.

**England celebrate**

England lost in the 2009 Euros final to Germany

Midfielder Jill Scott, who had suffered defeat at the hands of the Germans in the final in 2009, came on in extra time to help England get over the line and was overcome with emotion.

Young Manchester United star Toone, who has come off the bench to contribute three goals in this tournament, took centre stage when she opened the scoring - but the biggest moment was Kelly's.

After being forced to sit out the Olympic Games and miss 11 months of football, she fought her way into selection for the Euros and has delivered the goal which will never be forgotten.

Victory in the final was capped by England forward Beth Mead picking up the Golden Boot as the tournament's top scorer with six goals and five assists.

England lifted the trophy to a standing ovation and defender Bronze then slid across the pitch, covered in confetti, before the players embarked on a victory lap draped in flags of Saint George.

--BBC



# Countries in the Commonwealth Games , the ones not actually in the Commonwealth

All the countries in the Commonwealth Games and the ones not actually in the Commonwealth any more

The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games kick off at 8pm on Thursday, July 28

From Wales to Bangladesh, there will be 72 nations competing in this year's Commonwealth Games. We take a look at those involved in the competition, and those who are no longer members.

First of all, the Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 member states, comprising of 2.5 billion people, which is one third of the world's population.

It was originally based on the British Empire, but now any country can join. The association agrees to share goals like development, democracy and peace, as per [thecommonwealth.org](http://thecommonwealth.org).

This year's competition will be the 22nd since the competition began in 1930, and over 5,000 athletes will take part. It is the first time that there will be more medals available to females than males.

The 72 Commonwealth Games Associations confirmed they would be sending athletes to the competition, and below is the definitive list of nations that will be taking part in 2022.

Anguilla  
Antigua and Barbuda  
Australia  
Bahamas  
Bangladesh  
Barbados  
Belize  
Bermuda  
Botswana  
British Virgin Islands  
Brunei  
Cameroon  
Canada  
Cayman Islands  
Cook Islands  
Cyprus  
Dominica



Members of the Team England cycling side during a training session ahead of the 2022 Commonwealth Games (Image: PA)

England (Host)  
Eswatini  
Falkland Islands  
Fiji  
The Gambia  
Ghana  
Gibraltar  
Grenada  
Guernsey  
Guyana  
India  
Isle of Man  
Jamaica  
Jersey  
Kenya  
Kiribati  
Lesotho  
Malawi  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Malta  
Mauritius  
Montserrat  
Mozambique  
Namibia

Nauru  
New Zealand  
Nigeria  
Niue  
Norfolk Island  
Northern Ireland  
Pakistan  
Papa New Guinea  
Rwanda  
Saint Helena  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Samoa  
Scotland  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore  
Solomon Islands  
South Africa  
Sri Lanka  
Tanzania  
Tonga  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Turks and Caicos Islands

Tuvalu  
Uganda  
Vanuatu  
Wales  
Zambia

The Games have been taking place since 1930, but what countries have pulled out of the Commonwealth altogether since then?

Pakistan left the Commonwealth in 1972 following the recognition of Bangladesh by other Commonwealth countries. This was down to the war between Pakistan and Bangladesh which occurred the previous year. However they would later rejoin in 2008.

Fiji Islands' membership lapsed 1987 following a military coup, but were reinstated in 1997 following 'constitutional reform', per [commonwealthofnations.org](http://commonwealthofnations.org).

Since then Fiji have been in and out of the Commonwealth due to more political discrepancies, but are currently part of the Commonwealth and will compete at this year's competition.

No country has been expelled, however a few have been suspended, including Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Nigeria were suspended from 1995 to 1999. Whilst Zimbabwe were suspended in 2002, and eventually withdrew altogether in December 2003.

Despite leaving the Commonwealth in 2013, The Gambia returned in 2018 after the Commonwealth Secretariat confirmed their application had been successful.

The Republic of Ireland was formed in 1949 following the Irish Republic of Ireland Act 1948, meaning they would withdraw from the Commonwealth. The Republic of Ireland and Zimbabwe are the only two nations who have left the Commonwealth and not returned.

The last two countries to join the Commonwealth were Gabon and Togo.

[WalesOnline](http://WalesOnline)

## Fitness key to health body: Callista

Shelly Guni



Fitness coach, Callista Sambaza believes there is no substitute for a healthy body.

Coach Callie, as she is affectionately known in the fitness circles, made the comments on Saturday, shortly after the 'Winter Cycle, Dumbu must fall 10km fun run' in Harare.

Sambaza, the founder and owner of Sweat Field, a fitness company that specializes in fitness, body transformation, and other services, stated that fitness should be considered a lifestyle.

"Fitness is a way of life for me. It's like breathing for me! Nothing truly belongs to you except your own body, and there is no substitute for a healthy body. I would encourage everyone to exercise. It's not difficult.

"Exercise is important. It's important to incorporate in our day to day living. It must be a lifestyle not a once off event. There are many benefits that we get from exercise," she says.

Sambaza said the 10km Fun Run was to celebrate life through fitness. She was also happy with the turnout which she described as impressive.

The event came after running a successful online 12 week 'Winter Cycle, Dumbu must fall' programme.

"This program was a result of the Covi-19 situation, so I came up with an online programme



Callista Sambaza

that reaches out to people far and wide, they can follow this program, the participants and whoever is willing to take part, round up the programme with something special like an aerobathon, a fun run.

"This run was to educate people and inform people of the benefits of healthy eating.

"One of the sponsors was Zoro NeMugoti, who makes healthy snacks. So along the route, there were snacks that the participants

could taste.

"So much of the emphasis was on healthy eating. They say abs are made in the kitchen."

Speaking on the benefits of exercising, Sambaza said: "Improved sleep, improved mental state of mind, improved cardio vascular system and respiratory system, breath better, your veins are opened up, there is nothing that clots there because you are working, you are burning the fat, nothing is clogging the blood vessels,

"Inside, out, exercise is beneficial, the major benefit is that you look good, who doesn't want to look good, your body is toned up, there no saggy skin, to some who wants to build muscle,

"Exercise also help in burning the fat in weight loss, you can do this from anywhere."

One of the participants, Movement Musasiwa who lost over 10kgs since the Dumbu must go program was introduced speaks on the importance of exercising.

"The benefits of doing these kinds of runs is obviously, you keep yourself fit.

"People do so many kinds of exercise but with running every part of your body gets to do something and it's quite beneficial in that area.

"The other issue is, if I had not come for this run today, guess where I would be at, I would have been in bed so I have to wake up early to come to this run. Another benefit of

this run, you get to wake up early.

"And also the other issue is, when your body is fit, you find out that your mind functions better and you find out that you do more because you will be active and relaxed.

"The other benefit that I have realised by coming to such events is that you get to meet a lot of people and get to network, like myself I have met quite a number of people, I now have so many friends most of those whom I met through these runs, and it does not and it's not only about having friends. You get to meet and interact and learn so many different things in life.

A runner's motivation is to be a part of a running community and to connect with other runners.

Following Zimbabwe's rising middle class and disposable incomes, there has been a huge increase in lifestyle ailments, including obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

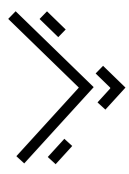
This has led to people changing their traditional behaviours from being reactive to proactive.

However, though the awareness level is higher in the younger generation, the spending power lies with the older consumer. This is the consumer who not only wants to be fit, but perhaps even believes their age.

Another participant, Loveness Chibikira said: "I hated running, but growing up, you get to know that there are a lot of diseases that comes from being unhealthy,

"It's not about being a fast runner, I can jog all the way, the ultimate goal is for me to finish and I celebrate myself each and every time.





# Sports



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