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BRITISH 'AGENT' RAISES STORM

Stephen Chan, considered a listening post for Britain, divides opinion on CCC and role of West in Zim politics

Chris Mahove
Acting Editor



Professor of World Politics at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, Stephen Chan (*pictured*), has courted controversy in Zimbabwe following his visit to the country last week.

During the visit Chan met opposition figures and activists and reportedly attempted to meet President Mnangagwa, without success.

But it was his meetings with the opposition - where he allegedly advised opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) leader, Nelson Chamisa to appoint a shadow Cabinet - that set the cat among pigeons with

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supporters of the opposition haggling over Chan's pontifications and the larger role of the West in Zimbabwe's politics.

Chan himself did not make much effort to hide that his mission was at the behest of the West, a reference to Britain, US and their allies, whom Chan inferred wanted to know what was happening in the opposition party ahead of elections in 2023.

And Chan's visit did not escape the notice of the Government of Zimbabwe, with Presidential Spokesman George Charamba stating that Chan had been "dispatched" by Britain.

On Saturday, Charamba wrote in The Herald that, "Chan's visit expresses British anxiety and acute angst over the conduct of their poet-politician on whose mediocre person they have reposed their interests. He has caused them deep worries given his high school political experimentations with interests of a great Empire."

He further wrote, "But my story is on Stephen Chan, the SOAS Professor the British and American Establishment whom the British routinely despatch here to study us in the colonial spirit of know-thy-native. Chan never attempted to hide his coming; he announced it, brazenly too."

Charamba claimed that Chan had attempted to use back channels to meet President Mnangagwa, but was rebuffed.

Unremitting

Chan was unremitting in his mission and mandate, and widely used Twitter to pass comments and report on meetings he held with various interests.

He also called on Zimbabwe to have an election debate between President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Chamisa, saying such a debate could only be stopped by fear. His visit and engagement with Chamisa sparked debate in both the ruling ZANU PF party and the CCC, after he indicated that the West wanted to know who exactly they were working with in Chamisa's party, hence his calls for the opposition leader to name a shadow



cabinet.

Ironically, Chamisa named a 19 member team of parliamentarians in the wake of Chan's pronouncements, raising claims from ZANU PF supporters that it was proof that the opposition party was Western sponsored.

Debate ensued. CCC supporters were unhappy Chan was taking a "dictatorial" role that opened the party to rebuke, as the opposition movement has been previously linked to the West.

The detractors of the opposition delighted.

"Chamisa-names-first-ever-ccc-shadow-cabinet/ I am very happy he has done this. During our meeting, and in some of my media interviews while in Zimbabwe, I stressed the need for the West to know with whom it would be dealing, portfolio by portfolio, in the event of a 2023 CCC electoral victory," Chan tweeted on his handle.

This, however, drew the wrath of self-exiled former cabinet minister and ZANU PF Politburo member Jonathan Moyo, who said the development was testament that Chamisa was a Western puppet, describing Chan as a 'British agent'.

"Puppeteer directs, puppet implements. @DrStephenChan told them publicly here on @Twitter that the West wants their structures in Parliament, and they obliged within four days. Terrible optics. This kind of display of puppetry is as unfortunate as it is concerning!" Moyo wrote on his micro-blogging site Twitter.

Moyo is on record chiding the CCC for not having structures and a constitution, and 'demanding' that the party holds an elective congress before the 2023 elections. The former Higher and Tertiary Education Minister has been on about the issue over the past few months, raising the ire of CCC supporters who accused him of trying to infiltrate the party.

But the CCC acting spokesperson Gift Ostallos Siziba downplayed the development, saying the appointees were not shadow ministers and had nothing to do with Chan as it was a parliamentary requirement which had been long overdue. "Parliament requested us to deploy legislators that would work with specific ministries. This has been the tradition. That's why we have deployed 19 of them to be working with Parliament's specific line ministries," he told a local publication last week.

But in yet another tweet Chan insisted that Chamisa had appointed a shadow cabinet guised under a new name.

"He needs to take the plunge and just say it. This is a shadow cabinet in all but name. And the members are the names with which foreign governments would wish to liaise in the event of a CCC victory. The outside world wants some certainty about such things," he insisted.

Political analyst Maxwell Saungweme took a swipe at Chan, saying he was misdirecting himself and condescending as the effect of his remarks removed agency and ownership from pro-democracy Zimbabweans who were yearning for democratic transition.

"He reduces our struggle for democracy to be an appeasement programme to the West. Yet Zimbabweans genuinely want democratic change. Chamisa and other opposition leaders must be accountable to Zimbabweans they lead not foreign governments. The whole remarks by Chan are stinking, disrespectful of Zimbabweans and undermining of our intelligence and agency as a people," he said.

He said if it was indeed true that Chan had directed Chamisa to put up a shadow

cabinet and the appointments were in response to that, then the struggle for democracy in Zimbabwe was still a long way to be won, adding that people must never trust leaders who were directed by other countries' citizens, but their own constituents.

However, US based opposition leader, Maxwell Shumba said there was nothing wrong in Chamisa taking advice from a renowned scholar such as Chan.

He said if it was true that Chan advised Chamisa on the need to have Ministers at this point then his advice must have been misunderstood or misinterpreted.

"I am sure Professor Chan had good intentions. Having Ministers in place before elections provides evidence that one is ready to govern on day one. The problem is that it seems the advice was misunderstood. Instead of preparing to govern, the CCC leadership went to appoint Shadow Ministers who are politicians drawn from CCC pool of activists. You can tell with the apparent misalignment," he said.

He added; "A lawyer being appointed Minister of Finance. Is Zimbabwe short of economists? Just go through the profiles of the people assigned to the Ministries and check if the appointments match their skills set. Zimbabwe needs a transformative party not one that shadows ZANU PF. ZimFirst will never be a ZANU PF show. By the way ZimFirst has a team of global expertise of Chan's calibre advising our Government in Waiting (GiW)

He said there was no need to shadow clueless ZANU PF Ministers, adding what Zimbabwe needed from an opposition aspiring to be the next government was a government in waiting that was constituted by technocrats.

"Those Shadow Ministers are politicians with no real expertise in the assigned roles. This is jobs for the boys that serve as a thank you for being loyal. A Government in awaiting (GiW) staffed by a mixture of Diasporans and locally based experts is what opposition needs right now," he said, adding that Zimbabwe a real transformative opposition party.

Unions gang up against govt, demand urgent TNF meeting

Chris Mahove



The country's two labour umbrella bodies, the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) and the Zimbabwe Federation of Trade Unions (ZFTU), usually at loggerheads because of ideological differences, have spoken with one voice in their demand for an urgent Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) meeting to address the economic challenges facing the country.

While the ZFTU has strong links to the ruling ZANU PF party and the ZCTU has its roots in the opposition, having been instrumental in the formation of the MDC led by Morgan Tsvangirai in 1999, the two have this time coalesced around the working class struggle, which is the core business of both the institutions.

The country's economy has been deteriorating over the last few months, with the prices of basic commodities and services rising on a daily basis and inflation reaching triple figures.

Several policy pronouncements by government have failed to yield any positive results, a development which labour and other stakeholders said was because of government's unilateralism in the crafting and implementation of economic policies.

ZCTU Secretary General, Japhet Moyo said government's indifference to the calls for an urgent meeting would only worsen the already critical situation in the country.

He said they wrote to the Ministry of Labour back in February 2022 when the situation started to worsen but had met with resistance from the government.

"Everyone is eager to see the TNF finally resolving this socio-economic meltdown



(but) there has not been any formal response to our request and we don't know when the TNF meeting will be convened.

"Taking an ostrich approach will not resolve matters because all the socioeconomic issues that are bedeviling the nation will not just disappear because the government is silent. The silence is tantamount to spiting and trivialising the issues. At this level we are likely to miss most Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and attainment of the middle income status," he said.

Moyo said government should desist from pronouncing policy that hurt other social partners and should prioritize engagement before pronouncing any policy that had a negative impact on ordinary people.

"They should stop the blame game and take responsibility for the mess. They should meet the demands of its work force that is wallowing in poverty.

He said it was the duty of government to protect the worker representatives that were being victimised for representing their members, adding that they should reinstate all the union leaders that were dismissed at NRZ and other parastatals.

"They should drop all charges against workers and union leaders that are being

persecuted," he said.

The ZFTU, in a letter dated July 10, 2022, addressed to the Minister of Labour, who is the TNF chairperson, said an urgent meeting of the TNF would salvage the country from the deepening economic crisis.

Secretary General, Kennias Shamuyarira said the meeting should invite other relevant stakeholders with ideas and expertise on how best to stabilise the economy for a win-win situation for workers, business and government, adding that workers were the ones bearing the brunt of the situation.

"The obtaining economic situation in Zimbabwe which is characterised by high inflation, high interest rates, shortages of some basic commodities, skyrocketing parallel market exchange rate, foreign currency shortages, ever-rising prices of basic commodities and services among others has left the workers and entire citizens of Zimbabwe enduring the unbearable crisis for far too long as they are the most vulnerable given the circumstances.

"This has been worsened by meagre RTGS salary increases which cannot catch-up with the ever rising cost of living, leaving most workers earning far below the Poverty Datum Line (PDL) thereby living in abject poverty," he said.

Shamuyarira proposed that the meeting should discuss, among other things, the erosion of salaries, currency and exchange rate stabilisation as well as the stabilisation of prices.

The ZFTU boss said now was the time for all workers representative bodies to come together and speak with one voice as the

working class.

"Together as a formidable united working class we shall pull through. None but ourselves are our own liberators," he said.

The TNF is a social dialogue platform that brings together government, business and labour to negotiate key socioeconomic matters, has failed to live to its billing since its legislation in June 2019.

Unions have often accused the government of unilateralism in the formulation of policy and failing to consult its partners on policies which affected their constituencies.

They also accused the government of failure or reluctance to implement agreed TNF positions, which they said was undermining other partners.

A TNF meeting scheduled for December 17, 2019, was abandoned after labour walked out accusing both government and business of not taking the platform seriously to address wage issues. Another scheduled meeting in 2020 failed to take off after the Minister of Labour Paul Mavima advised labour that Cabinet would not intervene in the salary issues as it was a matter for business and National Employment Councils (NECs).

Nurses and teachers have been clashing with government for the better part of this year and have staged demonstrations demanding salaries in USD, which the government insists is untenable in our current environment.

Both the nurses and teachers have threatened to go back to strike this week if their negotiations with government fail to yield meaningful results for them.

They have upped their USD demands from around \$450 to \$850 citing the rising cost of living.

Call for scrutiny of new youth service push

Albert Chavhunduka



Analysts say cabinet's recent announcement of the return of the national youth service program ahead of the 2023 election campaign season requires close scrutiny as the initiative might not necessarily be targeting to benefit unemployed youths, but be used to entrench partisan political interests.

The infamous National Youth Service, commonly known as the Border Gezi Youth Militia or Green Bombers during the early 2000s is alleged to have been used to unleash a terror of violence against those who were not aligned with the ruling party, ZANU-PF.

After its establishment in 2001, the youth service program fizzled out after six years due to funding shortages.

In the recent 20th Post-Cabinet press briefing, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Paul Mavima announced the resuscitation of the youth service program under a new name, Youth Service in Zimbabwe.

This follows Cabinet's approval of the National Youth Service Policy Guiding Framework and the National Youth Service Implementation Matrix 2021-2025 which it said was designed to groom a well-disciplined youth, who exhibit Zimbabwean

values and identity by 2030.

According to government, graduates of the program will receive first priority into high institutions of learning including Polytechnics, teaching, nursing and recruitment into the army and the civil service.

However, speaking to the Review & Mail in separate interviews, analysts said while the idea was noble, there were fears that the national youth service programme could be used for political expedience by the ruling party as happened before.

"The idea of a youth service is not inherently bad, but in Zimbabwe it has been abused for narrow and partisan political interests with detrimental consequences such as political violence," said political analyst, Vivid Gwede.

"Coming ahead of the next elections which are going to be tight, the re-introduction of the youth service program raises fears of a repeat of the past and requires close scrutiny.

"The pertinent question is, how this initiative benefits millions of youths who require meaningful empowerment opportunities including jobs to lift them out of widespread poverty?" he said.

South Africa based analyst Blessing Makwambeni said the timing of the reintroduction of the youth program was suspicious.

"My view is that the timing of the

reintroduction of the national youth service is suspicious. It comes at a time when political parties are mobilising towards 2023. What makes it even more suspicious is the parlous economic situation in the country which makes it unsustainable to support such a program," said Makwambeni.

He said it was common knowledge that the national youth service program was based on a narrow conception of "nationalism" and "patriotism" that sought to entrench ZANU-PF hegemony and would most certainly be used to annihilate the opposition and entrench ZANU-PF interests.

Another analyst Munjodzi Mutandiri said, "We know that the national youth service has historically been abused by ZANU-PF party vigilante groups. The desperate young people have been turned into political violence merchants in the past.

"The timing of the decision, a few months away from an election that has already claimed a few lives from political violence is worrying. It doesn't need a rocket science to see what the ZANU-PF government is doing."

Max Saungweme weighed in arguing that the idea of a national youth service should be stopped as the prevailing economic situation in the country could not sustain the initiative.

"The idea to reincarnate the diabolic spectre of the so-called youth service is



reactionary, backwards, diversionary and egocentric. It has nothing to do with the bulging but struggling youthful population in Zimbabwe, but attempts by a medieval conclave of geriatric politicians who don't value nor trust youth to be drivers and leaders in the political leadership of the country," said Saungweme.

"What the youth want now are the leadership of the country, business and employment opportunities not being brainwashed to be used as accessories to unquenchable political ambitions of ancient political oligarchs who must be in retirement," he said.

Saungweme said the introduction of the program was another dimension of elections rigging already in motion, adding it was meant to produce tools for voter intimidation and should be resisted and stopped.

CCC structures debate senseless: Dr Mandaza

Review & Mail Writers



The debate on whether the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) should have structures and hold an elective congress before the 2023 harmonised elections is senseless, political analyst, Ibbo Mandaza has said.

This comes after a barrage of social media attacks on the CCC leader, Nelson Chamisa, for not having formal structures since the formation of the party several months ago.

Exiled former Information Minister and ZANU PF politburo member, Jonathan Moyo, has led the attacks on his Twitter handle, calling the CCC a "secret society".

Moyo's systematic social media attacks on the CCC have attracted the interest of rival critics of the new political outfit including ZANU-PF supporters, labelling the organisation a structure-less and constitution-less party which was using its members to support unilateral and illegal Western sanctions.

The critics have been calling on Chamisa to use clear, traditional and conventional means of operation as an opposition political party.

However, writing on twitter Dr Mandaza poured cold water on CCC critics saying that the debate about the structure and content of the CCC was nothing but senseless and unnecessary mudslinging.

"It's unfortunate that this debate about the structure and content of the opposition movement has come to this-caught up in a wrangle or personalities and in my view senseless and unnecessary mudslinging," said Dr Mandaza.

"Firstly, structures are less explicit than implicit in Movements-not parties, as is assumed in the discourse-which defy the form and content characteristic of political parties in bourgeois democracies of the Western hemisphere and such countries that have Communist parties.

"Secondly and most importantly for our discussion here, we are talking about movements and not parties because there are no political parties in this regard-organisations bereft of formal structures and to be both blunt and cynical, mere election platforms."

Mandaza said in the Zimbabwean situation, there was no difference at all

between the ruling party, ZANU-PF and the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) or any other formation which claimed to be a political party.

"Therefore, in the current Zimbabwean situation there's no difference at all between ZANU-PF and CCC or any other formation claiming to be a political party."

Dr Mandaza further said that in the same manner a political party would cease to exist once it loses political power, the opposite happened with a party taking form and content after assuming State control.

"Whatever form or structures attendant to ZANU-PF are those in which it is conflated with, those of the State in which it is currently in control. As is the case of Banda's Malawi Congress Party or UNIP. ZANU-PF will cease to exist if it loses power, simple!" he said.

"Conversely, an opposition party-read movement-which takes over the state, will likewise assume form and content on the back of the assumption and control of the State, simple!"

Professor of World Politics at SOAS University of London, Stephen Chan recently claimed that Moyo was trying to spite Chamisa after his attempts to be co-opted into the CCC structures flopped, allegations which he vehemently denied.

Chamisa recently named a shadow cabinet but at the same time rebuffed speculative reports that his party had started setting up formal structures ahead of the 2023 general elections.

CCC deputy spokesperson Gift Siziba said the opposition party made this move only guided by Parliament rules as the shadow cabinet would only act as "spokesperson" in specific policy areas.

The debate over the non-existence of structures and a constitution at the CCC has been raging since the formation of the party, which was borne after a protracted battle over the use of the name MDC-Alliance by Chamisa and Douglas Mwonozora.

Chamisa had to hastily assemble a new party to contest by elections which were occasioned mostly by the recalling of his representatives in both parliament and municipalities by the Mwonozora led MDC-T, which claimed the legislators and councillors had been elected on his party's ticket.

Iran, Zimbabwe to rekindle relations

Albert Chavhunduka



Zimbabwe and the Islamic Republic of Iran are currently working towards reconvening the Ninth Session of the Zimbabwe-Iran Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) on Economic, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation which will be held in Tehran later this year.

The two countries further committed to deepen mutually beneficial economic, social and cultural cooperation through the Iran-Zimbabwe Friendship Association.

The association was established in 1992 and since then, has been a springboard and platform which has enhanced trade, commerce and political cooperation between Zimbabwe and Iran.

This was said by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Webster Shamu after leading a Parliamentary delegation on a Bilateral Visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran from 14 to 18 May.

The delegation was invited by the head of the Iran-Zimbabwe Friendship Association Egbal Shakeri and it was part of Parliament's advancement of the engagement and re-engagement policy aimed at deepening ties between Zimbabwe and Iran through diplomacy.

Shamu said their visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran was part of efforts to resuscitate relations and create a stable foundation for increased economic cooperation.

"The Friendship Association was established in 1992 and has been a springboard for strengthening ties between the two legislative bodies. Hence, the need to rekindle the activities of the Iran-Zimbabwe Friendship Association through continuous engagements so as to strengthen people to people relations between Iran and Zimbabwe," he said.

"Both parties acknowledge the significance of the existence of political relations between Harare and Tehran in providing a strong foundation upon which robust economic, social and cultural ties can be built upon.

"As a result, Iran perceives Zimbabwe as its strong ally and is fully committed to assist Zimbabwe through thick and thin, on its economic development agenda. The areas of support include but not limited to Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, mechanised agriculture, mining and

manufacturing of pharmaceuticals."

With respect to the JPC which is slated to be held in the second half of 2022, Shamu said Iran's Assistant Minister for Africa in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Valiollah Mohammadi said the event will be of great importance marking the beginning of improved relations.

"The signing of the JPC provides a strong foundation for consolidation of economic relations between Harare and Tehran where diplomatic and political relations would flourish," he said.

"Iran perceives the JPC as a major vehicle in enhancing bilateral cooperation. Strong emphasis was made on the implementation of the agreement once signed, as it has the potential to transform the livelihoods of the ordinary people.

"The Assistant Minister for Africa echoed that without implementation, the JPC would be just a futile talk show that can potentially ruin everything, because without economic relations, other ties are potentially weak."

Shamu further said that during their discussions, the two countries expressed concern over the impact of illegal sanctions imposed on the two nations by the West adding that Zimbabwe should emulate Iran which managed to find ways to develop its economy despite being under sanctions.

"The meeting noted that both countries are victims of illegal US sanctions. Although both states are in the same predicament, the meeting urged the two countries to take advantage of the illegal sanctions and develop mutually beneficial cooperation to neutralize the effects of sanctions on ordinary citizens," he said.

"More so, in spite of sanctions, Iranians industrialised their nation and propelled it to greater heights in terms of economic development. This was made possible by a deliberate move by the Iranian Government to invest heavily in home-grown talent, Research, Biotechnology and Nanotechnology is sectors such as health, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, services and education.

"Also, by the citizen's positive response to the Government endeavours, through dedication to nation building in the face of foreign imposed hardships. The unity of purpose between Government and the people created a strong resistance movement that neutralised the callousness of sanctions."

Respect our sovereignty: ED tells envoys

Albert Chavhunduka



President Emmerson Mnangagwa says delinquent foreign missions accredited to Zimbabwe must respect the country's sovereignty and desist from interfering in domestic affairs as it is a violation of international law and norms governing inter-state relations.

This is not the first time that President Mnangagwa has expressed concern over "meddlesome" foreign embassies involving themselves in the internal politics of the country especially at a time when the country is looking forward to hold its general elections in 2023.

In 2020, President Mnangagwa issued a stern warning which was directed at some Western embassies which had allegedly entangled themselves with local opposition parties and civic society organisations (CSOs) by sponsoring their seditious activities.

Writing in his weekly column, "None but Ourselves" published in state media, President Mnangagwa said these actions by some foreign missions were "worrysome" and likely to increase as the country drew closer to the elections earmarked for next year.

"Lately, we have witnessed attempts at interfering in our internal affairs by some Foreign Missions accredited to our country. This worrysome propensity is likely to get even more blatant closer to



President Emmerson Mnangagwa

our Harmonised General Elections slated for next year in 2023," he said.

"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.

"We thus have to help these errant Missions to learn to respect us as a free and independent people; indeed, to respect our Sovereignty as a receiving State which is equal to any other including their own, under the United Nations Charter."

President Mnangagwa said any departure from provisions of the Vienna Convention would offend the host nation and stifle

relations between Zimbabwe, the concerned Mission and the State which would have sent it to and set it up in the country.

He further accused some of these foreign missions of circumventing the country's Foreign Affairs ministry and other Government departments.

"A number of Missions have sought to relate to our nationals, whether singly or as groups, without going through our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade or other arms of our Government, as enjoined by Article 41(2) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations," President Mnangagwa said.

"This gross violation has gone as far as hosting our nationals—all of them private individuals—on premises of Mission, thus flagrantly violating provisions of the Vienna Convention. Often, dirty business is transacted, which we of course end up knowing."

President Mnangagwa further said there were some attempts to meddle in the country's electoral processes through the weaponisation of culture and communication by foreign embassies.

He said while the Vienna Convention provided for Foreign Missions to further economic, scientific and cultural relations in the receiving State, it did 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 to order one Mission to drop such hideous plans.

"In yet other instances, offending Missions have sought to hide behind Offices, Agencies and personnel of the United Nations to further their illegal foreign policy objectives. That way, international civil servants of our United Nations have been reduced to doing the bidding of certain State Parties which do not employ them."

He added that once passed into law and put in place, the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Bill would help to provide guidelines and stipulations which Foreign Missions must adhere to and respect.

"The Bill seeks to straighten operations of NGOs whose mission must, at the very least, respect our sovereignty and national interest," said President Mnangagwa.

"Over years, a number of sending States have set up political NGOs in Zimbabwe which abuse the notion of rights advocacy to work for political outcomes which those sponsoring States prefer.

"Needless to say, this is gross interference in our affairs using proxies established, especially to skew our politics towards goals and interests of some sending States."

We want to enhance credibility of the voters' roll, ZEC asserts

Review & Mail Writers



The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) says the public voters' roll inspection exercise is meant to enhance credibility and is calling upon all registered voters to inspect their registration ahead of the delimitation exercise which will be conducted in terms of Sections 160 and 161 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

The 10-day exercise which started yesterday, will run up until the 26th of July at all 11 107 inspection centres in all the country's 210 constituencies.

Speaking to Review & Mail yesterday, ZEC spokesperson Jasper Mangwana said the exercise is meant to promote transparency and clear issues raised before concerning the voters' roll.

"This public inspection is going to assist the commission and also put to end a lot of issues raised around the voters' roll because remember, the owners of the information or details that people submit to the commission are the ones who are inspecting their details and see if the commission at least captured these details correctly," said Mangwana.

"So definitely, this exercise is meant by the commission to ensure that we enhance the credibility of the voters' roll with the public because the information that we have is information given to us by the public and I believe most of the different circles have been raising issues around the area.

"So we also want this exercise to see what will be the public opinion say concerning the registration of the records that the commission has for these people."

Mangwana further said registered voters with information captured incorrectly in the voters' roll must visit the inspection centres set up by ZEC across the country where they will be able to update their correct details or request transfers.

"In areas where there are issues, the



Jasper Mangwana

Commission has given forms in these polling stations where people are able to go and complete these forms to rectify an errors or anomalies that on their voter registration details and people are also able to effect transfers or request transfers at these inspection centres," he said.

"We want to say that the issues around the Commission tempering with the voters' roll is not correct. It's just meant to tarnish the image of the commission and we have been issuing voters' rolls for the past elections including these past by-elections and we have never seen anyone going to court with a voters' roll saying that this voter's roll I got for this by-election has got anomalies here and there.

"What it means also is that stakeholders have been working with this voter's roll and they are happy with what the commission is doing but however, we are doing this exercise to ensure that we enhance the credibility."

New stringent measures for copper trade imminent

Albert Chavhunduka



Government has urged the passing into law of the Copper Control Amendment Bill which will introduce a minimum sentence of 10 years as part of efforts to bring an end to the illegal trade in copper which has destroyed the country's electricity infrastructure, businesses and industries.

The Amendment Bill seeks to address the shortcomings and non-provision of specific offences in relation to these criminal acts and lack of deterrent penalties in the Copper Control Act.

Tabling the Bill before the National Assembly recently, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Ziyambi Ziyambi said the Bill was important in that it would bring an end to the illegal trade in copper and protect the country's infrastructure from vandalism.

"This Bill is important in that the mischief that it seeks to cure has the potential of bringing this nation to its knees. The illegal trade in copper has led to a great amount of damage to our nation. The trade led to vandalism of our electricity infrastructure through criminals stealing copper cables," said Ziyambi.

"The trade in copper has become very lucrative; as a result, a day hardly passes without hearing reports of cable theft. This affects, not only the operations of the electricity supply authority but to a greater extent, the consumers of this utility. The cost on our economy is immeasurable. It affects production in our industries and businesses in their diversity."

Minister Ziyambi further said that the Copper Control Amendment Bill would address a number of loopholes contained in the Copper Control Act, which as a result, have allowed the illegal trade in copper to flourish.

"The vandalism of utilities through theft of copper cables has been aided to thrive by non-provision of specific offences in relation to these criminal acts and lack of deterrent penalties in the Copper Control Act," he said.



"The Copper Control Amendment Bill is a proposed piece of legislation which sets out key areas that were found lacking in the regulation of copper dealings since the enactment of the Act. The Bill seeks to amend the Copper Control Act to address the shortcomings of this Act." Ziyambi added, "The Bill seeks to make it mandatory for all copper dealers to have certificates of origins for all the copper in their possession. The certificate shall have name and address of the person who sold to the possessor, name and address of the buyer, the description of the copper, its quantity, reason for disposal and endorsement by or on behalf of the police officer commanding a police district."

In April, the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) expressed concern over the continued theft of copper cables despite government's efforts to come up with mandatory jail term for people convicted of stealing copper from public utilities.

During the first quarter of 2022, 15 cases of copper theft from NRZ infrastructure were reported, resulting in NRZ losing a total of 1 067,58kg of copper cables worth US\$12 811 while 26 suspects were arrested during the same period.

More corruption allegations against NRZ

Chris Mahove



Under fire National Railways of Zimbabwe General Manager, Respina Zinyanduko's woes continue to pile as workers at the struggling parastatal have declared solidarity with the more than 1500 workers she has fired since her appointment two years ago.

The workers, in a statement dated July 13, which they argued they would not sign for fear of victimisation, claimed Zinyanduko and the Board were looting NRZ land scattered throughout the country.

"All lease agreements are now being signed by Zinyanduko and the Board. Recently Zinyanduko made an Agreement of Sale to dispose of the NRZ land in Lochnivar for US\$500 000 without a tender whatsoever. Now Zinyanduko and the Vice Chairman of the Board, Major General William Dube, and the Board Human Resources Committee Chairperson, Dorothy Mavolwane, are targeting the NRZ land in Victoria Falls. This is how corrupt Zinyanduko and the Board have become at the expense of NRZ and its workers," the workers claimed in a statement dated July 13.

They further claimed that the General Manager was illegally selling the company's scrape material to a company identified as Panellink under the pretext she was raising money for ex-gratia, which workers never received.

Zinyanduko, the workers added, had allegedly taken over all NRZ Guest Houses which were used by workers on relief when on duty, to give to her preferred

managers to use as Company houses.

"As happened before, we know they want to end up selling to each other those houses as sitting tenants. Zinyanduko is personally the landlord of the NRZ biggest Guest house (The Chase) in Harare where she receives the rent and there is no lease agreement for the property and that money is getting into her pocket every month," they said.

Other allegations include the receiving of allowances for cancelled trips in USD and repaying them in RTGS, flying on business class against a government decree and receiving domestic workers' allowances while the domestic workers are also on the NRZ pay-roll, among others.

The workers also claimed that Zinyanduko, who is currently under investigation, was interfering with the investigations and threatening workers.

"On 11 July 2022, Respina Zinyanduko wrote an Internal Special Notice 0005 noting that the NRZ image and reputation is being tarnished by the truth that is being reported in the media. While it is true that the NRZ image and reputation is being tarnished, she is responsible for destroying the organisation's image because of her failure to manage the entity. Her poor management is the sole reason why NRZ is being seen in this bad light.

"Lastly, as workers we are surprised that while she is under investigation by the Board, Zinyanduko has taken a course of interfering with investigations by intimidating us through this Special Notice. This Special Notice is null and void because Zinyanduko is under investigations for 14 days and unfortunately this intimidation



comes well before the 14 days have elapsed," they said.

The workers said Zinyanduko wanted workers to protect her shenanigans and corruption by being confidential and not disclosing information to relevant authorities.

"We cannot do that anymore because we are suffering (because of) her looting with her relatives and friends. Today we are ready to reveal the sad events taking place at NRZ on each passing day.

"We, as current National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) workers, say enough is enough. We cannot continue suffering quietly under this woman and her poor management whilst our organisation is collapsing by each passing day. Today, we declare our solidarity and support for our

fellow fired workers who have decided to tell the real NRZ story under Ms Respina Zinyanduko," they said.

Last week, the fired NRZ workers, under the banner of The National Railways of Zimbabwe Aged Workers Committee (NRZAWC) challenged the decision by the Minister of Transport Mhona to have Zinyanduko investigated by a sub committee of the NRZ board without being suspended.

They said if any meaningful investigation on her was to be done, it should be done by an independent body while she was on suspension to ensure she didn't interfere with the investigations.

Zinyanduko could not be immediately reached for comment.

Zim tech start-up wins US\$250k Kofi Annan Award

ZIMBABWEAN tech start-up Vaxiglobal was recently named among the first winners of the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa which attracted 330 applicants from 38 countries across the continent.

The other two winners of the award which comes with an endowment of 250,000 Euros (US\$250,000) for each of the three winners, were from Kenya and Nigeria.

Vaxiglobal was co-founded by Dr Integrity Mchechesi, a medical doctor and public healthcare innovator together with physiotherapist and public health expert Tsitsi Eunice Sifyali.

The winners were announced Monday in Austria at the Austrian Academy of Sciences by Chancellery Minister Karoline Edtstadler and Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg.

Vaxiglobal uses contactless biometrics to minimise waste of immunisation resources, improve data quality with open standards and enable the scale-up of immunisation campaigns in African countries.

The company's solution uses a mobile phone to scan patients' faces and create digital certificates in a cloud.

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the company worked with laboratories, airlines and technology companies to build up a safe and approved digital verification system for travellers' immunisation.

"It's often impossible for busy border authorities to verify the names of doctors, and the supposed location where vaccinations occurred, by phone or email," said Dr Mchechesi back in 2020.

"After vaccination, the laboratories create a digital record in our system. The traveller gets a QR code on a mobile app or on paper, which is instantly verified by the border authorities, who can see where they got the vaccine and who gave it to them, as well as the batch number of the vaccine, which protects the authenticity of each and every vaccine."

Currently, some 320,000 people are registered and during the Covid 19



Vaxiglobal team

pandemic, the company verified 1.1 million vaccine doses in a pilot project.

Since its inception in 2019, Vaxiglobal has built relationships with the ministries of health of Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The late Ghanaian diplomat and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kofi Annan

The prize is named after Kofi Atta Annan (1938-2018), a Ghanaian diplomat, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former United Nations Secretary General.

With its focus on rapid digitalisation on the African continent, the award is aimed at contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal "Health and Wellbeing".

"It is important that we continue to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Kofi Annan

Award is a particularly important initiative for this," said Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler, who is responsible for SDG coordination.

"The 330 applications submitted show that there are numerous innovative, sustainable and creative ideas for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Above all, they also demonstrate the great entrepreneurial potential on the African continent, which must be harnessed,"

Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg added: "There is war in Europe again. The accompanying shock waves are also leaving deep scars on the African continent.

"Much of the progress we have made together in recent years in the field of development and health care is in danger of being wiped out.

"Added to this is the Russian blockade of

food exports, which could develop into a humanitarian crisis, especially in North African states.

"The projects awarded today counter Putin's cynicism with creative and innovative solutions."

Kenyan winner myPaddi by MOBicure gives young people in Africa discreet access to sexual health. The app for web and mobile phone provides support in cases of sexual violence, avoiding teenage pregnancies or HIV infections.

Nigeria-based Flare Emergency Response provides uses a cloud-based solution to provide relief. Since its founding in 2016, Flare has saved more than 10,000 acute patients and, with its network, helped 4,000 babies to be born with optimal care in hospital.

--regtechafrica

Why more countries are knocking on BRICS' door

The growing charm of strength between Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) coupled with the loss of attraction in the West has led to more countries, including Iran and Argentina, applying for BRICS membership.

According to the Global Times, BRICS has become one of the latest trending buzzwords in the global public opinion amid a looming recession and crippling inflation in the West, as well as high energy costs and food shortages across European nations.

Last month, Iran applied to join the group of major emerging economies, followed by Argentina, which said it had received China's formal support to join BRICS.

Argentina's foreign minister Santiago Cafiero said in a statement that he had met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a G20 event in Indonesia, where that support was formalised. Argentina is a major exporter of soy, wheat and corn.

"Wang Yi formally confirmed his country's support for Argentina's membership of the BRICS group, in line with what was agreed between the group's leaders," Argentina's foreign ministry said.

Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are some of the other nations who also plan to apply for official membership.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China's President Xi Jinping, President Cyril Ramaphosa, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Brazilian President Michel Temer during the 10th BRICS Summit. Picture: Gianluigi Guercia/Pool/EPA

The Middle East Monitor reported that BRICS International Forum President Purnima Anand said she expects Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to join the group "very soon", while the accession of these countries will not take place at the same time.

"All these countries have shown an interest in joining and are preparing to apply for membership. I think this is a good step because expansion is always perceived positively; this will clearly increase the influence of BRICS in the world," said Anand.

"I hope that the accession of countries to BRICS will happen very quickly because now all representatives of the core of the association are interested in expanding the organisation, so it will be very soon," she said in an interview with Russia's Izvestia.

Furthermore, according to the World Bank, Russia continues to hold the world's largest natural gas reserves and the second largest coal reserves, while Brazil is known for its diverse agricultural products and mineral wealth.

Furthermore, the BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB) is an example that shows how the five countries are all on an equal footing with equal rights to speak, vote and make decisions.

The NDB is a multilateral development bank where the initial subscribed capital is equally distributed among the founding members. The bank supports projects through loans, equity participation and other financial instruments.

Meanwhile, any submissions of new members to BRICS cannot be submitted until the relevant principles and rules have been carried out, with regulations and legal procedures for the BRICS enlargement still underway.

--IOL

New report shows how African countries owe more to the West than the Chinese

A new report by Debt Justice has shown that many African countries owe three times more debts to West banks, oil traders and asset managers than they do to Chinese lenders.

African countries are three times more indebted to Western firms than to Chinese lenders

The revelations have questioned long-standing narrative/belief that many African countries are more indebted to the Chinese. Recall that this is the same excuse Western leaders have repeatedly used to justify their lack of commitment to restructure debts for African countries.

In the report which was seen by Business Insider Africa, Debt Justice's Head of Policy, Tim Jones, was quoted to have said:

"Western leaders blame China for debt crises in Africa, but this is a distraction. The truth is their own banks, asset managers and oil traders are far more responsible but the G7 are letting them off the hook. China took part in the G20's debt suspension scheme during the pandemic, private lenders did not. There can be no effective debt solution without the involvement of private lenders. The UK and US should introduce legislation to compel private lenders to take part in debt relief."

Using available World Bank data to calculate the disparities between African countries' Western and Chinese loan

exposures, the report was able to establish the following:

Only 12% of African countries' external debts are owed to the Chinese.

On the other hand, 35% of African countries' external debts are owed to Western lenders, specifically private firms such as the afore-mentioned.

These private lenders charge the highest interest rates of 5%, compared to 2.7% interest rate charged by the Chinese and 1.3% interest rate by multilateral lenders such as the IMF and the World Bank.

Many African countries with the highest public debt burdens actually have very little loan exposures to the Chinese.

24 African countries who spend more than 15% of their revenue on debt servicing actually have their "median average of debt payments by creditor grouping" at 11% to the Chinese, compared 32% to Western private lenders.

Debt Justice, which is a global campaign group, said it chose to release the report ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers taking place later this week, as part of efforts urging Western Governments to compel private lenders to partake in the G20's debt relief scheme "the Common Framework". Business Insider Africa understands that no African countries have received any debt relief under the framework, even though some applied.

--Business Insider

Let us honour Nelson Mandela's legacy by taking action: SA



Message from UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Nelson Mandela International Day, 18 July 2022

Today, the world honours a giant of our time; a leader of unparalleled courage and towering achievement; and a man of quiet dignity and deep humanity.

Nelson Mandela was a healer of communities and a mentor to generations. He remains a moral compass and reference to us all.

Madiba walked the path to freedom and dignity with steely determination - and with compassion and love.

He showed that each and every one of us has the ability - and responsibility - to build a better future for all.

Our world today is marred by war;

overwhelmed by emergencies; blighted by racism, discrimination, poverty, and inequalities; and threatened by climate disaster.

Let us find hope in Nelson Mandela's example and inspiration in his vision.

Today and every day, let us honour Nelson Mandela's legacy by taking action.

By speaking out against hate and standing up for human rights.

By embracing our common humanity - rich in diversity, equal in dignity, united in solidarity.

And by together making our world more just, compassionate, prosperous, and sustainable for all.

António Guterres

--All Africa

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The USA, the sanctions system, anti-Chinese maneuvers



U.S. President Joe Biden speaks virtually with Chinese leader Xi Jinping from the White House in Washington, U.S. November 15, 2021. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

The United States of America takes advantage of its financial hegemony and technological power and engages in economic coercion in the name of protecting national security. The United States has enacted a number of domestic laws, such as the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, and the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, and has issued a number of executive orders to target and sanction specific countries, entities, or individuals.

The ambiguous rules contained in these acts and executive orders, such as the "minimum contacts principle" and the "effects doctrine", are an intense expansion of the jurisdiction of US domestic laws. The United States of America also overuses its domestic judicial channels to exercise long-arm jurisdiction over entities and individuals in other countries.

For over sixty years, ignoring numerous United Nations General Assembly's Resolutions, the United States of America has continued its global blockade against Cuba, based on its embargo policies and domestic laws such as Torricelli and Helms-Burton. The blockade of Cuba has been the longest and cruellest systemic trade embargo causing economic damage and financial sanctions in modern history. The blockade has been severely damaging to Cuba's economic and social development, causing direct losses of over 100 billion US dollars to the Cuban economy.

The United States of America has implemented the blockade and sanctions against Iran since the late 1970s. In May 2018, the US government announced its unilateral withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) and immediately afterwards it resumed and increased sanctions against Iran.

Many countries and relevant entities were forced to renounce their cooperation with Iran. A large number of foreign oil companies left the country, resulting in severe damage for both sides. Iran's manufacturing industry can hardly sustain a normal trend. The country has suffered an economic slowdown, along with rising inflation and a massive currency depreciation.

Over the years the United States of America has imposed unilateral sanctions on Belarus, Syria, and Zimbabwe, among others, and has increased "maximum pressure" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, etc.

Statistics show that the previous US Administration imposed over 3,900 sanctions, i.e. three per day. In financial year 2021, entities and individuals on the US sanction lists exceeded 9,421, with a 933% increase compared to financial year 2000.

US unilateral sanctions and long-range jurisdiction have greatly undermined other countries' sovereignty and security and have severely affected their economic development and people's welfare. Sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction are also a severe infringement of international law and the fundamental rules of international relations.

In the article published in the September-October 2021 issue of Foreign Affairs - The United States of Sanctions. The Use and Abuse of Economic Coercion - Daniel W. Drezner, Professor at Tufts University and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, criticised the successive US Administrations for having used "sanctions as the solution to almost every foreign policy problem".

The scholar notes that sanctions are not only ineffective, but also "take a humanitarian toll". The United States of America has become the United States of Sanctions.

The "rules-based international order" advocated by the United States of America is, in fact, another version of power politics. This is an attempt to impose its will and standards on others and to

replace commonly accepted international laws and rules with its own internal rules.

On the contrary, there is only one international system in the world, the one that has the United Nations at the top. There is therefore only one international order, the one supported by international law. And there is only one set of rules, i.e. the basic rules that govern international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Before wanting to discuss rules and order, the United States of America should first pay its arrears of 1 billion dollars for the regular UN budget and 1.4 billion dollars for contributions to peacekeeping forces; ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in a timely manner; stop blocking alone the negotiations on a verification protocol under the Biological Weapons Convention; lift unilateral sanctions; seriously fulfil its international obligations; and set a good example in respecting laws and rules.

Despite US claims that it does not seek to avoid China playing its role as a great power, nor prevent it from making its economy grow, the United States of America is actually deploying its internal and external resources to ruthlessly contain and suppress its rival.

Without providing any credible evidence, the US government is using national security as a generic pretext and its entire apparatus to arbitrarily suppress and sanction Huawei; restricting the entry of its products into the US market; cutting off its access to chips and operating systems, and forcing countries around the world to ban Huawei from launching 5G. The USA also orchestrated a campaign and pressured Canada to detain Ms. Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), for almost three years without cause.

In violation of the principle of fair competition, market economy and international trade rules, the United States of America tries to hinder competitive Chinese hi-tech companies by dreaming up all kinds of accusations. To date, the United States of America has placed over a thousand Chinese companies on various sanction lists; subjected biotechnology and artificial intelligence technologies to strengthened export controls and strict investment reviews, and tried to ban Chinese social media platforms including TikTok and WeChat.

On the grounds of protecting human rights, the USA has fabricated disinformation about Xinjiang such as the

existence of "forced labour" and, on the basis of such unfounded stories, adopted the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which in bad faith targets Xinjiang's competition in cotton, tomatoes and solar photovoltaic systems to hit certain areas of Chinese growth. This has disrupted the international trade order and destabilised global industrial and supply chains.

In gross violation of the World Trade Organisation's rules, the previous US Administration conducted a massive trade war against China. Based on its own Section 301 investigation, it imposed three rounds of high tariffs on some 360 billion dollars of Chinese imports. In September 2021, the current US Administration initiated a Section 232 investigation to determine the effects on US national security of the imports of neodymium-iron-boron permanent magnets at a time when global commodity prices were hovering at high levels.

The United States of America holds a record for severe interference in China's internal affairs on issues concerning the core interests of the People's Republic of China, including Taiwan, Xinjiang, Weiwu'er, Xizang (Tibet) and Xianggang (Hong Kong). The USA seeks to undermine the security and stability of this country, both openly and covertly, by passing off and supporting violent separatist activities. The bipartisan innovation bills being debated in the US Congress, while claiming to enhance competitiveness, see China as a clearly perceived rival. The word "China" appears over 800 times in those texts, which are full of provisions that are detrimental to Chinese interests.

In an attempt to maintain its power and hegemony within international institutions, the United States of America has attempted in multilateral fora to defame the project of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and to block the Belt and Road (Silk Road) cooperation advancement initiative, as well as to remove references to it at the United Nations and other international fora.

Clinging to the Cold War mentality and the logic of hegemony, the United States of America pursues the policy of blockade; devises the narrative of "democracy versus authoritarianism"; persuades the other countries dragging along it (the United Kingdom and the inane European Union) to form other-directed opinion groups; strengthen the Five Eyes (the surveillance and intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of

America); spread the mechanism known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), an informal strategic alliance between Australia, Japan, India and the United States of America with the aim of containing China in the Indo-Pacific region. Besides having created AUKUS, a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, announced on September 15, 2021, in a clear attempt to counter China.

At the same time, the USA is pushing NATO to interfere in the Asia-Pacific affairs, upholding the old anti-Communist narrative of the "Chinese threat" in the new strategic concept of the blockade, and to include US allies in the Asia-Pacific region such as Japan, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Australia in its Madrid Summit, in an attempt to build an Asia-Pacific version of NATO itself, which would disrupt security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

The development of State-to-State relations should be based on equality, mutual respect and win-win outcomes. China-USA relations have reached an important crossroads. The United States of America should stop viewing this relationship through the lens of the Cold War and of the zero-sum mentality.

It should instead follow the three principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation, as well as reflect - in its own activities - on the five assurances made to China: 1. do not seek a new Cold War; 2. do not seek to change the Chinese form of government; 3. US alliances are not against the People's Republic of China; 4. the United States of America does not support Taiwan's independence; 5. the United States of America does not seek conflict with the People's Republic of China.

Only in this way can we begin to talk about peace.

Professor Giancarlo Elia Valori is a world-renowned Italian economist and international relations expert, who serves as the President of the International World Group. In 1995, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem dedicated the Giancarlo Elia Valori chair of Peace and Regional Cooperation. Prof. Valori also holds chairs for Peace Studies at Yeshiva University in New York and at Peking University in China. Among his many honors from countries and institutions around the world, Prof. Valori is an Honorable of the Academy of Science at the Institute of France, as well as Knight Grand Cross and Knight of Labor of the Italian Republic.

--Israel Defense

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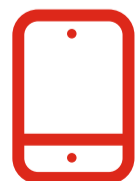


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Africa is a treasure trove of medicinal plants

Plants have directly contributed to the development of important drugs. The antimalarial treatment artemisinin, pain medication morphine, and cancer chemotherapy taxol are just three examples of drugs derived from plants. Africa is endowed with up to 45,000 plant species – about 25% of the world's plant genetic resources. More than 5,000 plant species from this enormous African resource are used in traditional medicines. Medicinal plant specialists Associate Professor Adeyemi Aremu and Professor Nox Makunga highlight some of these plants.

Artemisia afra Jacq. ex Willd. (African wormwood)

Artemisia afra is the only species in its genus that is indigenous to the African continent. It's often regarded as a potential flagship plant because of its high popularity and diverse uses in African traditional medicine. African wormwood has been used for coughs, colds, influenza and malaria.

Scientific evidence of its antimicrobial, anti-depressant, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects has been reported. African wormwood gained global interest when it was promoted as having potential to treat COVID-19 and was tested in laboratory studies. The extracts had some degree of inhibitory activity against feline coronavirus and SARS-CoV-2. But this requires further clinical study to reach a valid conclusion.

The traditional uses and increasing popularity of African wormwood have resulted in a number of commercial herbal products. But with insufficient clinical data, it's not yet known whether African wormwood is a treasure chest of new drugs.

Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. Don

This plant is also known as bright eyes, Cape periwinkle, graveyard plant, Madagascar periwinkle, old maid, or pink periwinkle. It is native and endemic to Madagascar. The plant is commonly used as a tonic and emetic for the treatment of many health conditions including rheumatism, diabetes, and skin-related and venereal diseases.

Pink periwinkle has several phytochemicals which are associated with antioxidant, antimicrobial, antidiabetic and anticancer properties. Alkaloids remain one of the signature. Two of its alkaloids, vincristine and vinblastine, have been extensively explored by the pharmaceutical industry. These two alkaloids were the first plant-derived anticancer agents deployed for clinical use.

Griffonia simplicifolia (DC.) Baill. (Griffonia, Atooto, gbogbotri, kajya, kanya, kwakuo-aboto)

Griffonia simplicifolia is a woody climbing shrub. It is native to west and central African countries including Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo. In African traditional medicine, the seeds are reputed to exert several medicinal effects and have been explored as an aphrodisiac, and a remedy for diarrhoea, stomach ache and dysentery.

The plant's chemical properties have been studied extensively. It has been found to contain rich phytochemicals with enormous pharmaceutical value. Particularly, the seeds are known as an excellent source of 5-hydroxy-L-tryptophan (commercially called oxitriptan) which the body uses to produce serotonin. Serotonin is a neurotransmitter which is known to affect sleep, appetite, pain and mood. It plays an important role in treating depression, insomnia, obesity and related health conditions, especially



Artemisia afra. Dr Marietjie Stander



Sceletium tortuosum or Kanna blooming. Shutterstock

those associated with mental health.

The seed of *Griffonia simplicifolia* remains one of the most reliable and abundant sources. Commercial interest has increased over the years. Based on recent estimates, the market value for annual bulk seed extract for the plant is between US\$32 million and US\$100 million and demand is expected to grow at 7% per year.

Sceletium tortuosum (L.) N.E.Br. (kanna, kougoed)

Kanna is an endemic South African succulent. It is sparsely distributed in semi-arid areas and used for conditions relating to stress, depression, pain and anxiety. Mesembrine-type alkaloids are dominant and typically responsible for the pharmacological effects exerted by kanna as a psychoactive plant and mood stimulant. Zembrin® has been developed as a standardised extract of the plant. It's used as a dietary supplement with the potential to elevate mood, relieve stress and improve cognition. The use of this species stems from the traditions of the Khoekhoe and San.

Many other medicinal uses have been reported for this species as it can be used to treat headaches, abdominal pains and respiratory ailments. Trimesemine™ (a commercially available extract high in concentrations of mesembrine) has been shown to act as a monoamine releaser, by increasing serotonin, a chemical messenger that is produced by the body that is also known to regulate the mood. It is potentially useful for attention deficit and other central nervous system disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

Strophanthus gratus (Wall. and Hook.) Baill. (Climbing oleander)

Strophanthus gratus, a vigorous evergreen climbing shrub, occurs in tropical regions from Senegal to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In traditional medicine, climbing oleander has been used to treat snake bites, sores, gonorrhoea, constipation and fever. The root is claimed to be an aphrodisiac.

Cardiac glycosides, which are organic compounds that increase the output force of the heart, are the signature compounds in the plant. Particularly, ouabain has been identified as the main glycoside which is dominant in the seed.

Ouabain, a cardio glycoside, was isolated because of the way climbing oleander is used in traditional



Catharanthus roseus, commonly known as bright eyes, Cape periwinkle, graveyard plant, Madagascar periwinkle. Shutterstock

medicine. It's now used as a treatment for heart failure and arrhythmias or irregular heartbeat. Recent studies have also found a novel use that can prove relevant for metastatic prostate cancer.

Pelargonium sidoides DC (African geranium, South African geranium)

This medicinal geranium which is indigenous to South Africa and the Lesotho highlands has root tubers that are harvested for medicinal purposes. People use these tubers for diarrhoea, colic, gastritis, tuberculosis, cough, liver disorders, menstrual complaints, gonorrhoea, and many other medical conditions.

Clinical evidence suggests the effectiveness of extracts prepared from this species for the management of acute respiratory tract infections. These data support the use of this medicinal geranium especially for alleviating symptoms of acute inflammation of the nasal cavity and sinuses and the common cold in adults. Umckaloabo® (EPs® 7630), a standardised proprietary extract, is

one of most successfully produced plant-derived pharmaceuticals from this species. A number of clinical studies have shown it can reduce the symptoms of acute bronchitis.

Over-the-counter medications (Kaloba and Umcka) made from extracts of this pelargonium are now sold all over the world. Linctagon® is a pelargonium-inspired medication that is prescribed to assist the body to fight colds and flu by stimulating the immune system.

Siphonochilus aethiopicus (Schweinf.) B.L. Burtt (African ginger, Wild ginger)

African ginger is native to western and southern tropical Africa, where it occurs in about 30 African countries. This wide range of distribution likely accounts for its use for a variety of health conditions. These include respiratory problems (like cough and influenza), pain, inflammation and malaria.

An analysis of the essential oil of the root and rhizome of African ginger found about 70 compounds in the root and 60 compounds in the rhizomes. The bioactive compounds siphonochilone and eucalyptol found in the roots and rhizomes have demonstrated potential for treating asthma and allergic reactions. In a clinical trial, eucalyptol, which is present in root and rhizome essential oil, has demonstrated anti-inflammatory activity in bronchial asthma.

In South Africa, this species is classified as critically endangered because it has been over-harvested for traditional medicine. This species is fast headed towards extinction in South Africa in the wild. Cultivation is strongly encouraged for its conservation.

--The Conversation

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Mental health and stress



Gamuchirai Chinamasa
Mental Health Talk



The changing world of work, the recent global economic crisis, the Covid19 pandemic are making increased demands on workers and some just can't handle this and shouldn't have to alone. According to the Industrial Psychology Consultants, four in 10 working Zimbabweans experience symptoms of stress, representing over 43% of the working population. The symptoms include difficulty in thinking clearly, feeling down and depressed, disturbed sleep, easily irritated, lack of energy, tenseness, easily becoming emotional, no longer having interest in people and things. Other symptoms include feeling like you can't do anything anymore and you just want to give up despite the demands of the job.

Zimbabwean companies have lost millions of dollars in wages and productivity because of mental health or stress related absence from work. The working population in Zimbabwe experience symptoms when it comes to stress and mental health and these include headaches, painful muscles, back pain, bloated feeling in the abdomen, neck pain, blurred vision, dizziness or feeling light-headed, nausea or an upset stomach, pressure or a tight feeling in the chest, pain in the chest, tingling in the fingers, excessive sweating, palpitations and fainting.

Female workers are more depressed than their male counterparts but it does not mean that men aren't suffering equally from these stresses. This means slightly more than three in every 10 working women suffer from depression. The rise in mental health cases in the workplace reflect the harsh economic conditions in Zimbabwe. There are no easy solutions, but it is vital that both government and employers address issues of distress and mental illness in the workplace immediately.

Zimbabwe already suffers from high rates of unemployment, low levels of productivity and high cost of doing business. Employers need to work harder to remove the stigma attached to mental illness and ensure employees are taken care of. Government should consider formulating policies to address mental illness in the workplace



in order to guide industry. Workers that struggle with mental illnesses, it does not mean they are not good at their job or efficient, it just means they need some support and love to properly work at their best. They could be better or more creative than those without a mental health condition if they are treated well.

Mental health in the workplace is also not just for big corporate organizations, it is also necessary for your small businesses or your helpers that work in your home or gardens and drivers because everyone struggles with something in life, others are just better at hiding it. No matter their level of work, they should all be allowed and given an opportunity to see an in-house counsellor or have a day off if indicated necessary by a doctor. It is also about how you talk to those that work for you. Treat them as you would want to be treated and spoken to. It is all about your delivery, not everything has to be a fight or abusive. They are people too with families and children that look up to them so it is about treating people with respect.

There are many mental health issues in the workplace; these could include stress, anxiety, high blood pressure

and panic attacks but more severe conditions such as workplace bullying or sexual harassment can undermine the confidence in a person, thus making them unproductive or even fearful of coming to work, leading to depression or anxiety. A mental health problem may be classified as a disability and an employer discriminates against an employee with a disability and they then treat them unfavourably because of their condition, without just reason. I have heard of many people that feel it was easier to leave the job than to explain and get the help they deserve, "I didn't feel like I had a choice. I handed in my resignation." If there was a neutral party such as an in-house counsellor you would probably find many employees more at ease and able to open up without fear of backlash from the bosses or superiors. In-house counsellors or therapists help to ease the pressures and issues that are unseen but explosive in the mind, they also help to ease any in-house tension or issues between workmates or between them and their superiors before it escalates as they act as the middle person and neutral party. They can come in weekly, monthly or when needed.

Why stress happens, how to manage it

Stress is a natural feeling of not being able to cope with specific demands and events. However, stress can become a chronic condition if a person does not take steps to manage it. These demands can come from work, relationships, financial pressures, and other situations, but anything that poses a real or perceived challenge or threat to a person's well-being can cause stress.

Stress can be a motivator, and it can even be essential to survival. The body's fight-or-flight mechanism tells a person when and how to respond to danger. However, when the body becomes triggered too easily, or there are too many stressors at one time, it can undermine a person's mental and physical health and become harmful.

What is stress?

Stress is the body's natural defense against predators and danger. It causes the body to flood with hormones that prepare its systems to evade or confront danger. People commonly refer to this as the fight-or-flight mechanism.

A doctor will typically diagnose stress by asking an individual about their symptoms and life events.

Treatment includes self-help and, when an underlying condition is causing stress, certain medications.

Therapies that may help a person relax include aromatherapy and reflexology.

Some insurance providers cover this type of treatment. However, it is important for people to check coverage with their provider before pursuing this treatment. Knowing the details about a potential treatment can help prevent it from adding to any ongoing stress.

Medicines

Doctors will not usually prescribe medications for coping with stress, unless they are treating an underlying illness, such as depression or an anxiety disorder.

In such cases, they may prescribe an antidepressant. However, there is a risk that the medication will only mask the stress, rather than help the person deal with it. Antidepressants can also have adverse effects, and they may worsen some complications of stress, such as low libido. *Trusted Source*.

Developing coping strategies before stress becomes chronic or severe can help an individual manage new situations and maintain their physical and mental health.

People who are already experiencing overwhelming stress should seek medical assistance.

Regular exercise may help to manage stress.

--*MEDICAL NEWS TODAY*

Maintenance: The Gwachiwa formula



Legal Corner
with
Reuben Mukavhi

Sued for the maintenance of your children? Here is how the courts determine the quantum of maintenance to order you to pay.

When the court is seized with a maintenance case, the starting point obviously is to decide whether the person sued is responsible for the maintenance of the alleged dependent. In this article, we assume that the person sued has been found to be responsible. The question that then follows is how much money the responsible person must be ordered to pay as maintenance per month. This is what is called the quantum of maintenance.

There are two scenarios. Either, the responsible person earns much more money than is required for the general

upkeep of himself/herself and his/her dependents; or the responsible person earns an amount that is not enough for the general upkeep of himself/herself and his/her dependents.

In the first scenario, which applies only to a few people in our country, the court will consider the reasonable needs of each dependent, and make an order in the amount of such reasonable needs. As an example, if a millionaire (in real terms, of course!), is sued for the maintenance of a child, the court will assess the reasonable needs of the child and make an order accordingly. What is a reasonable need depends on the lifestyle of the responsible person and his dependents. A premium DSTV subscription may be considered a reasonable need for some families!

In the second scenario, which suits the majority of us, the income available is not enough to meet every need of the responsible person and the dependents. The court thus has to apportion the limited income to the responsible person and each of the

dependents. The Supreme Court, in the old case of Gwachiwa vs Gwachiwa SC-134-86, set out a guideline that has come to be known as the Gwachiwa Formula. In this formula, the court apportions the available income in the ratio of two shares to an adult and one share to a minor. To illustrate, let us say a responsible person has five children and a spouse. The responsible person will be awarded two shares, the spouse two shares, and the five children one share each. The total shares will be nine. To get the amount to be apportioned to a child, the responsible person's income is divided by nine. Let us assume in this example that the responsible person earns an income of \$1000.00. After taking out the costs of going to work to enable the responsible person to continue to earn the income, let us say \$800.00 is what remains for sharing. The \$800.00 is divided by nine, to get \$88.89. This then becomes the share of each child, and the court may make the order in that amount.

Note that in applying the Gwachiwa Formula, the court considers all the dependents of the responsible person, not just those for whom maintenance has been sought. This reminds me of a maintenance case at Chivhu Magistrates Court in 2010. The responsible person in that case was a police officer, and he was sued for maintenance by one of the women with whom he had children. In considering the dependents of the policeman, it came out that he had ten children with five different women, and he had no spouse! His salary was thus supposed to be divided by twelve to get a child's share, even though the other women had not applied for maintenance.

Though the Gwachiwa Formula is a general guideline, the maintenance courts do not depart from it lightly. In fact, if the maintenance court departs from the Gwachiwa Formula without a good reason to do so, such departure can be taken to be a misdirection on appeal or review.

Get in touch on rmukavhi@gmail.com

EDITORS COMMENT

LABOUR'S CALLS FOR TNF MEETING NOBLE

Calls by the country's two labour federations for an urgent Tripartite Negotiating Forum meeting are noble given that the country's economy has not been performing well over the past few months and workers have been bearing the brunt of the resultant inflation and price increases.

Both the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development have been trying hard to stabilize the economy but unfortunately, their efforts have not reaped a joy for the ordinary Zimbabweans, whose living conditions have continued to deteriorate with each passing day.

The foreign currency exchange rate has presented the biggest challenge for the country, with the prices of commodities and services chasing after the parallel market rate, which now stands at around 800 to \$1US.

This however, has not matched with the workers' salaries which are pegged in RTGS and are eroded every month, rendering collective bargaining agreements useless.

While efforts by both the RBZ and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development are commendable, it must be pointed out that as long as the government continues to make unilateral policy pronouncements without consulting its partners in the Tripartite Negotiating Forum, all their efforts will count for nothing.

Business and labour are key cogs in any economy, and their participation in the formulation of policies is critical to ensure economic stability.

However, it is sad to note that since the legislation of the dialogue platform, which brings together labour, business and government, no meaningful meeting of the partners has not taken place, with parties blaming each for their failure to move forward.

Government, which chairs the platform through the Ministry of Labour, has regrettably chosen to remain silent despite the fast worsening of the situation, which ordinarily could be better addressed through dialogue between the tripartite partners.

It should be understood that this forum should not be taken as just another talk show where parties meet, enjoy tea and biscuits and forget about it.

Parties to this forum need to take it seriously bearing in mind that it is the people's hope for sound policies that will bring win-win results for all partners and bring greater good to the economy.

Government should have realized by now that unilateralism does not work, as proved by the failure of the various measures so far put in place without the input of other partners.

While business might want to support government initiatives, this can only be done when it is given an opportunity to input into the crafting of the policies which affect them as business.

Populist or knee-jack policies by the government will only breed more problems for the economy and will keep the country circling at one place or even sliding backwards.

Therefore, for the good of all the people of Zimbabwe, workers, peasants, business, farmers and all, time is now for a serious TNF meeting where all the parties have equal opportunity to present their cases and hopefully try to come out with one solid position which benefits the economy without leaving anyone behind.



Propaganda: Most lethal weapon of mass destruction



It destroys hope, it destroys generations; it kills self-esteem; it disintegrates societies. It is called propaganda, a toxic verbal weapon of mass destruction which is more lethal than what Saddam Hussein was alleged to possess.

Here is how it works: it makes people see illusions, it blinds people to realities of life, it makes people see God in mere mortals, it impoverishes the masses while enriching the minority. The world's most eloquent orators have used it for their good and for the demise of social fabric.

Now, hearken people of this sacred part of the world: I am here to brighten the dark corners of the room so that we may also be able to see with no doubts roving in our minds. There is a form of civilization which seems to have not seen light in our societies. The most common place and time for propaganda ruling the roost is during election time when a politician stands in front of a crowd and promise to build bridges where there are no rivers. In such times, it appears excitement eclipses common sense to the extent people forget that there is no single stream in a place where a bridge is being proposed to be constructed.

If the momentum and energy for building communities which transact during election campaign periods could be utilised in normal times, Africa would have been way ahead of many developed nations of this world. Elections have come with promises of electrifying rural areas, today we are many years after the first promise, even the cities have no electricity; free education has been promised in many campaign speeches, yet schools have become no go areas for many without money. Healthcare was promised to be affordable to every citizen, yet today hospitals are operating without adequate medicines and equipment; healthcare workers



down tools time and again. Leaders and suitors for various public offices usually start using their brains more efficiently whenever an election approaches; they bring boreholes, road repairs and other big and small projects just to court voters. Such propaganda is not healthy for a nation as it only serves to deceive people by providing substandard services and infrastructure which is often rushed just to serve a temporary purpose; a benefit to a politician who takes politics as some income project rather than service to the nation.

The youth have been referred to as leaders of tomorrow, yet the tomorrow does not seem to be in sight. During the process of being promised a brighter tomorrow, the youth are being destroyed by substances which they are fed with to carry out uncouth practices thereby causing harm on other citizens and property.

The kind of propaganda we have experienced is not necessarily a confine for only incumbent governments; opposition parties are in overdrive in this area, promising all the good which they illusion the incumbent is not capable to deliver. As a matter of fact, it is hard to pick anything new in opposition policy blueprint which is not in any ruling party manifesto. It is only that people end up deviating from written ideologies and start trusting propaganda which covers for failures and keep governments in power.

Presidents and political party leaders must always be aware that the propaganda which they spit out at common citizens is usually used on them as well by their appointees who lie to keep positions. In the process, what suffers is the national agenda of development, thereby sabotaging and derailing their own programs, and start blaming some imaginary dark force. Lies have short legs.

Propaganda has brought so much hate in the society as it has divided people depending on who has better lies than the other. The society has been thrown into some calamity; pitting neighbor against neighbor, brother against sister; parents against their own children, all because leaders have since shifted focus on selfish bargains at the expense of national interests.

Genocides on the African continent have largely been a by-product of propaganda denominated by hate along racial and tribal grounds. We have lost so many lives due to leaders who recklessly use hate language to despise other races and tribes in a show of superiority over others. The people must be wary of such kind of leaders.

When we seek to re-engage with former colleagues and find new friends, yet on the other hand pouring tirade and blame on them for even the smallest mishap of our own making, how do we expect to achieve that which we would have set out to accomplish? There is always need to tow the same line in promotion of binding policies. We have situations whereby some leaders stand in front of cheering crowds and cameras yet have nothing meaningful to say to the people besides contradicting the national agenda by blasting those whom we seek to engage as friends.

So, as we approach election time in Zimbabwe, I advise my fellow countrymen to be on the lookout for candidates who blackmail their way to public funds and resources. Those are the dark forces which are sabotaging national development strategies. Let us look no further and correct past errors.

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.



Property of Ruzivo Media and Resource Centre
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Nox's house on fire

Belinda Mucheuki



My Melody hit maker, Nox Guni (*pictured second column*) has reportedly broken up with his second wife, Tallyn Ndudzo (*pictured third column*) who has turned to social media to nurse her heartbreak.

"Some people can never change so it's always good to make the change by letting them go and find peace and happiness," posted Tallyn just after changing her Facebook handle from Amai Guni (Mrs Guni) to Tallyn Ndudzo.

She also announced in a post that she has been catering for all of Nox's expenses from clothing, housing to traveling among others but was paid back with sexually transmitted infections. She also claimed that she financed Nox's musical projects.

"It's not buying love, it's called supporting your partner if you are the one in a position to but people end up relaxing," further added Tallyn

The break up as explained by Nox's ex-wife came as a result of Nox's infidelity despite having a supportive wife.

"You give them every support you can think of then okuhurira zvinosemesa pamusoro pazvo okuigira turwere



twepabonde- he cheats on you bringing you sexually transmitted infections, said Tallyn.

Prior to the union with Tallyn, Nox was married to Paidamoyo Zvirikuzhe who is now firing shots to the couple stating that Tallyn snatched him from her when she was on her way to dispose him and as such, she knew the relationship was bound to end.

"Wakambobira munhu bag raakatakura uchiti waba hembe izvo ririmunzira kunoraswa- ever stole a bag of garbage thinking there is something valuable inside"



Tallyn however responded stating that her insults are farfetched since she tried in so many ways to get Nox back.

"You tried to forge pregnancy papers, did all you could to keep him including threatening him with your relative who is an ex-soldier just to get him back so don't come and lie on social media."

Nox has not directly commented on the issue yet but his reactions on Tallyn's posts are giving fans the impression that he is still trying to fix the marriage

"Do not remove my comments from your posts Mai Guni, you will never be single."

Dewa raises Zim flag in Europe, Asia



Upcoming musician, Joseph Dewa (*pictured*) is raising the Zimbabwean flag in German and Vietnam. He has participated in a number of shows including The Naked Art Exhibition (Nackt), Vietnam cultural night and the Vietnam New Year teat. His most recent show was at NACKT, which was hosted in Germany on 2 July 2022 and is set to perform in many other shows in Germany where he is currently staying.

His performance in the shows in both countries was greatly appreciated by the foreigners despite him singing in Shona.

"Music is an art. There is a lot to enjoy even when one does not understand the language. People here really appreciated my performance despite having sang in a language foreign to them."

He also appreciates the support rendered by other artists in his work especially during the production of the video, 'Ndangariro' which was recorded in Vietnam.

"Vietnam artists are very flexible and easy to work with. They are not greedy for money. Nam Can and Tran Tai supported me during the production of the 'Ndangariro' video."

Joseph Dewa is currently doing his Master's degree in Environmental Sciences at the Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry and has taken with him to Vietnam the music career which he started in 2012 in an attempt to spread words of wisdom, comfort and unity.

His music is greatly inspired by his childhood experiences. He said there is need to always appreciate people who raised us whilst they are still alive.

"The song Ngangariro reminds people of the need to appreciate people who took us in and raised us. Such people need to be recognized when they are still breathing."

His music is Afro jazz fused with Rhumba and he has successfully produced 4 albums with the latest having been produced in Zimbabwe and published in Vietnam with the title, 'Out of Africa.'

Promoters tout Macheso Dubai Show

Entertainment Review



Zimbabwean musician Alick Macheso who is currently riding high with the successful release of his 12th studio album titled Tinosvitswa Nashe (God will get us there) is set to make his maiden show in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Macheso gig has been slated for the 5th of August, 2022 at the Secret Lounge, Grand Excelsior Hotel in Al Barsha, Dubai. The venue has been the home for most shows by Zimbabwean artistes including Winky D and Nutty O. Show starts at 9 pm.

The sungura maestro will perform alongside the unapologetic creative songstress, Gemma Griffiths. This will be a golden platform for the 'Nditungamire' hitmaker to dine with her UAE fans and show them what she is made of.

Contacted for comment, show organizers Alpa Promotions & Blazedem Family spokesperson, Tawanda Nigel Nhunhama (Dj Fantafire) said: "We are elated to have another wonderful opportunity to bring the best of entertainment to all Zimbabweans in UAE and this time we are bringing the 'king of sungura' as he is taking his latest album to the people.

"As usual, we expect this to be a sold-out show and fans are urged to buy their tickets early to avoid disappointment. Expect a classic and never seen before gig, as we have incorporated another superstar Gemma Griffiths," he said.

After the Covid 19 lockdown era, sungura music has been on the rise compared to other genres mainly Zimdancehall, in what other people have been calling, 'the death of Zimdancehall'. Sungura musicians are working hard to revive the genre as evidenced by the release of yet another sungura album by fast rising Mark Ngwazi, two weeks after Macheso's album in June.

It's time to shine for Macheso as he proves to his multitude of his fans that he is a force to reckon with and to prove sungura music is here to stay.

Alick Macheso is regarded as the 'king of sungura' by legions of his fans. He has managed to maintain his art with continued



Dj Fantafire on decks and MC Vhetvybes

introduction of well-choreographed dance routines and stage performance.

Born in Shamva, central Zimbabwe, Macheso sings in Shona, Chichewa, Sena, Venda and Lingala and has 12 albums to date. He has had a successful musical career working with Nicholas Zachariah and went solo in 1997, to form his own Orchestra Mberikwazvo. He is well known throughout Southern Africa as one of the region's most prolific singers and is ranked amongst the top bass guitarists on the continent.

Zimbabweans in UAE are always craving for local entertainment as they have Shows once a month in most cases. Fans are expecting a top-notch performance delivery from the two musicians.

"Baba Sharo mudhara (Macheso is a legend) and I can't wait to see all the magic he brings to the stage with his band. He is in his own league," said Itai Chaparadza, one of Macheso's super fans.

While others will be enjoying and

celebrating music at the show, some will take this opportunity to showcase and promote their businesses among the Zimbabwean community at the event.

One of them is Arthur Chahwanda, whose brand Bushkin Inc. has been on the rise in promoting the spirit of ubuntu. The brand sells stuff that represents decency in our culture and tradition in Africa and products include branded shirts, t-shirts, earrings, caps, jackets and other accessories.

Meanwhile, event organizers have expressed their gratitude to showgoers over the peaceful nature that has characterized their events so far.

"We would like to thank all music fans in UAE, particularly those who have attended our shows, for their continued support and maintaining a reveling atmosphere throughout the shows. We have not had an incident of violent nature, it has always been peace, love and joy throughout," concluded Tawanda.





Zimbabwe welcomes citrus export to China

Chris Mahove



Zimbabwe is set to export citrus fruits to China following the signing of the citrus export protocol between the two countries.

The Chinese Embassy in Harare said in a tweet on the embassy's official handle that China's General Administration of Customs had allowed the importation of fresh citrus from Zimbabwe.

The development is set to boost the industry citrus industry in Zimbabwe, which had taken a knock since the start of the new millennium.

"The sweet & juicy Zimbabwean citrus will join the Chinese market as the citrus export protocol have just been signed. We are implementing President Xi's pledge that China will open a Green Channel for the export of African agricultural products. It'll benefit more Zim's farmers," the embassy said.

The embassy noted that the signing of the export protocol was a direct result of the Forum for Chinese Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which it said was beginning to bear new fruits on trade facilitation.

"Along with announcement of phytosanitary requirement for Zimbabwean exported citrus issued by



China Customs, Chinese market welcomes this renowned horticulture product with open arms. Glad to see #FOCAC has borne new fruits on trade facilitation."

The embassy said the agricultural cooperation between the two countries had huge potential, adding it welcomed the unique agricultural products from Zimbabwe.

SPPBD Director in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Forestry Water and Rural Development Clemence Bwenje said the deal will allow Zimbabwe to export citrus directly to China and not through South Africa as it previously did.

"The negotiation of the deal came on the realisation that South African citrus exports were largely Zimbabwe's oranges that have just been polished in SA and then they are labelled SA product. With the

deal Zimbabwe will now be able to export directly," he said.

He said, however, the challenge of the cold chain facilities remained, forcing Zimbabwe's citrus to still go through SA although this time with the fruits not losing their country of origin, adding the country needed to develop the cold chain facilities for it to fully benefit from its citrus fruits.

Zimbabwe's citrus fruits to be exported to China, which include oranges, mandarins, lemons, grapefruits, limes and tangelo will have to first comply with the relevant phytosanitary laws and health safety standards.

The fruits have to be free from pests such as Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*), Natal fruit fly (*Ceratitis rosa*), False Codling Moth (*Thaumatitibia leucotreta*), Bunch mite (*Brevipalpus californicus*) and Oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*).

They should also be free from Leaf spot (*Phaeoramularia angolensis*) and African greening disease (*Candidatus liberobacter africanum*).

China imports over 1 million tons of citrus products worth about US\$594 million, which are mostly concentrated from South Africa (27%), Australia (24%), Egypt (24%), Spain (9%), United States (7%) and others (10%). There is scope for

Zimbabwean citrus producers to supply the Chinese market.

Between 2015 and 2019, Zimbabwe's citrus exports have been growing by about four percent and the country has been importing to Netherlands (63 percent), Portugal (6 percent), France (4 percent), Germany (4 percent), and UK (3 percent), Saudi Arabia (3 percent), Spain (3 percent) and others (13 percent).

According to Trade Map, Zimbabwe exported 49,358 tons of citrus in 2019, mostly Valencia oranges navel oranges, lemons, soft citrus and grapefruits.

In 2020, the country produced 138,195 tonnes of citrus fruits, an increase from 35,500 tonnes in 1971 to 138,195, an average annual growth rate of 3.03%.

There has been a marked increase in the demand for citrus fruits since the advent of the coronavirus in December 2019 because of their immune boosting benefits in the fight against the pandemic.

This will be the first time that Zimbabwe has exported fresh fruit to China. The country will only be the fifth African nation to get approval to export fresh fruit products to China.

At the moment, the country has 3,000 hectares of citrus under plantation for export

Allow business to import own power: ZNCC

Albert Chavhunduka



The Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) has urged government to allow businesses to independently import their own electricity in the wake of incessant power outages which are threatening the survival of industry.

Production across all sectors of the economy has been negatively affected by load shedding, which has increased since the start of the winter season. The Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) recently announced "increased load curtailment" countrywide which started last week.

The Zimbabwe Electricity and Distribution Company (ZETDC) has attributed the increased load shedding to depressed local power generation coupled with increased electricity demand in winter and power import constraints.

Speaking to the Review & Mail, Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) president Mike Kamungeremu said allowing businesses to import their own power would help alleviate the power crisis.

"As the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, we appeal to the authorities to give preference to industry so that at least more electricity is channelled towards industry. It's better to load shed other parts of the nation like the domestics and make sure that power is given to industry, that is a critical area that should not face continuous interruptions in terms of power availability," said Kamungeremu.

"ZESA should also engage certain manufacturers directly particularly the exporters so that if they are able to have some back to back arrangements

Exporters in Zim must now pay power bills in forex

Zimbabwe's central bank has approved a regulation that will allow the country's power utility, Zimbabwe Power Company, to bill the exporters of goods and services in dollars, euros and other foreign currencies.

Exporters and partial exporters will have to pay their electricity bills at the international cross rate, according to the Exchange Control Order published in the Government Gazette on Monday. An exporter is defined as a business that, on average every quarter, exports 80% or more of its total output in goods and services produced or provided by it in Zimbabwe, for which it receives any foreign currency.

where the consumers of power pay for their own importation of power so that they are guaranteed and prepared to not be load shed.

"It will still be cheaper for the companies to pay a tariff that enables ZESA to import dedicated power for them, it's still cheaper to do that than to run generators or install big solar plants. This is very critical for industry to do."

Kamungeremu further said the constant power interruptions were disrupting production and becoming expensive for businesses and industries.

"As you know, power is a critical component for business and industry and without power, production is disrupted and given what's been happening, some plants are so big that they can't even use alternative energy for them," he said.

"Electricity remains the cheapest form of power that's available for



Partial exporters refers to those companies that fall below the 80% industry. So its non-availability obviously disrupts production and also comes with increased costs, in the form of alternative energy sources as fuel prices have gone up and load shedding has really been a big problem for business people.

"In certain industries, there are raw materials which do not require interruption and once it's interrupted, you've to throw away, so there are serious costs associated with load shedding. Those who are into manufacturing of plastics, if the process is not yet complete and the machine stops, then they have to throw away all raw materials."

Zimbabwe National Business Council (ZNBC) chairperson Langton Mabanga said even though the power outages were affecting business, they were likely to push government to remain committed to complete the ongoing power generation projects.

"The positive derivative of these

mark, but still receive payments in foreign currencies.

Zimbabwe needs to boost its foreign currency reserves because it's in the midst of a currency crisis that saw the annual inflation rate jump to 192% in June alongside a sharp depreciation in the Zimbabwean dollar.

"This order shall cease to have effect in relations to exporters and partial exporters who are residents of Zimbabwe six months after it is published, unless earlier renewed for a period not exceeding six months," according to the gazette.

--news24

outages is that it might just agitate the Government to keep sworn to complete the ongoing power generation projects at Hwange. The larger-scale mining operations have not been as affected as they have ring-fenced feeders," Mabanga said.

"Industrial operations executives must be innovative to skirt the high demand time zones and adopt unconventional tactical production scheduling. The unprecedented acute winter has taken a toll on the national grid."

Early this year, ZESA Holdings Private Limited executive chairperson Sydney Gata said the parastatal required a massive US\$ 2.5 billion in order to end load shedding in the country.

As it stands, the power utility requires US\$17 million to import electricity from neighbouring countries which include Zambia, South Africa and Mozambique.

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Chevron champions

Zimbabwe – 132 all out in 19.3 overs (Sean Williams 28, Regis Chakabva 27, Sikandar Raza 19; Logan van Beek 3/18, Bas de Leede 2/19, Tim Pringle 1/21)

Netherlands – 95 all out in 18.2 overs (Stephan Myburgh 22, Teja Nidamanuru 21, Max O'Dowd 12; Sikandar Raza 4/8, Wessly Madhevere 2/15, Luke Jongwe 1/6)

Zimbabwe won by 37 runs

Zimbabwe have clinched the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier B 2022 title after they defeated the Netherlands by 37 runs in the final of the eight-team tournament played in front of a capacity crowd at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Sunday.

Sikandar Raza, so often the top scorer, starred with the ball this time round as his superb return of four wickets for eight runs inspired the hosts' magnificent fightback to clinch the silverware.

Zimbabwe batted first, as they have done successfully in every match in this tournament, having won the toss.

As usual, the opening pair of Craig Ervine and Regis Chakabva attacked the bowling almost from the first delivery, with 12 runs coming off both the first two overs.

They put on 30 together before Logan van Beek bowled Ervine, who was beaten attempting a drive, for 10.

Zimbabwe made another change to their middle order, moving Sean Williams up to number three.

Chakabva hit his second six, but Williams had only just got off the mark when Chakabva tried a reverse sweep against Bas de Leede and was out lbw for 27, scored off 16 balls – 42 for two in the fifth over.

Wessly Madhevere came in next and pulled the first delivery he faced for four.

However, when he had scored nine he tried to hit the left-arm spinner Tim Pringle for six over midwicket, only to be caught on the boundary – 54 for three after six overs.

This brought the usually dependable pairing

of Williams and Raza together to see if they could put Zimbabwe ahead once again.

Immediately they were scoring runs off almost every delivery, with two fours from Williams boosting the total further.

After 10 overs the score was 78 for three wickets.

Raza played himself in and then drove Shariz Ahmad for six over long-off, but later in that over Williams, aiming for a midwicket six, was caught near the boundary for 28 off 25 balls – 93 for four in the 12th over.

Milton Shumba scored only a single before he was deceived by a slower ball from van Beek and skyed a catch that was taken by the wicket-keeper – 98 for five in the 13th over.

Worse was to come, as off the very next delivery Raza, trying to turn a leg-side ball from van Beek, was given out lbw by the umpire for 19 off 14 balls – 98 for six.

This brought to the crease Tony Munyonga, who had replaced the injured Blessing Muzarabani in the team, to join Ryan Burl.

After 15 overs Zimbabwe were struggling at 109 for six wickets with their last two specialist batters together.

Munyonga scored seven off 13 balls but, trying a leg-side hit off a straight ball from de Leede, was bowled at 111 for seven in the 16th over.

Much now depended on Burl and he hit two fine boundaries.

Unfortunately, the new man, Luke Jongwe, failed to respond to a call for a second run from Burl, and was rooted to his crease while his partner was run out for 15, scored off 11 balls – 121 for eight in the 18th over.

This left Jongwe and Wellington Masakadza together and they struggled to keep the score moving.

Jongwe then attempted a leg-side hit to a straight ball from Paul van Meekeren, and was adjudged lbw for six off nine balls.

Zimbabwe were bowled out for 132 in the final over, with three balls to spare, as



Masakadza, swinging his bat, was caught at the wicket for four off Fred Klaasen, leaving Richard Ngarava not out with one.

All the Zimbabwe batters scored at least one run, five reached double figures, but the highest innings was Williams' 28.

Van Beek had bowled superbly for the Netherlands with his medium-pacers, taking three wickets for 18 runs in his four overs.

De Leede took two for 19 in three overs, while the four other bowlers used all took one wicket each.

Madhevere bowled the first over for Zimbabwe, off which only a wide and a single to Max O'Dowd accrued.

At the other end, Max O'Dowd hit Masakadza for a six and a four off successive deliveries.

However, Madhevere, given another over, trapped O'Dowd lbw for 12 with his first delivery, and then with his faster delivery dismissed de Leede (1) the same way with his fifth ball – two down for 17.

Stephan Myburgh, renowned as a powerful hitter, then faced the bowling and hit Madhevere and Masakadza for six in turn.

He was settling into a potentially devastating partnership with Tom Cooper when a brilliant throw from Shumba at extra cover ended it by running out Cooper for eight – 45 for three in the seventh over.

Raza kept the batters under restraint and Myburgh, taking a risk, swung mightily at a straight ball and was plumb lbw for 22 off 24 balls – 54 for four in the 10th over.

It was a superb maiden over from Raza, and at the halfway stage Zimbabwe were back in the match.

As the pressure mounted, the Netherlands captain, Scott Edwards (7), chose the wrong ball from Williams to try to sweep, lobbying a simple catch to Ngarava at square leg.

Then it was Raza's turn again: van Beek (0) played a half-hearted reverse sweep against Raza and had his leg stump knocked back – 56 for six in the 12th over.

Pringle scored four before he went on a leg-side heave against Raza and was bowled, as the Netherlands batters seemed to sink further into panic mode and cracked under the pressure.

Klaasen came and went first ball, lbw to a spinning delivery from Raza, and the score was now 62 for eight wickets, the match now virtually lost beyond retrieval.

Teja Nidamanuru was the one man to play the bowling on merit and he was still there, but was unable to take charge and get the score moving safely again, until he lofted Burl for a fine straight six.

A six by his latest partner, van Meekeren, three balls later showed a final desperate attempt by the Netherlands to turn the match, but it was now too late.

In the following over, van Meekeren (10) was caught in the deep aiming for another six off Jongwe – 87 for nine in the 18th over.

Ngarava took the final wicket in the 19th over, a fast yorker that accounted for Nidamanuru lbw after scoring a gallant 19 off 25 balls.

Ahmad was not out with one and the final score was 95, giving Zimbabwe a great victory.

Raza's remarkable four wickets for eight runs took pride of place in the bowling figures, while Madhevere, who started the Netherlands' woes, had two for 15.

With one wicket for Williams, seven batters fell to Zimbabwe's spinners.

Both Zimbabwe and the Netherlands have qualified for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 to be held in Australia starting in October.

—Zim Cricket

Meet pro golf's Vincent brothers

Tawanda Munthali



The gates of Zimbabwean sport have welcomed different family members who have been excellent in different sporting codes. In the sporting circles, if one mentions the surname Ndlovu the names that race in one's mind include soccer legends, Madinda, Adam (now late) and Peter, as the brothers were exceptional on the field of play. The same goes to the Black family as the trio of Cara together with her two siblings Byron and Wayne gave their all so that the country could be recognised as a Tennis playing nation. The list of families that have played a part in sport in the country is endless as it includes the Chidzambwa's (formerly Marimo), Flower's, Ngodzo's Strang's, Chunga's, Ervine's as well as the Masakadza's to mention but a few.

For some time many thought there would never emerge a new family that would take a spot in the history books of Zimbabwean sport for producing top performers in a sporting discipline. Most expected chips off the old block or a younger sibling following the footsteps of an elder sibling.

The story takes a sharp twist as new stars have been born in the Vincent family, who join the fray of families that have produced stellar athletes. In this family there are two golfers, Scott and Kieran, who have since taken the button from other families as they have been raising the national flag high.

Scott (30), a former St John's College pupil was introduced to the game of golf by his father before the Chapman Golf Club head professional and Zimbabwean development coach Roger Baylis took him under his wing so as to further develop his game. Popularly known as "Mhondoro" for his exploits on the grass, Scott has represented the nation countless times.



Kieran Vincent

The Olympics were the fourth time that he represented Zimbabwe, his second in a professional setting. He played in the Eisenhower Trophy in both 2010 and 2012 as an amateur, before competing at the 2018 World Cup of Golf for the nation too.

Mhondoro is a top ranked golfer in the land and is representing the country again at the British Open and competed in his first major golf championship at St Andrews in a tournament that had the likes of Dustin Johnson and Tiger Woods.

Taking part in The Open was a dream come true for Scott as he got a chance to prove his exploits on the grand stage.

"I'm extremely excited to take part in my first major championship. It is very fitting that it is the 150th Open Championship at St Andrews, which is a tournament and a location I dreamt about when I was growing up.

"It's always an honour to represent Zimbabwe. I have been very blessed in that I got to experience the Olympics last year, which was good preparation for this event," said Scott, the eldest of the two brothers.

Kieran (24) who is the youngest, is currently ranked 67th on the Men's World Amateur Golf Ranking, kicked-off his professional career at the PGA Canada where he recorded his best finish following a solid tie for 14th position at the Prince Edward Island Open.

The former Zimbabwe Junior Golfer of the Year is based in the United States and has spent six memorable years at Liberty University where he graduated in May 2020 with a degree in exercise science and is now completing a master's degree in human performance: nutrition.

For a country that has seen many siblings excelling in different sporting codes, many hope to see the brothers playing their part in carrying the weight of the whole nation on their shoulders as they raise the national flag high.



Scott Vincent

Koulibaly completes Chelsea transfer

Chelsea have completed the signing of centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly from Napoli for a reported fee of around £34million.

The 31-year-old becomes the club's second acquisition of the summer following their move for England forward Raheem Sterling from Manchester City.

Koulibaly has signed a four-year contract at Stamford Bridge and will boost defensive options following the departures of Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen.

Koulibaly told his new club's official website: "I'm very happy to be here with this team at Chelsea. It's a big team in the world and my dream was always to play in the Premier League.

"Chelsea first came to get me in 2016 but we didn't quite make it. Now when they came to me I accepted it because they really wanted me to come to the Premier League to play for them."

Koulibaly spent eight years at Napoli, for whom he made 317 appearances and scored 14 goals, and penned an emotional tribute to the club's fans in a social media post last week.

He started his career with French club Metz before moving on to spend two years in Belgium with Genk before joining Napoli in 2014.

Koulibaly has made 62 appearances for Senegal, of whom he is currently captain.

Chelsea co-owner Todd Boehly said: "Kalidou Koulibaly is one of the world's elite defenders and we are delighted to be welcoming him to Chelsea.

"A great leader and an exemplary team player, Kalidou brings a wealth of experience and attributes that will benefit our squad and the club as a whole."

—F365

The Dave Factor

Brian Goredema
EnterSportNews



The T20 World Cup bound Zimbabwe beat Netherlands in the final of Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier at Queen's Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday by 37 runs to silence all the naysayers. It was a gritty performance defending a small total and you could hear the echoes of the voice of his Excellency the president of Zimbabwe saying: "You will win" during the official opening of the tournament. The victory had Dave Houghton written all over it, heart, finesse and never say die attitude. It's a journey that many didn't think would be this smooth especially the way the senior men's cricket team was pummeled by both Namibia and Afghanistan. Common sense eventually prevailed with the Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) board demoting Lalchand Rajput by elevating to Technical Director and former Zimbabwe Test captain Dave Houghton taking over as coach. The Zimbabwe legend didn't have time to waste with the impending T20 World Cup Qualifiers hard on the heels of the Afghanistan tour. Dave and his charges won all their matches and qualified for the World Cup without losing a match. Some of the fans who didn't give the team a chance to do well in this tournament are now questioning the calibre of opposition and rightly so. But in sports competition you can only beat whoever is in front of you and Zimbabwe did just that. There is no denying of the Dave factor in the manner that the team carried itself through. Dave is a winner and has inculcated that winning mentality within the team and the results are already showing. The Chevrons are a team in transition

and that transition must be managed well. Something that Rajput failed. Rajput went after the senior players and even hounded Hamilton Masakadza into retirement. Dave a local hero who has served Zimbabwe in the past identified the issues that needed to be dealt with. The hardware was great but some work needed to be put in on the software side. Zimbabwe were playing with a handbrake because of fear of failure and chastisement by the former coach. Dave's spurred the Zimbabwe the fighting spirit again. "I have tried to encourage them to be more positive. I have seen a lot of Zimbabwe players over the years, they have incredible skills but have been cocooned in fear and worry about getting out and making mistakes. I have tried to take that away from them. "You are seeing the results our batting is exciting, now we take sides on, our bowling and fielding has been of a good standard but we playing that type of aggressive, interesting cricket that the crowds love." said Dave. The Zimbabwe mentor is a shrewd tactician, good at identifying problems and finding solution to the problems. Tendai Chisoro was a promising left-arm seamer but never kicked on despite having been sent to the Australian academy where he played alongside Mitchell Johnson. What did Dave do? He sat down with Chisoro and told him to switch to left-arm spin. He faced resistance from the player but he eventually saw sense in what Dave was saying. The switch gave Chisoro a Test, ODI and T20I caps. Thanks to Dave, Chisoro was Zimbabwe best white ball spinner at one point. Wessly Madhevere has done reasonably well opening the batting in T20I but in this tournament to everyone's surprise Dave elevated captain Craig Ervine from



first drop to opening the batting with Regis Chakabva for a left-hand right-hand combination at the top of the order. When Chakabva was dismissed first in the first match against Singapore Sean Williams came in at three. But in the semi-final against PNG, Madhevere came in at 3. Such has been the flexibility under Dave. Dave has also sent a message to the team that indiscipline will not be tolerated. Madhevere went out clubbing on the eve of the crunch match against USA and was subsequently dropped. The 65-year-old, Dave was once Madhevere's age and understands the folly of youth. He also understands that the 20-year-old is the future of Zimbabwe cricket and needs the tournament experience by playing instead of running with water. Madhevere was back in Zimbabwe's playing XI for the semifinal match against Papua New Guinea and you could tell that being dropped reminded him that he is fallible. He top scored for the Chevrons with 42 runs on a day where all the top 7 scored runs. In the final against Netherlands the former Under-19 prodigy was at it again by setting the tone by only conceding two runs in the first over of the Dutch run chase. He came back in the third over



to claim two wickets and put the Flying Dutch on the back foot. Raza's 4 for 8 eventually won it for Zimbabwe and normal service had resumed—the Test playing nation going home with their good reputation intact. Those that have watched Zimbabwe long enough always urge people to remain on the side of caution. We have had so many false dawns in the past. Whatever happens Zimbabwe is back at the T20 jamboree with the other 15 top cricket nations. With king Dave as our coach, Zimbabwe can only dream.

ZNBWCB, ZTA in a partnership to boost tourism

Shelly Guni



The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) has partnered the Zimbabwe National Boxing and Wrestling Control Board (ZNBWCB) in the hosting of the World Boxing Council (WBC) All Africa officials training and grading workshop and the African Boxing Union (ABU) convention in Victoria Falls later this month.

At least 120 guests are expected to attend the two events which will run from July 25-27 and July 26-27 respectively.

And Zimbabwe is expected to generate more than US\$500,000 in tourism receipts and related economic activities through the hosting of this event.

The partnership came at a time when ZTA was in a drive to promote the tourism sector which like any other sector was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic that wreaked havoc across the globe.

ABU president Houcine Houchi will preside over both events.

ZNBWCB Chief Executive Officer Lawrence Zimbudzana said the hosting of these two events is meant to enhance the technical capacities of boxing officials across the continent and define the governance structure of boxing in Africa for the next 5 years as well as exploring strategies of modernising and developing boxing at all levels on the African Continent.

"Boxing has to answer the current socio-economic challenges bedeviling the whole continent for it is an impeccable tool for peace building and general socio economic development," he said.

"As Zimbabwe we believe we can play a role at the continental stage to ensure that our people realise their aspirations.

"Africa has to wake up and work towards its own emancipation and development.

"We have been provided with a rare opportunity to market the country as a sport tourism destination of choice and at the same time setting the stage for the hosting of future international boxing conventions and tournaments.

"We are not only focusing on Victoria Falls but Zimbabwe as a whole that is why we are partnering with the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority who are experts and custodians of this particular area. However special interest will be in Victoria Falls as we seek to make it the hub of all combat sport activities."

As of July 13, over hundred delegates had confirmed their attendance.

"The delegates, who have confirmed their participation at the two events so far are from such countries as South Africa, Botswana, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia, Cameroon, Egypt, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mali, the United States of America, Morocco, Ireland and the hosts Zimbabwe.

"This has all been made possible through the generous support the Government of Zimbabwe through our parent Ministry.

"There has been a steady increase in the amount of investment our Government continues to put in the subsector. The hosting of these events is also testimony to the Second Republic's commitment."

Sport tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the sport industry with the global sports tourism market share being valued at \$323,420.0 million in 2020, and projected to reach \$1,803,704.0 Billion by 2030.



From L, Stalin Mau Mau, Lawrence Zimbudzana, Monalisa Sibanda, Chief Koti

"The hosting of the two events therefore forms part of our long term strategy to use combat sport as a vehicle to contribute to socio-economic development by stimulating tourists in the country.

"Furthermore, media coverage of the events will also increase continental and global visibility of our country as proceedings will be shared with over 190 countries affiliated to WBC and ABU.

"Let me implore partners and sponsors to come collaborate with us as we host these two historic events.

"Be part of the winning team for, true to our vision, we promise to change the country's sports fortunes and landscape using combat sports.

"There is so much to achieve through

investing in sport development and sport for development initiatives. The Government alone thus should not be relegated to that role."

Meanwhile, WIBA intercontinental lightweight champion Monalisa Sibanda will defend her title against Uganda's Small Valente Aciro during a showcase boxing tournament.

The tournament dubbed 'The Showcase: The Smoke that Thunders' is being organised by veteran boxing promoter Stalin Mau-Mau and will feature six bouts.

Speaking ahead of the title defence, Sibanda gave credit to the Ministry of Sport through the ZNBWCB, her sponsors and promoter Mau Mau for making it possible for her to defend her title.

Sibanda won the Women International Boxing Association (WIBA) Intercontinental Welterweight Title on April 27, 2019 in Nairobi Kenya after defeating Kenyan Joyce Awono.

"I started training for the title defense the day I won the title. I am a firm believer in the saying that "Champions are made in training". I have spent the last three years preparing and undertaking different tactical and technical training so that I successfully defend my title.

"My coach Mr S. Sangulani has worked very closely with me in ensuring that I am in the best shape physically and mentally for the upcoming fight.

"I have worked closely with my management team Daneves who have provided the financial support for my training and ensured that I adhere to my training programs."

Sports



CHEVRON CHAMPS

INSIDE



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