



HOLIDAY EDITION

REVIEW & MAIL

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NO STRINGS ATTACHED

...Chinese envoy speaks on Zimbabwe relations

- **We are not mortgaging Zim's resources**
- **We don't condone nationals' wrongdoings**

Tichaona Zindoga & Chris Mahove



China says it has not signed any articles of agreement with Zimbabwe to secure payment for assistance using the southern African nation's natural resources. Various claims have stated that Zimbabwe - which enjoys traditional relations with China - has "mortgaged" its resources in return for support from the Asian giant, which has become much more important in the last two decades following imposition of sanctions on the country. China also supported Zimbabwe during its liberation struggle that brought independence from Britain in 1980. Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe,

Ambassador Guo Shaochun said China had a no-interference policy approach to its development projects in Africa. During a media briefing last week, Ambassador Guo said: "There is a false claim that Zimbabwe uses its natural resources as collateral to get China's funding. Let me make it clear. No agreements between the two countries and no articles in these agreements are about how Zimbabwe should contribute its resources to China." China had provided assistance to African countries for over half a century and in all this time it had never asked any African country to cede its sovereignty. "Never have we compelled African countries to repay their debts with natural

resources; never have we dictated fiscal or monetary changes as a precondition; never have we abused it by using democracy and human rights as excuses to interfere in the domestic affairs of the recipient countries," he said. Further, the Chinese envoy stated that China did not pressure countries in debt distress for repayment, noting that instead, the country entered into good willed and equal bilateral consultations to work out possible solutions with recipient countries. These are characterised by "great flexibility enabled by goodwill", unlike other creditors. Ambassador Guo stated: "This is not China's practice. We are a developing

country. We relate to the hardships of our brothers," he said. He said China's cooperation with Zimbabwe and other developing countries was guided by the five principles of transparency, flexibility, non-attachment of political strings to development projects and win-win cooperation and the non-attachment of strings. China's approach to cooperation, he said, was shaped by the needs and challenges of each particular country, which would drive the process, adding that this would eliminate the risk of receiving countries walking into 'quick fix traps' "A recipient-driven process protects countries from walking into a "quick fix trap". **TURN PAGE 2**

No strings attached, China on Zim investments

FROM PAGE 1

China's investments in Zimbabwe are systematic and well-grounded, according to the mission here.

Ambassador Guo said a project-based approach whose transparency manifested itself in the positive impact on the economy and the livelihood of ordinary citizens could be easily accounted for.

"Whether it is a road or airport being built, agriculture output increased, things manufactured, or professionals trained, you don't need special access to classified document to know what China is doing and how it is benefiting the recipient country. It's all open in the public domain. We call on international partners to focus more on the improvement of Zimbabwe's infrastructure and provide support to this end," he said.

Consistent position

Ambassador Guo explained that his country did not condone wrongdoings by Chinese companies and nationals in Zimbabwe.

But he also added that China would defend its companies against malicious attacks, routinely peddled in some sections of the media.

China is advocating for a more robust

approach by Government of Zimbabwe and other authorities to ensure accountability and compliance with local laws and regulations.

"It is our consistent position that no certificates or licenses should be given when there are risks of a popular backlash or negative environmental impact. All wrongdoings should be held accountable. If investment projects are found to be problematic, we support the necessary legal response" he said.

Ambassador Guo noted one recent incident in which the Embassy urged Chinese company, Freestone Mines, into cancelling their lease agreement for quarry mining in the eastern border city of Mutare.

Even then, according to the Embassy and other interested parties in the business sector, the company was not solely responsible for the situation which saw the community protesting the venture.

Boosting economic growth

A number of private Chinese investments in Zimbabwe have made positive contributions to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Guo noted, citing a number of projects being undertaken in Zimbabwe, including the US\$1 billion steel project by Tsingshan



Ambassador Guo

Group, which has two other subsidiaries in the steel value chain. Another big Chinese company, Huayou COBalt, recently bought Aradia Lithium Project, an investment of over US\$700 million.

This adds onto a number of game-changing investments by China in Zimbabwe, where Chinese companies have overcome considerable risks and challenges.

Fruition

China is excited that the second half of the year will see the handing over of new parliament building and National Pharmaceutical Warehouse, to authorities in Zimbabwe.

That is not all.

"More and more fruits are growing and ripening in China-Zimbabwe cooperation. Good progress is being made at the Hwange thermal power station expansion, RGM International Airport expansion and phase 3 of Netone's mobile broadband upgrade. Another 10 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines donated by China will arrive in Zimbabwe this year," he said

On the other hand, the expansion of the Kariba South hydro station and the Hwange thermal Power Station being undertaken by Chinese companies will increase the country's power generation capacity by 50%

China is set to encourage more Chinese enterprises to participate in the green energy cooperation with African countries as part of the nine programmes proposed by President Xi Jinping.

The drive to pursue green energy will plug likely gaps arising from China's cutting down of investments in fossil fuels abroad.

Zimbabwean companies to showcase in Namibia

Review & Mail Writer



At least 15 Zimbabwean companies are set to participate at the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair set to run from August 26 to September 1, The Chronicle newspaper reported Monday.

Zimbabwean firms could just be targeting to spread their wings in the region, following recent participation at the Zambia Agricultural and Commercial show where Zimbabwe got an award for best exhibit.

ZimTrade, the international trade promotion agency, is spearheading Zimbabwe's companies' outward push.

For the Namibian jaunt, participating firms will be drawn from various sectors that include the fast moving consumer goods, horticulture, leather, clothing, building, agriculture inputs and implements, construction material, and services.

Companies will be selected according to their ability to supply quality locally manufactured products that can compete on the export market, the promotion trade body said.

Opportunities to invest are in mining, tourism, fishing, manufacturing and agriculture.

"The main objectives of participating at the OATF 2022 is to concretise prospective business leads identified during the market survey, to grow Zimbabwe's exports to Namibia.

"The event will allow participating companies a chance to generate orders, and to showcase Zimbabwean products to potential buyers in Namibia and other participating countries," ZimTrade said.

The Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair is a leading trade and exhibition event on the Namibian Business Calendar.

It is also the single biggest event in Northern Namibia that draws exhibitors, business personalities, government leaders and visitors from all corners of the country and in other countries.

"The trade fair will provide participating companies with an

opportunity to interact with leading buyers in the market, which will unlock export opportunities in Namibia.

"A market survey conducted in November 2019, identified opportunities for Zimbabwean exporters and with the renewed energy from local industry to increase presence in export markets, participating in this trade fair would be a positive move in firming trade relations with Namibia."

Zimbabwe and Namibia have a bilateral trade agreement, and both are signatories to the SADC trade agreement which all allow for duty-free trade.

ZimTrade said according to statistics from the show organisers, visitors to the event have grown steadily since its inception in 2005 with 11 000 visitors being recorded in 2019.

ZimTrade said since the Namibia dollar trades at par with the South African rand, that economy remains integrated with the economy of South Africa, as the bulk of Namibia's imports originate there.

To that end, the trade body said firms that would be selected to participate should utilise the opportunity to carve a niche.

"As the market is heavily dominated by South African businesses, Zimbabwean companies must strategically position themselves for niche markets if they are to become successful.

"The country's economy, which offers opportunities for Zimbabwe to supply products and services, is built on mining, tourism, fishing, manufacturing and agriculture.

"The mining industry consists mainly of diamond and uranium and the sector employs more than 14 000 people."

Namibia is the fourth largest exporter of non-fuel minerals in Africa and is the world's largest producer of uranium with capacity to supply 10 percent of global output.

Other minerals produced in large quantities include lead, zinc, tin, silver and tungsten.

CSO's demand fresh consultations on PVO Bill

Review & Mail Writers



Civic Society Organisations (CSOs) have demanded fresh consultations on the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Bill, arguing that the amendments that were subjected to the second reading on 26 July 2022 extensively revised the Bill, introducing new provisions that were not there when the Bill was taken for public hearings.

In a statement dated July 27, 2022, the CSOs said the consultation processes that were conducted in relation to the original draft of the Bill were conducted in bad faith, noting that their concerns were disregarded entirely. Of association and administrative justice.

They said the amendments which were now before parliament introduced even stricter restrictions to the rights to freedom have been entirely disregarded, with the proposed amendments introducing even greater restrictions to the rights to freedom of association and administrative justice.

"The Bill that was presented to the public has now been altered significantly and must be taken back to the public for consultations as mandated by the Constitution. Without this, the public's due process and constitutional rights have been violated," they said.

The CSOs said the public's constitutional right to participate in law making had been violated, adding that the authorities had a constitutional obligation to consider the views of the public in terms of section 141 of the Constitution.

"Parliament is required to facilitate public involvement in its legislative and other processes and in the processes of its committees, and Parliament must conduct its business in a transparent manner. The proposed Bill, as amended, will have dire consequences of restricting civic space and access to humanitarian support services in Zimbabwe. Under the circumstances, CSOs call for the withdrawal of the Bill, and the initiation of a comprehensive process of fresh consultations to be held with the public and CSOs on a new draft Bill that will protect citizens' fundamental rights," they said.

The CSOs said Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, as the leader of Government Business in Parliament, had acted in bad faith when he engaged with them on 11 April 2022, giving them the false hope that they had found each other.

"However, to the utter shock and surprise of CSOs, the amendments that have now been

introduced do the very opposite of what the Minister had promised and committed to. The extensive amendments to the PVO Amendment Bill are even more draconian and tantamount to introducing a completely new Bill. This removes the participatory element of our democracy (that citizens are entitled to), protected in section 141 of the Constitution, as such extensive alterations to the Bill were not privy to public hearings and public consultations," they said.

They bemoaned the removal from the Bill of the PVO Board and creation of an executive and powerful office of a Registrar of PVOs vested with all decision-making powers to register or deny registration to applicants for PVO status.

"A Private Voluntary Organisations Forum entirely controlled by the Registrar of PVOs is also created, with an unclear purpose but with the potential to be used to gather information from PVOs, monitor them and reach resolutions that will impact on the work of PVOs."

The CSOs said new principles governing PVOs were also introduced, including requiring PVOs to ascertain the identity of donors and sources of donations; to refuse and report any donations from "illegitimate" or "immoral" sources; prohibiting fundraising for charitable purposes by anyone not registered as a PVO or authorised under the Act to do so; among others.

"There is imposition of harsh criminal and civil penalties for vaguely defined offences, including on executive committee members and personnel of PVOs. PVOs are guilty of "civil default" on vague grounds, violating administrative justice rights. The amendments have maintained provisions allowing for the Minister to unilaterally designate organisations as being at "high risk" of money laundering and counter-terrorism abuses and impose specific measures on them, with appeals to the High Court only allowed on procedural grounds and no rights for the High Court to overturn the decision, only to refer it back to the Minister."

There have been heated debate around the introduction of the Bill, with CSOs and opposition political parties claiming it was a ploy by the government to curtail citizens' freedoms ahead of the harmonised elections slated for next year.

Government has, however, maintained that the Bill was necessary to curb possible terrorism and to keep CSOs with a regime change agenda on check.

South Africa guns for mass deportation of permit holders

Review & Mail Writers



The Zimbabwean government and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) say they are prepared for a possible mass deportation of Zimbabwe Exemption Permit Holders from South Africa should they fail to regularise their stay in the country at the expiry of their permits in December.

More than 200 000 Zimbabweans face deportation from the neighbouring country after the South Africa government indicated it will not renew their permits when they expire on December 31, 2022.

The country's Home Affairs department ordered all ZEP holders to apply for other available permits by December 31 and regularise their stay in the country or face deportation.

And with only three months left before the expiry of the permits, fears have been raised over the preparedness by Zimbabwe to handle the anticipated influx of returnees, some of whom have stayed in South Africa for more than 15 years.

But an official with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, responding to questions at an IOM Validation of the Regional Framework for Action to Address Disaster Displacement in Southern Africa held in Harare Thursday, said the country was adequately prepared for any eventuality.

"We have put in place mechanisms to receive those people at Beitbridge and Plumtree where we will receive immigrants from various situations. We have also recently established a repatriation centre at the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe; we have the capacity," he said.

He said government was working hand in glove with the IOM to provide psycho-social and socio-economic support to the affected.

Director of the Department of Civil Protection, Farai Hokoya said when the country was faced with such a huge influx of returnees, it would have to relax some of



the stringent regulations to ensure smooth passage of the returnees.

"It will be no longer just an immigration issue alone, but we will have to include other departments including the security sector. We have already upgraded the Beitbridge Border Post, we will always have a plan for our people," he said.

Migration Policy and Governance Officer with IOM, Rangarirayi Tigere said they were in discussions with other United Nations organs and the Government of Zimbabwe to mobilise resources to support government in the event Zimbabwean migrants returned en masse.

"We have also, through the Africa Regional Migration Policy (ARMP) proposed a very small simulation exercise at Beitbridge to test capacity – a mock drilling to see what gaps need strengthening to ensure that the system is fully functional," he said.

Although several civic groups in and outside South Africa have made court applications challenging that country's Home Affairs minister Aaron Motsoaledi's decision to terminate permits for Zimbabwean immigrants in the neighbouring country, the SA government is not likely to rescind its decision.

The Helen Suzman Foundation was the

first to launch legal action against Cabinet's decision in November 2021 to terminate the Zimbabwean Exemption Permits, arguing that the process allowed little time for notification and public consultation.

Established in 1993, the Helen Suzman Foundation (HSF) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation which promotes liberal constitutional democracy and the rule of law in South Africa.

The Zimbabwean Immigration Federation and two other civic organisation have also filed similar cases which are still pending at the South African High Court.

The ZEP permits had offered sanctuary to more than 200 000 Zimbabweans as it allowed them to legally live, work and study in South Africa.

However, these immigrants now face a bleak future in the neighbouring country as they now have to choose either to live as undocumented immigrants, while risking sporadic xenophobic attacks or return home, where many have not invested much in terms of their livelihoods as they had settled in SA.

The government of Zimbabwe has given up hope of rescuing the situation for its nationals saying it will respect South Africa's sovereign decision.

War vets association risks ban under PVO law- Veritas

Review & Mail Writers



The Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association (ZNLWVA) risks being banned under the proposed PVO Bill as some of its activities are not in conformity with some of the legislation's provisions, a Veritas official has said.

The ZNLWVA is registered as a Private Voluntary Organisation in terms of the Private Voluntary Organisations Act [Chapter 17:05].

A Private Voluntary Organization is defined as any body or association of persons, corporate or unincorporated, or any institution, the objects of which include or are one or more of the following—

(a) the provision of all or any of the material, mental, physical or social needs of persons or families; (b) the rendering of charity to persons or families in distress; (c) the prevention of social distress or destitution of persons or families; (d) the provision of assistance in, or promotion of, activities aimed at uplifting the standard of living of persons or families; (e) the provision of funds for legal aid; (f) the prevention of cruelty to, or the promotion of the welfare of, animals among others.

Addressing a media workshop on the PVO Bill in Harare last week, Veritas Consultant, Brian Crozier, said the Bill prohibited Private Voluntary Organisations from engaging in political activities, yet the ZNLWVA is an appendage of the ruling ZANU PF and actively participates in the party's political activities.

"The proposed Bill will hinder the operations of PVO's in the country, and even the ZNLWVA risks being banned as it does not comply with the provisions of the Bill," he said.

Clause 5 of the Bill allows the Registrar to cancel PVO's registration if it engages in political activities, i.e. supports or opposes a political party or candidate.

"This is unconstitutional because it violates sec 58 of the Constitution (freedom of association); again it is excessive and irrational. It violates sec 67 of the Constitution, which gives every Zimbabwe citizen the right to form political organisations and participate in their activities," he said.

He said Clause 7, which allows the Minister to suspend the committee of a PVO if it has ceased to operate, or if it is acting illegally, or "if it is necessary or desirable in the public interest" was also unconstitutional because it violated section 58 of the Constitution on freedom of association, noting that the ground of public interest was vague and excessively wide.

"It violates sec 68 of the Constitution (fair administrative action) in that the Minister can appoint a provisional trustee for a PVO without affording the PVO a hearing," he said.

Meanwhile, Veritas Programs Officer, Lizwe Jamela said they would challenge the Bill at the Constitutional Court should it be passed into law.

ED seeks to rewrite history and its heroes

Review & Mail Writers



The conferment of national hero status in Zimbabwe has been always contested, with lack of consensus on who qualifies for the honours and who is not.

The national shrine in the capital Harare, a small hill near the Warren Park suburb along the Harare-Bulawayo road, is home to some of the most decorated figures.

Like former Vice President Joshua Nkomo and decorated army general, Solomon Mujuru.

Some less honourable figures lie there, also. These include sisters of the late President, Robert Mugabe who were controversially accorded national heroine status.

Mugabe himself refused to be buried there when he died in 2018, again to much controversy, not least that he had presided over scores of burials of heroes and cronies.

Now, Mugabe's successor, President Mnangagwa, is trying to right some of the wrongs of the veteran leader who presided over the country, and recognition of heroes – or lack thereof in some cases.

On Monday, during Heroes Day commemorations, President Mnangagwa said he would recognise heroes that had been forgotten or shunted aside.

This, according to him, would amount to "giving a holistic account of our country's long war of liberation".

Commentators widely accept that Zanu-PF's hegemony has led to some erasures

of history, with some participants to the liberation struggle being denied recognition following some fallouts.

This happened to a number of luminaries – and Mnangagwa pledged to rewire the history, somewhat.

"We are therefore rising to the occasion and recognising other heroes and heroines such as the late Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole and the late Cde James Chikerema for their historical contributions, despite their areas of weaknesses, with regards to the observance of the correct line of the Revolution.

"For that reason, we now honour them among the list of our national heroes and heroines.

"We forever remain indebted to all the heroes and heroines of our great country for the freedom, democracy and independence we enjoy to this day. Their sacrifices will never die."

The honours will extend to other facets of national life.

Explained the President: "The nation may recall that, in 2021, my Government established the following honours; the Robert Gabriel Mugabe Commendation Award; the Joshua Mqabuko Nyongolo Nkomo Commendation Award; and the Herbert Wiltshire Pfumaindini Chitepo Commendation Award in recognition of the sacrifices and outstanding feats achieved by the country's founding fathers.

"We shall, thus, recognise and honour heroism beyond the war of liberation and defence sector. Milestones in

science, technology and innovation; the accelerated development and growth of our economy as well as the growth of 'Made in Zimbabwe' goods and services are applauded and celebrated. So too are initiatives around cultural preservation and other heroic efforts by our people, both at home and abroad, that raise the Zimbabwe National Flag high."



Ndabaningi Sithole



James Chikerema. Just like, Sithole (above) history had not been kind to him until Mnangagwa's intervention



Those dead heroes are not really dead



Community Eye
with
Ngwindi Ngwindingwindi



August is here once again, and we are bound as a nation to take time to remember men and women who paid supreme sacrifice for Zimbabwe. We must commemorate our heroes with dignity. This we do regardless of political alignment, race, creed or tribe; we are one Zimbabwe. As we celebrate lives of those who died for our liberation, I am here to share some piece of advice with my fellow Zimbabweans. I am going to start by sharing a story relating to my own family.

My grandfather Kamhiripiri Thompson Kamupira Ngwindingwindi died in 1978, and was supposed to be buried according to our clan cultural practices, but the elders forgot to give him his fuko. It was during the second Chimurenga wartime, so the burial was hurriedly done to avoid continued gathering which was prohibited by the Rhodesian authorities, and also that sekuru Kamhiripiri had succumbed to beatings of a political nature. Because of these circumstances, proper cultural practices were bypassed.

Three years down the line, now in independent Zimbabwe, Sekuru Kamhiripiri appeared in his niece Rebecca's dream in which she was advised that he would not be welcomed by his ancestors if he did not get his fuko, and that the family would not know peace. Rebecca did not keep it to herself, she notified my father, Thomas who thence consulted other family elders. A ceremony was arranged to exhume the late Kamhiripiri whom they found in exactly the same state that he was at burial three years earlier.

We may gather today in different places across Zimbabwe commemorating fallen heroes, but if what we do on daily basis

is not consistent with the spirit of the liberation struggle for which many of the real heroes perished, we are doomed as a nation. Spirits of the dead heroes are watching from their realm the way we are fairing in a nation which is watered by their blood. I am convinced that they are obviously not happy with what is happening today in Zimbabwe. They fought not for a few people to enjoy the wealth which Zimbabwe is endowed with; they fought not to replace an oppressive colonial system with a native oppressive and corrupt system.

While on the commemorations alone, we are doing it all wrong. We need to appease the heroes by way of traditional ceremonies as opposed to the flamboyant lavish gatherings which we conduct annually. Zimbabwe has so much wealth some of which is yet to be discovered, but the little there is today need to be used selflessly, not for the benefit of few individuals.

Zimbabwe needs leaders who respect the founding ethos of the revolution which brought about independence. Those whom we are commemorating today did not sacrifice and die in vain; they will surely be happy if all Zimbabweans are happy. My grandfather died in an area which was a passage for freedom fighters who operated from Mozambique, but sadly, Area C in Mudzi district has not really been given due attention by the authorities since 1980 when we got independence. The citizens in that area have not been honoured for the sacrifices which they committed, and the brutality which they endured at the hands of authorities for the role which they played cooking for the freedom fighters, shielding them and all the support they could get. There are so many areas which carry a similar sad story, and they can express themselves in their own way or this piece will represent all. The spirits of the fallen heroes who passed through the hands of these marginalized society will



never be happy until they are satisfied that their wartime hosts are cared for.

This brings back the subject of devolution whose implementational sincerity I questioned few weeks ago. There is need to look into issues of devolution seriously and ensure that distribution of resources and administrative powers are done prudently. Equitable distribution of national resources is paramount to appeasement of the heroes we are here purporting to honour, because that is what they fought for. They did not fight for one person to amass wealth unto himself; all citizens have entitlement to the national resources which they must benefit effectively.

I believe today we have some among the comrades who operated in Mudzi



area, which was Mutoko back then, they concur with my sentiments and may not be happy with the state of monumental underdevelopment which characterise the area.

So, for a country to be stagnant on economic development affairs as it is, it means that leaders are doing things out of line. We need leaders to display high degree of honesty in carrying out duty as per the gospel which was preached by leaders of the Chimurenga struggle.

Lest we forget, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Samora Machel, Kenneth Kaunda and many others who risked their economies and lives of their citizens to liberate Zimbabwe. We must honour them by committing to what they stood for; Pan-Africanism.

Gender based violence and societal prediuce

Phillipa Jaja



The recent rage attack on Samantha Ruvimbo Dzapata by her boyfriend Tafadzwa Murengwa has ignited social media debates across the whole country. It has also exposed societal bias as far as gender roles of male entitlement is concerned thereby raising the need for more awareness on the prevention of gender based violence (GBV).

An audio note recorded by the late Tafadzwa relates how Samantha and her family lived off his money and his goodies. When Samantha appeared to be entertaining the advances of another suitor, a married man, Tafadzwa got enraged, assaulted her and subsequently killed her in a fit of emotional rage.

From a Gender Based Violence (GBV) perspective, Tafadzwa's actions denote an ever increasing rate of passion crimes committed over women. It brings to the core the sad reality of emotional and physical abuse women are suffering at the hands of men mainly because of male entitlement.

Many a time, violence is perpetrated against women because men have a need for power and need to keep reinforcing it. Our society has largely played a role as it has definite stereotypical roles for men and women. Women are generally supposed to be submissive, emotional and compliant with domestic roles. Men on the other hand are brought up with the notion that they are tough, strong, and powerful and have a right

to anger and dominion over women.

The economic sphere has also reinforced men entitlement roles as their being the breadwinners in most families and providers in most relationships has given them considerable power over women. The more a man spends on a woman, the more right of ownership he has over her. Tafadzwa felt that he owned Samantha by virtue of money and freebies to her and her family and society concurs with him and his subsequent actions which led to Samantha's demise.

Some views and opinions being expressed across social media platforms suggest that Samantha's downfall is self-inflicted. People argue that had she not milked Tafadzwa, she would still be alive. Such double minded views of male entitlement in which people still think that giving woman money is sufficient proof to control or even kill her if she oversteps the prescribed boundaries within relationships. Human life is now equated to material things.

Society does not pay heed to Tafadzwa's shortcomings. The mere fact that he was a violent person whom Samantha had sought legal recourse against to the point of reporting him at the Highlands Police Station is dutifully ignored. The deceased was an abusive individual who resorted to physical assault to keep his woman in check. He also threatened violence telling her he would kill her which he subsequently did. This shows emotional abuse that should have been a red flag to the

victim.

Sadly in most instances and despite such apparent warnings, women who opt to stay have been at the receiving ends of violent attacks with society cheering on. So vicious has been the cycle of gender based violence that many women have succumbed to violent attacks leaving them dead or permanently damaged both physically and emotionally. The Sunday Mail online a month ago reported that GBV cases were on the increase with close to 10 000 cases, translating to 105 cases per day having been recorded over the past two and half years according to Musasa Project.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2021 noted that intimate partner violence and sexual violence is a major public health problem and a violation of women's human rights. Estimates it published indicated that globally about 1 in 3 (30%) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their life time. Most of this violence is intimate partner violence and it can negatively affect women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health and may increase the risk of acquiring HIV in some settings.

Given such alarming statistics, Tafadzwa's case is no laughing matter and should be treated as a matter of grave concern. The first port of call is to conscientise the society on the consequences of gender based violence (GBV). Society and the community

should be made to understand that they are the violent victim's keepers. Double minded insinuations which promote intimate partner violence should be done away with and the onus is on everyone to assume the active role of ending violence against any gender be it male or female.

Nationally, social service organizations such as Musasa Project have been at the forefront assisting about 3,000 women victims of domestic and sexual violence and to women living with HIV/AIDS (Daily News 1 Aug, 2000; Musasa Project Aug, 1999; ibid, 1998; CIDA n.d; DANIDA n.d; Country Reports 2001). Additionally, Musasa's other projects include training, counseling and legal services ...to empower women to deal with and prevent further exposure to HIV/AIDS. In addition the organization, together with other human rights organizations have continued to mark the world wide 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence with the intention of ending violence against women and girls.

So much can and should be done to curb violence against any gender and it is everyone's responsibility to hold perpetrators responsible so that extreme cases which lead to death like Tafadzwa and Samantha's tragic case are avoided. Moreover people across every social divide should partner with social service organizations responsible for helping rage victims so that the never ending cycle of Gender Based Violence (GBV) is severely weakened.

GRAPHIC DESIGNING

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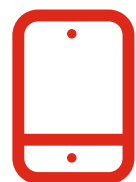


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+26378 299 4101

+26377 192 5176

Why Kenya's presidential election is important

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenyans vote Tuesday to choose a successor to President Uhuru Kenyatta. The race is close and could go to a runoff for the first time.

One top candidate is Raila Odinga, an opposition leader in his fifth run for the presidency who is being supported by former rival Kenyatta. The other is William Ruto, Kenyatta's deputy who fell out with the president earlier in their decade in power.

Both tend to focus far more on domestic issues, raising the question of how either will follow up on Kenyatta's diplomatic efforts for calm in neighboring Ethiopia or in the tensions between Rwanda and Congo.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Kenya is East Africa's economic hub and home to about 56 million people. The country has a recent history of turbulent elections. Even then, it stands out for its relative stability in a region where some elections are deeply challenged and longtime leaders such as Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni have been declared the winner with almost 99% of votes, or been widely accused of physically cracking down on contenders.

Kenya has no transparency in campaign donations or spending. Some candidates for Parliament and other posts are estimated to be spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to gain access to power and its benefits,

both legal and illegal.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CANDIDATES' PLATFORMS?

The 55-year-old Ruto promotes himself to the young and poor as a "hustler" who rose from humble beginnings as a chicken seller in contrast to the elite backgrounds of Kenyatta and Odinga. He seeks greater agricultural productivity and financial inclusion. Agriculture is a main driver of Kenya's economy and about 70% of the rural workforce is in farming.

The 77-year-old Odinga, famous for being jailed while fighting for multi-party democracy decades ago, has promised cash handouts to Kenya's poorest and more accessible health care for all.

WHAT DO VOTERS CARE ABOUT?

Odinga and Ruto have long circled among contenders for the presidency, and there is a measure of apathy among Kenyans, especially younger ones in a country where the median age is about 20. The electoral commission signed up less than half of the new voters it had hoped for, just 2.5 million.

Key issues in every election include widespread corruption and the economy. Kenyans have been hurt by rising prices for food and fuel in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and that comes after the financial pain of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than a third of the country's youth are unemployed.



A policeman guards electoral ballot boxes stored at a tallying center in Nairobi, Kenya, Friday, Aug. 5, 2022. Kenya is due to hold its general election on Tuesday, Aug. 9 as East Africa's economic hub chooses a successor to President Uhuru Kenyatta. (AP Photo)

WHEN WILL KENYA HAVE A WINNER?

Official results will be announced within a week of the vote. To win outright, a candidate needs more than half of all votes and at least 25% of the votes in more than half of Kenya's 47 counties. No outright winner means a runoff election within 30 days.

The previous presidential election in

2017 made history when a top court overturned the results and ordered a new vote, a first in Africa. If the courts again call for a new vote, such an election would take place within 60 days of the ruling. Candidates or others have a week after the results are declared to file a petition to the court, which has two weeks to rule on it.

--AP

Mali pro-junta group demands peacekeepers leave country by September

Members of a Malian civil society group, close to the ruling military government, demanded on Friday that the U.N. mission in Mali, "MINUSMA" leaves the country by September 22.

At the Culture's Palace in Bamako, supporters of the anti-French Yewolo Debout sur les Remparts - or "Yewolo Standing on the Ramparts" - group pledged to take to the streets if the troops did not go.

Supporter of the organisation, Cheikh Ballo, explained why he backed calls to expel French authorities.

"The terrorist in Mali is France and, when we chased France away, what remained was the MINUSMA which is run by the French" he says.

"So, everything that happens in Mali now goes through MINUSMA. That's why the only order of the day is the departure of MINUSMA so that we can find peace because we have lost our sovereignty."

Many of the protesters wore blue bonnets to mock the UN peacekeepers in a move they called - "Operation blue bonnet against blue helmets."

The head of the movement, Adama Ben Diarra, said he had already asked the UN to withdraw from Mali by September.

Speaking to supporters he said: "As you know, we have to get together and go out massively on 22 September 2022 to liberate the country."

"This will be called the 'final assault.' It will be done with very, very determined people

who will go out everywhere in Mali."

Tensions between Mali and the U.N. have been running high in recent last months after Mali refused to authorise a U.N. mission, deployed to investigate alleged ongoing human rights violations in the country.

The Yewolo movement has backed transitional president, Col. Assimi Goita and has organised several protests against France in the past.

The West African country has had two coups since 2020 in which the military has vowed to do more to stop jihadi violence while demanding that French and European troops leave.

--AfricaNews

Monkeypox: When it was an African problem nobody cared, say experts

Before monkeypox announced its silent but far-reaching arrival in Europe and the US, nobody seemed to care, because it was confined to Africa where it is endemic, say experts.

Global public health partners did not give it much attention to the point that it became one of the "neglected" tropical diseases.

Some health experts said the potential of what was happening now was evident as recently as five years ago, as the disease left its endemic zone.

"It turns out that monkeypox emerged out of its Central African endemic zone into West Africa in 2017, five years ago, and the outbreak has been ongoing for five years with no urgency, no response, no World Health Organisation (WHO) engagement around vaccines in those countries," Professor Chris Beyrer from Johns Hopkins University said in his address at the International Aids Conference in Montreal, Canada on Saturday.

Monkeypox: US 'drops the ball' on tests amid vaccine shortage

Experts say that United States has 'dropped the ball' on testing while demand for the vaccine exceeds supplies.

The WHO added neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) were those mainly prevalent in tropical areas, where they mostly affect impoverished communities and disproportionately affect women and children.

These diseases cause devastating health, social and economic consequences.

The WHO added the epidemiology of NTDs was complex and often related to environmental conditions.

Many of them are vector-borne, have animal reservoirs, and are associated with complex life cycles. All these factors make their public-health control challenging. --news24

Solar-powered tricycles ease burden for Zimbabwe's small-scale farmers

For years, selling eggs was a joyless business for Danai Bvochora as most of the money she made went to cover minibus fares to the market in a rural area of Zimbabwe.

That was until a solar-powered electric tricycle changed things for the better.

"We used to carry loads on our heads before. The tricycle has lessened the burden," said the 47-year-old from Domboshava, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

She carefully loads eggs onto the tricycle's trailer before embarking on a bumpy eight-kilometre journey to the market.

"We even use it to go to church and worship," Bvochora said, explaining that a single trip to buy chicken feed from a local business centre used to cost her around €12. But charging her new solar-powered vehicle sets her back only about €2.50 every two weeks, and the mother of two is now making a profit.

Bvochora is among a group of women in Domboshava, a district renowned for its picturesque hills and giant boulders, who received a tricycle last year as part of a

European Union-funded project to assist small-scale farmers.

Assembled by Harare-based social enterprise, Mobility for Africa, the off-road three-wheelers were first introduced into Zimbabwe in 2019 to help women develop their businesses, said the company's director Shantha Bloemen.

Transport has historically been inadequate in sparsely populated rural areas of Zimbabwe, where women often have to walk long distances carrying heavy loads on their heads to trade products, which sometimes spoil on the way in the heat.

But the idea of addressing the problem with electric three-wheelers raised a few eyebrows at first, said American-born Bloemen, who has lived in the country since the 1990s when she came to work for UNICEF.

"It was very lonely when we started," she said, explaining that her team had to work hard to prove to funders that the idea was viable. "No one was talking about electric mobility in Africa let alone for rural women."

Three years later, the social enterprise is

planning to more than triple its current fleet of 88 motorised vehicles by the end of 2022. It operates three solar-powered stations, where drivers can come to swap their lithium battery for a fully charged one when running low on energy -- and foots the bill when something breaks.

Zimbabwe has faced tough economic conditions for more than two decades, with rural areas hard hit. The country's economy is mainly driven by the informal sector, to which these Domboshava women farmers belong.

While some of the three-wheelers -- nicknamed 'Hamba' or 'go' in the local Ndebele language -- were bought by the EU and then gifted to locals, others are rented out for €5 a day.

Phyllis Chifamba, a 37-year-old mother of four, uses her rented vehicle as a taxi. Her clients include sick people going to a clinic, pregnant women going for medical checks, and villagers and farm dwellers going to do their shopping and other errands.

--AN

Loved by men, hated by many

Zvakwana Soweto



With the issue of infidelity in relationships rampant these days, particularly marriages, trending on Zimbabwe social media platforms in the last few days, it is a wise decision for men to the paternity of their children.

This comes after a string of DNA results announced on the popular show, The Closure DNA Show, are proving that men out there are keeping children which they are not biologically related to. The show is hosted by none other than Tinashe Mugabe, popularly known as the 'DNA man.'

The present situation has resulted in intense discussion on whether men should request DNA tests from their wives and significant others upon the birth of children. Unsurprisingly, most men seem to be for the idea of DNA tests, with some going as far as suggesting that paternity tests should be mandatory.

Harare based social commentator, Kudzanayi Sithole supported the idea of mandatory DNAs. "DNAs tests should be mandatory as they give men some peace of mind. Any woman who truly loves their partner must take this as a benefit of their union not as an act of mistrust," he said.

DNA paternity tests are loved by men yet on the other hand are hated by many. This is because genetics don't lie and will reveal the real father of

the child in question. Many a woman have been taking advantage of being selective when choosing who to call the father of the child in the event that they are impregnated and have been having multiple partners.

Some might have heard the name but without a deep understanding of what it really is. Here is a brief definition; DNA paternity testing is an important tool used to prove or disprove a biological parent-child relationship. The test uses a DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) profile for each individual and compares the data to determine if there is a genetic match.

If the child and potential non-gestational parent genetically match, then they are the biological parent. If the data does not match, then they are excluded as the biological parent.

"Fathers play an important role in their child's wellbeing and development and establishing a bond early has many benefits. Paternity testing can help in making sure relationships get off on the right foot by removing any doubts about the identity of a child's father," added Sithole.

Some would be quick to point out that it takes more than DNA to be a good father and children can develop fantastic relationships with adults who are not their biological parents. But there are good reasons to use paternity tests to discover the exact relationship between a man and his

potential child even if the results would not change the way they feel about each other.

Personally, I have watched several DNA shows and I must admit that the painful moment to most men is when results are announced. For instance, Tinashe Mugabe will say;

"The alleged father of the tested child is excluded as the biological father of the tested child. The probability of paternity is 0%."

Every time I hear this, I feel tears in my eyes, I feel the pain but I'm always happy at the end of the day as the man will have found peace of mind.

If you have been living under the same roof and raising the child in question, you probably aren't too happy to hear this news. The same goes for responsible fathers paying child support to a child who is not biologically theirs. The deception and pain are unimaginable.

As couples and single young people, it is a noble idea to accept that a lot is happening in our generation. Having DNA tests must not be taken as an act of lack of trust but a way to bring peace of mind to parties involved. The message here is that those who question paternity should have a paternity test. The sooner the better.

DNA tests are important and are done for several reasons including;

- Sense of identity - a child knowing to whom they are biologically linked
- Health history - hereditary



factors influence preventative health measures

- Benefits - health insurance, social security and other benefits that may benefit biological children

In conclusion, let us all take part in helping and supporting our colleagues to take DNA issues seriously. People must know that genetics do not lie. For your peace of mind, and the future of the child, DNAs are the way to go.

Understanding mental health in children



This topic of mental health and children is one that is barely ever spoken about or taken seriously. Many people think that mental health cannot affect young children, but in most cases their mental health signs/issues start showing at an early stage. It is unfortunate that these signs are ignored and then they manifest into something greater when they are older. It is in these instances then that the family wonders how this happened or how they did not notice this before.

Loss of a friendship can cause a lot of heartbreak and depression in teenagers, and they need to be equipped with ways on how to deal with loss and disappointment. Their issues have to be taken seriously no matter what they are or how old they are. Being mentally healthy during childhood means reaching developmental and emotional milestones as well as learning healthy social skills and how to cope when there are problems. Mentally healthy children have a positive quality of life and can function well at home, in school, and in their communities. When children speak they should not be ignored or put down. In most cases they are trying to communicate to you that something is wrong and they need your help, but most people think they are too young to know or feel anything, and that is false.

Mental health problems affect about one in ten children. These include depression, anxiety and conduct disorder, and are often a direct response to what is happening in their lives. Many children show you what is happening at home through how they play or react. You can tell when someone is being abused or



their family is going through a divorce or hard time. It is your job as the guardian or teacher to know how to pinpoint these signs and what to do about them.

It is scary that most children who experience a mental health problem haven't had appropriate interventions at a sufficiently early age meaning that it becomes bigger than it could be and harder to manage and overcome. The emotional wellbeing of children is just as important as their physical health. Good mental health allows children to develop the resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them and grow into well-rounded, healthy adults especially when they enter university or the working force. We have the power to create and nurture mentally healthy children if only we take them seriously at a very young age and know the signs and intervene correctly.

Things that can help keep children

and young people mentally well include:

Being in good physical health, eating a balanced diet and getting regular exercise and sleep

Having time and the freedom to play, indoors and outdoors

Being part of a family that gets along most of the time and has healthy ways of dealing with issues

Going to a school that looks after the wellbeing of all its pupils

Taking part in local activities or competitions.

Feeling loved, trusted, understood, valued and safe

Being hopeful and optimistic

Being able to learn and having opportunities to succeed

Accepting who they are and recognizing what they are good at and being supported in that

Having a sense of belonging in their family, school and community

Feeling they have some control over their own life

Ability to solve problems.

Mostly things that happen to children don't lead to mental health problems on their own, but traumatic events can trigger problems for children. Changes often act as triggers: moving home or school or the birth of a new brother or sister, divorce or a death in the family. Teenagers often experience emotional turmoil as their minds and bodies develop. An important part of growing up is working out and accepting who you are. Some young people find it hard to make this transition to adulthood and may experiment with alcohol, sex, drugs or other substances that can affect mental health.

There are certain risk factors that make some children more likely to experience problems than other children, but they don't necessarily mean difficulties are bound to come up or are even probable.

Such as:

Having a long-term physical illness

Having a parent who has had mental health problems, problems with alcohol or drugs etc

Experiencing the death of someone close to them

Having parents who separate or divorce

Having been severely bullied or physically or sexually abused

Living in poverty or being homeless

Experiencing discrimination, perhaps because of their race, sexuality or religion

Being the breadwinner of the family at a young age

Being abused and beaten

Educational difficulties or developmental issues.

Let us take our Children's MENTAL health seriously, they are not seeking for attention but for help

Ambassador Guo answers burning questions

China's envoy in Harare, Ambassador Guo Shaochun last Thursday engaged members of the Fourth Estate and fielded a number of questions, including from this publication. The questions ranged from local issues to global issues. Below, we reproduced the interactive question and answer exchange:

What is China's position in the Russia-Ukraine conflict in relation to the Belt and Road Initiative?

A: The Ukrainian crisis is developing in a way that goes beyond itself, with spillovers affecting the whole world. China shares similar concerns and positions with Zimbabwe and many other countries. The situation in Ukraine lies in complex causes, but the root cause is the Cold War mentality and power politics. Dialogue and negotiation is the fundamental way out. All parties should take concrete actions to cool down the situation instead of adding fuel to the fire.

What are some of the major infrastructural development projects done by the Chinese government in Zimbabwe, of these which ones are loans and which ones are grants?

Daily news: Are there any future big projects that China is looking into aiding Zimbabwe? This comes after the successful completion of the new parliament building and of course the Robert Mugabe international Airport that's in progress.

A: In recent years, China supports Zimbabwe in constructing many major infrastructural projects. For example, the new parliament building, national pharmaceutical warehouse, 1000 China-aid boreholes and Mahusekwa District Hospital all built with China's grants. The Kariba South Hydropower Extension Project, the Victoria Falls International Airport Extension Project, the Hwange thermal power station expansion, RGM International Airport expansion and phase of Netone's mobile broadband upgrade are built with Chinese concessional loans. We also helped rebuild houses, schools and clinics destroyed by Cyclone Idai under a joint initiative between China and UNDP. These major projects play critical role in the development of the country and make a real difference in the life of ordinary Zimbabweans.

In the near future, more projects will be launched. This is the action to jointly implement nine programs proposed by President Xi Jinping at the 8th Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC. The China-aid projects include another 300 boreholes, the second phase of Zimbabwe Center for High Performance computing, Anti-Narcotics Laboratory, the Technical Aid of Agricultural Experts Group Implementation Program (Phase IV) and 3 Demonstration Villages for Agriculture Technology.

What is the embassy doing about the Local Chinese firms that keep flouting ZIMRA tax laws? For example local firms do not issue their receipts in English it is written in Mandarin which is not a local language, also another example being that local firms do not bank their US\$ which is depriving ZIMRA of forex.

New Zimbabwe: I am interested in knowing initiatives being taken by

some environmentally conscious Chinese companies in rehabilitating land they would have mined, or used in any other way. This is based on accusations to some that they are leaving the land degraded, thereby straining the two peoples relations.

A: First of all, I cannot acknowledge your assertions since all the business in Zimbabwe are being operated in line with Zimbabwean law. The Chinese Embassy is not a law-enforcement agency. We suggest the media to interview the Zimbabwean authorities to get the true and comprehensive information.

General speaking, Chinese companies have been investing in and growing with Zimbabwe for years. They have created thousands of local jobs, increased the country's tax revenues and forex inflows, upskilled local workers, and generated business opportunities for local companies.

Meanwhile, our basic position is clear. All business including those from China, must comply with the laws and regulations in the host country. Wrongdoers must be held accountable. We support Zimbabwe in strengthening its regulatory framework and law enforcement. We call for a compliance monitoring team composed of government officials, local councilors, and community representatives to be set up in foreign-invested companies. If anyone finds the possible wrongdoings of Chinese companies in Zimbabwe, he or she is welcome to file official complaints to the relevant Zimbabwean authorities, but we suggest such complaints consist of necessary basic elements such as who, when, what and where, etc.

Several Chinese funded infrastructure projects are taking shape in Zimbabwe. Is there scope for Zimbabwe to further benefit from Chinese investment under the belt and road initiative and private sector led investments?

What other cooperation and highlights will China and Zimbabwe have this year?

A: China and Zimbabwe cooperation will be further strengthened in the next few years as I mentioned. I would like to share with you some examples. China will provide an additional 10 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines to Zimbabwe this year; China will step up its efforts to drill more boreholes for Zimbabwean people; China will continue to send agricultural experts to Zimbabwe for more training courses; China will start to import citrus fruits from Zimbabwe after the signing of the phytosanitary requirement between the two countries; China will donate Zimbabwe an Anti-Narcotics Laboratory for peace and security cooperation and launch the China-aid project of second phase of Zimbabwean Center for High Performance computing; We will encourage more reputable Chinese enterprises to invest in Zimbabwe.

Private players are also doing a great job. For example, Dinson Iron and Steel Company (DISCO) has completed a lot of the preliminary work for its 1-billion-US-dollar project. Equipment worth 100 million USD has been placed at the

steel plant site in Mvuma. It has hired a 600-strong workforce and 90% of them are Zimbabweans. And about 14,000 jobs will be created in the near future. A new town is expected to rise from the investment.

Chinese investors that have recently invested in lithium mines in Zimbabwe are all large private companies and domestically and internationally-listed sector bellwether. The investments are acquisitions of shares from third-country companies through open bidding on the market. The projects were either lying dormant or sustaining losses. Chinese investments will bring out the real value of these resources. This is good for each party, including Zimbabwe. When operations start, the Chinese companies will pay various fees and taxes in accordance with the law, sell the required portion of their export earnings to the central bank, and more importantly bear the huge risk of uncertain returns. More than 50% of the total returns from the projects will go to the government and people of Zimbabwe. The companies are also prepared to invest more to improve the area in which they work, such as building clinic, school and water supply for the local communities. A large number of jobs are also expected to be created.

Chinese companies have assisted Zimbabwe in revamping its energy infrastructure and this is also happening in Zambia. What does this indicate about China's commitment to Africa's energy future and are there any more significant investments that will be made in the region?

A: China and Zimbabwe have been conducting successful cooperation on Kariba South Hydro-power Station Extension Project and the Hwange thermal power station expansion. These two projects will increase Zimbabwe's current electricity generating capacity by 50 percent.

To implement the nine programs proposed by President Xi Jinping, China will encourage more Chinese enterprises to participate in the green energy cooperation with African countries. We will explore the possibility of cooperation with Zimbabwe to further develop hydro and wind power stations, to ease the electricity shortage and improve its energy structure.

It's believed that Africa has been witnessing intensifying competition between China and the US. China has maintained that China-US relations are not a zero-sum game, emphasizing cooperation over competition. In what ways do you think the two countries can cooperate in Africa so as to boost the development of the continent?

A: China and the US share extensive common interests and profound cooperation potential. Competition does exist in some areas such as trade, but it should not be used to define China-US relations.

The US should forego Cold War mentality, view China and China's development from an objective perspective, develop a deep understanding of the mutually beneficial nature of China-US

relations, and adopt rational and practical China policies. It should enhance dialogue and communication with China, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, properly handle differences, and embark on a path of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

China welcome all the international partners to support the development of Africa and is ready to work with them for further cooperation. We call on the US to remove its unilateral sanctions on Zimbabwe as its first step to improve its relationship with the country. If there is a competition in Zimbabwe, let's compete to do more for Zimbabwe and its people.

What is Embassy doing to strengthen relationship between Chinese employers and local workers?

A: For years, Chinese companies have not only created thousands of local jobs, but also actively conducted their social responsibilities for the local communities by building hospitals, schools and roads, drilling boreholes, donating foodstuff and PPEs, etc. Most Chinese employers keep good relationship with local workers. Some allegations of improper practices by a few Chinese employers are mainly because of misunderstanding or cultural difference. The Embassy's position is clear that all Chinese companies are encouraged to do more for local people and must comply with the laws, regulations, culture and customs of the host country. Wrongdoers must be held accountable. The Embassy also encourage and support Zimbabwean government, medias, local communities and all other stakeholder in promoting the mutual understanding and good relations between Chinese employers and local workers.

China continues to grow as Africa's infrastructure and trade partner, but the people-to-people relations are not developing at the same rate. What new things can be done by both African and Chinese government to improve mutual relations at people-to-people level?

A: The people-to-people exchange play a very important role in improving the country-to-country relations. In fact, China and Africa have always kept close people-to-people exchanges for many years. Affected by Covid-19, the physical exchange between peoples have been decreased in recent years, while the on-line exchanges remain active. In light of changes of the global pandemic landscape, I believe the people-to-people exchanges between our two countries will recover to the normal scale and to be further expanded.



EDITORS COMMENT

SINCERITY OF THE CHINESE

In this issue we carry a considerable package of coverage of the media conference that Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Guo Shaochun had last week in Harare.

China has become an important global player, and its representative here warrants some attention.

Perhaps, that is to understate it.

With the increasing importance that China has gained as a global player, the media here have been key in narrativising the role of the Asian giant and its relationship with the State and people of Zimbabwe.

The media coverage has been a mixed bag.

We cannot say we have heard the full story of China in Zimbabwe yet.

What is worse, our polarised media have been limited. Sometimes, severely so.

Sometimes deliberately so.

The story of China in Zimbabwe, and the relations between the two countries deserve to be told in a much more impartial manner.

On Thursday, as Mr Guo engaged the media, he outlined a number of important points that bear respect, because of their absolute sincerity.

Among other important representations, Mr Guo said China did not condone wrongdoing by its nationals or companies here, and has been urging authorities to take strong measures to bring accountability and compliance with the laws of the land. Mr Guo even quipped that his Embassy was not a law-enforcement agency, just like the Zimbabwean Embassy in Beijing would not enforce laws in that capital.

There is a strong indication in this statement that China has done all it can to abide by the laws and conditions in Zimbabwe, and that some loopholes represent shortfalls on the Zimbabwean side as well.

China has also done lots of good things in Zimbabwe for over 50 years, and the last thing it deserves is cynicism.

China obviously knows what friendship is, and should be like.

It has acted its part – but is perhaps a little underappreciated.

Ignorance is one thing; but mischief and malice are quite another – and that is what China's detractors are about.

China has been open about its interests in Zimbabwe and there is a lot of information in the public domain about the investments and interests of Beijing here.

Increasingly, more Chinese companies are overcoming cultural barriers and becoming more open in terms of their activities, including works of philanthropy that they barely publicised previously.

Chinese companies have been engaging communities and stakeholders in an increasing and systematic manner where their investments are concerned.

Sadly, these efforts go unnoticed by detractors, who actually are spurred on to try and smear China.

Mr Guo says the Chinese Embassy and business community will defend their companies that are wrongly accused or slandered in the media. That is not a bad thing, either.

An observer would get a sense that China has been doing a double job in Zimbabwe: on the one hand doing good works, and also trying to convince stakeholders that it means well.

That is a sad state of affairs.

China deserves some more respect.



2023 election fine as a constitutional obligation, but..



Community Eye

with

Ngwindi Ngwindingwindi



Memories of dark phases of history are still vivid in the minds of many Zimbabweans. We have people in our societies who do not want to hear about politics, they no longer want to hear about elections. They still suffer different degrees of trauma as a result of horror scenes which they were made to witness in times of barbaric election campaigns and aftermath thereof.

Answers are yet to be provided for questions on conduct of political hooligans who avail themselves to commission of unruly acts upon fellow citizens. Could it be some diabolic spirit which possesses a person when they are assigned a role for political campaign or just mere overzealousness. As a proponent of peace and progress in Zimbabwe, I suggested in my recent article that the country suspends elections for a certain period of time to allow healing and make people be able to find each other as brothers and sisters of the same nation. I still hold grip on that position until there are indicative signs of genuine will to display tolerance and political maturity. However, my voice on that may drown in other people's quest for power, so as we head towards 2023 elections, it is imperative that we highlight areas which must be corrected for promotion of peace and harmony.

Other citizens will narrate the horrors of 2008 post-election violence which targeted dissenting voices, while some will rekindle memories of the 'moment of madness', Gukurahundi era of 1980s whose foundation was built on racialism, politics and regionalism. August 1 2018 comes to picture as well and must be avoided. It is indeed so shameful that as a people we degenerate to such levels



of inhuman behaviors just in a contest for power to rule. How will it feel living in the neighbourhood of bereaved families of people whom you will have put to death. There are divisive tendencies among politicians which ignite unfortunate scenarios such as the aforementioned dark phases of Zimbabwe's history. When we still see each other as enemies based of difference of ethnic background, race and political ideology, then it simply means that we are still far from being able to accept and handle electoral outcomes, thereby unleashing terror on perceived enemies.

Our young men and women must learn that there is no benefit in wasting other people's lives. They may submit to serving an individual's interests and paid paltry tokens, but judicial and natural justice will follow the one who would have killed; "ngozi haiendi kubato ripi kana ripi zvaro, inouya kumba kwako..." It is the majority wish that elections be conducted peacefully in the pre- and post voting days and that both the victors and losers shake hands with the aim of chatting a way forward for the country together. Unfortunately, this kind of gesture is alien to the

political culture in this country.

When we mention election, there are big questions which come to the fore; are we going to witness maturity and humility being displayed by contesting sides throughout the whole process? Is it necessary to harm each other when our common objective is to just serve the nation? As a constitutional obligation, the election will go ahead as stipulated, but judging from the past and prevailing behavioural trends of our political leaders and some overzealous activists, I am reading here a prescription for chaos. This may sound more of a prophecy of doom in judging, but sometimes we have to be bold and say it as we see it. The political climate in Zimbabwe is not conducive enough for a free and fair election because indications are already clear: no party is prepared to accept an outcome which favours the other because losing bid or losing power at this juncture will not be easy to welcome.

I shall not talk of all these documented electoral reforms before talking about the will to behavioural change. Confrontational politics will always meet its match and produce undesirable consequences, so it must be avoided at all costs. This is the area where we have a very serious challenge with political activists who are not schooled on the subject of tolerance. It starts with the leaders who sometimes spit inflammatory speeches which incite mayhem in societies. We must in our various spheres condemn in strongest terms public incitement of violence and political persecutions. Every citizen regardless of their social status, has a responsibility to observe rights of other human beings in their entirety. That way, we will be able to progress as a nation with minimal hindrance.

I shall conclude by warning Zimbabwe of the imminent clashes during election build up period and a dispute after the election. We need to learn to contain disputes which escalate to loss of lives and property.

About us

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

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

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

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Beyoncé has helped usher in a renaissance for African artists

Beyoncé has released her seventh solo studio album, titled Renaissance (2022). The album, an event in global popular culture, is the first of a three-part project by the US artist. Her previous outing, the visual album Black is King (2020), collaborated with a host of African artists. Renaissance pays tribute to black dance music and again features African artists, including Nigerian singer-songwriter Tems, who is having a global moment of her own.

Beyoncé has involved various African artists in her projects and many a time introduced them to international audiences. Before Black is King, these include poetry by Kenyan-born Warsan Shire on Lemonade, a quote by Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie on Flawless (2013) and choreography by Tofo Tofo – the Mozambique-based dance group – in the Run the World (Girls) video.

Though not as prominently as on Black is King, Beyoncé has included African artists on Renaissance too, particularly on the song Move, which has an Afrobeats-inspired style and features P2J (Nigeria) and GuiltyBeatz (Ghana) as producers, as well as Tems as a writer and performer.

Tems (Temilade Openiyi), a versatile vocalist who also writes songs, rose to fame after being featured on Essence (2020) by Nigerian star vocalist WizKid. Her discography consists of music across different genres, including alternative R&B, neo-soul and Afropop. Her debut single Mr Rebel (2018) displays her R&B talents (as both a producer and vocalist), while her 2021 feature on Canadian rapper Drake's Fountains shows her ability to convey emotions through her voice.

Tems' name is on everyone's lips following the release of the trailer for the Black Panther movie sequel set to her cover of

Bob Marley's No Woman, No Cry. She has contributed to the renewal of perceptions towards Afropop and commercial African music, and its popularisation across the globe through her unique style of music.

Black is King

I believe that when Black people tell our own stories, we can shift the axis of the world and tell our REAL history of generational wealth and richness of soul that are not told in our history books. – Beyoncé

Black is King, Beyoncé's previous album, is a celebration of African traditions with a "modern twist". In the visual album, she incorporates a Pan-African-inspired lens and integrates elements from several African countries. She partners with various African actors, directors, designers, choreographers and musicians, highlighting the continent's diversity.

Viewers are exposed to African elements ranging from music genres like Afrobeats (Nigeria) and gqom (South Africa) to popular dance styles like the Network (Ghana) and Kpakujemu (Nigeria). There are also visuals of landscapes across the continent.

Beyoncé must not mistakenly be credited with originating these elements, nor even popularising them. They existed and were appreciated by people long before she started filming. However, one cannot deny the instrumental role Beyoncé has played in bringing these elements to the forefront of global popular culture as a result of her platform as an international star.

Moreover, the visual album portrays a more accurate representation of the African continent and its diversity than other works that adopt an African label in global popular culture. Black is King has introduced a renaissance of Africa's image in popular media and empowered many



African and black people as they finally feel more represented in mainstream popular culture.

Renaissance

Beyoncé has once again incorporated an element of renewal on Renaissance. Through the 16 tracks on the album, she takes listeners on a journey with the stated intention of creating a safe space, free from judgement, perfectionism and overthinking. Listeners are exposed to music that channels the Studio 54 disco era of the 1970s with effortless transitions to more contemporary pop, R&B and house genres.

Early disco music was influenced by the funk, soul and jazz of the late 1960s, and combined these styles with technology such as synthesizers, multitrack recordings and drum machines. This created a lavish and decadent form of dance-orientated pop music characterised by a steady beat and vocals that are prominent, high and reverberated. The genre was at its peak between 1975 to early 1979, with artists such as Donna Summer and Gloria Gaynor dominating the charts.

On the appropriately titled Renaissance,

Beyoncé has brought this style back to the forefront of pop culture, introducing many young listeners to it. From the outset of the lead single Break My Soul, listeners are exposed to the album's pervasive dance-pop and house-inspired style. Beyoncé successfully integrates music genres including pop, electronic house, Afrobeats, trap and soul, to name a few, in combination with various disco influences. Through the lyrics on the album, an overarching sense of self-love and pride is portrayed. This resembles the music by one of South Africa's and the continent's most prominent pop artists, Brenda Fassie (1964–2004).

Throughout her career, Fassie, one of the queens of African pop, made disco and pop music that was influenced by her township roots. Her iconic music narrated the stories of black South Africans during the country's apartheid era.

Global stage

When considering how popular music acts as a locus for social change within popular culture, it is evident that Beyoncé plays a key role in shaping parts of popular societal thought. --The Conversation

Cheso powers in Dubai



Alick Macheso performing in Dubai last weekend (PICTURES BY ZEE SWETO, IN DUBAI)



Inflation is spiking in Zimbabwe (again) Why high interest rates aren't the answer

The central bank of Zimbabwe has raised its benchmark rate from 80% to a fresh record of 200%. This increase comes as Russia's invasion of Ukraine is driving global commodity prices higher, exacerbating inflation in many countries around the world, including Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube's thinking is that aggressive tightening of monetary policy is necessary to counter these inflationary pressures. In Zimbabwe too there has been a rise in the prices of imported food, fuel, fertiliser and other essential commodities.

This is why, according to the minister, inflation accelerated to 192% in June.

In fact inflation was highly elevated prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. From 2000, it rapidly increased from single digits to 114% in 2004, climbed even higher to hit 157% in 2008, and then peaked at 558% in 2020.

There are two longstanding fundamental drivers of inflation in Zimbabwe. The first is monetary expansion that is not supported by economic growth. When there is more money in the economy than goods and services that can be purchased with it, its purchasing power falls and prices increase.

The second relates to what Zimbabweans now expect when it comes to inflation. Expectations are usually anchored when prices of goods and services are stable over time and consistent with what people expect to pay for them. In Zimbabwe this is no longer the case – expectations have been de-anchored. This happens when prices significantly differ from what people expect. If they are getting higher, this can have an inflationary effect by driving up wages and demand for goods and services. Higher wages and demand in turn could push prices even higher, thus making inflation expectations self-fulfilling.

An example of another country that was gripped by hyperinflation and a de-anchoring of expectations is Venezuela in 2017.

But there are risks to the Zimbabwe central bank's decision to hike rates too aggressively. Higher rates could reduce output, while prices continue to rise as in the 1970s. These conditions are referred to as stagflation.

This is concerning as growth in Zimbabwe and other African countries is already projected to decelerate in the next few years due to higher global inflation, tighter global financing conditions, debt distress, additional supply disruptions and increased risk of geoeconomic

fragmentation for the world economy.

The backdrop

After independence in 1980, the central bank of Zimbabwe managed to keep prices from running out of control. During that decade inflation ranged between 10% and 20%. The situation radically changed in the 1990s when the economy slumped after the government introduced a land reform programme.

This was meant to redistribute land from the white minority (which owned most of the country's fertile agricultural land) to the majority black Zimbabweans who had been disenfranchised under the colonial period. But the programme was poorly implemented and benefited mostly senior government officials and people closely connected to them.

The result was a sharp drop in agricultural output, which had been an important source of exports, foreign currency and employment.

At the same time tax revenues plummeted as the economy contracted, prompting the government to finance higher spending by printing money. Because this monetary expansion was not accompanied by greater economic growth, inflation quickly accelerated.

In the 2000s, the inflation problem became so severe that Zimbabwe was gripped in a bout of hyperinflation which spurred a sharp weakening of the local currency and triggered a de-anchoring of inflation expectations.

Initially, the government attempted to rein in inflation by imposing price controls, without much success. Instead, this move sparked widespread shortages of products and promoted an underground economy where price controls were not enforced.

The first episode of hyperinflation ended in 2009 when the government decided to replace the worthless Zimbabwe dollar with the US dollar. This move quelled inflation until 2018, when a new local currency was introduced.

This new currency soon set off a second episode of hyperinflation. Confidence in the Zimbabwe dollar had been severely dented by the previous episode of hyperinflation and the US dollar continued to be the preferred currency to use by households and firms, even with the new local currency in circulation.

Additionally, it was feared that the government would again revert to printing money to finance a swelling budget deficit. For these reasons, the new Zimbabwe dollar wasn't popular and its purchasing power quickly eroded, setting in motion a steep increase in prices.



Recently released gold coin

Inflation surged to a staggering 255% in 2019, up from a modest 11% in 2018. It further accelerated in 2020, peaking at 558% that year. It has come down since then, but has nevertheless remained elevated.

Difficult times

New measures announced by the minister of finance include re-introduction of the US dollar, which will be used along with the Zimbabwe dollar. This is the second time the government has taken this step. The first was in 2009, when the Zimbabwe dollar was abandoned after its value had collapsed following the first bout of hyperinflation.

In addition, the central bank will introduce gold coins, which will serve as a store of value and can also be used as collateral and to conduct transactions. By doing so, the central bank is implicitly admitting that the printed Zimbabwe dollar in circulation has failed to perform its role as a store of value and means of exchange.

The cost of living crisis stoked by high inflation has already fuelled numerous strikes by government employees. Most recently, teachers and health workers went on strike to demand higher pay.

The prospect that growing labour unrest will radiate across other sectors looms large. Therefore, with expectations of higher inflation now firmly entrenched, the central bank's aggressive policy tightening will most likely temper demand,

while doing little to fix the economy's enduring weak production capacity.

If this happens, the more hawkish response from the central bank raises the risk of stagflation – the combination of faltering demand and accelerating prices. This raises the risk that the economy could descend into a recession.

Better options

The fundamental and longstanding drivers of inflationary pressures in Zimbabwe are lax monetary policy and de-anchored inflation expectations, not the war in Ukraine, which is currently receiving the most attention from policy makers.

The central bank should therefore focus more on tackling the underlying drivers of inflation.

To restrain monetary growth, it should start by scrapping the Zimbabwe dollar and legalise use of the US dollar as planned. This would help as the US dollar provides a superior store of value and would force the government to wean itself off dependence on printing money.

Finally, sound and credible central bank communication plays a key role in anchoring views that Zimbabwean people have about inflation. This is worth noting because Zimbabwe's central bank has not maintained a strong record of keeping inflation low and stable for more than a decade. Trust in the institution is low.

--The Conversation



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Esau Amisi relives career ending injury

Shelly Guni



At the age of 29, most footballers would be at the height of their careers, some living their dreams of playing in top flight leagues in Europe.

But for former Dynamos striker, Esau Amisi, 29 was the age at which he decided to call it quits—through an injury caused after a freak incident during training at the once touted ceremonial home of football, Rufaro Stadium.

Amisi has been retired from professional football for seven years, but the emotional and physical suffering persists.

Amisi was arguably one of the nation's next brightest prospects when he was injured during a training session at Rufaro in 2011.

The pint-sized former Dynamos forward had announced himself through the famed Moses Chunga's kidznet project.

However, having been forced to play injured, Amisi eventually hung his boots after failing to raise money for surgery.

Talking to Amisi now, it is evident he is bitter.

Now 37, probably Amisi should just be tapering off as a player but instead, this is a man whose career truly ended at 29 "I can say my career ended in 2011 because the other 4 years I was just trying to make ends meet to which it didn't work out until I finally hung my boots in 2015," Amisi said

The 2011 incident was at Rufaro Stadium, then home ground to Harare giants, Dynamos.

"I had just signed a contract with Dynamos so it was a training session at Rufaro. I remember Rufaro had this artificial turf. I was in full speed when I fell down and landed on my knee. At that time I didn't feel any pain because the leg was numb but when I went back home that's when I realised that it was really bad. It was becoming hard for me to walk," he says.

From the way he explains, one could see that the memories are still fresh. While many would seek medical attention immediately, Amisi just took in some pain killers and continued with his life as normal.

All he was trying to do was to please his coach so that he could be registered in the squad that was going to play for that particular season.

Amisi was just coming from Chicken Inn where he had helped the team to win promotion into the Castle Lager Premier

Soccer League.

Before that, he was part of the Gunners squad that won the Premiership title in 2009.

He continues: "After that injury, I continued with my training although I could feel the pain. It got to the extent that coach Lloyd Mutasa noticed it and that was that. I wasn't registered."

After failing to make the squad, that is when he decided to seek medical help. But after considering his background, where he is the breadwinner with his whole family looking up to him, Amisi didn't give heed to the doctor's directive, in fact he asked to be loaned to Shooting Stars.

"The doctor told me to rest for more than 8 months and with the pressure I had I started taking some pain killers and asked to be loaned to Shooting Stars. My pocket was running dry due to not playing and with the belief that I will be fine, it actually got worse," he says.

After realising that he was no longer performing well and the injury was getting worse, he then decided to take the eight months rest as previously advised by his doctor, only to come back in 2013.

"I came back and started training with CAPS United but come mid-season when I was about to be registered, the problem recurred so I decided to take another rest.

"In 2014 I went to a Division One team where my leg was now responding well and I was gaining match fitness as well but I only played for one season and the next season I joined another division one team which later disbanded. That was when I decided to leave the pitch."

Amisi explained that persistent injuries had a huge impact in what was happening to him, which led him to making the bold decision to end his career.

"As any other footballer, I was unlucky with injuries," he says.

"When you are always injured sometimes your injuries can also come from the mindset, the state of mind when you are no longer playing, not able to do what you used to do before.

"I did my part in football. The last injury I had contributed to my retirement because I couldn't get medical help. It was no longer good for me," he added.

Born and bred in Chitungwiza, Amisi went to Fungisai Primary school where he was scouted by Dynamos who later offered him a scholarship to attend Churchill Boys High. His love for football started way back when he used to watch the likes of Norman Mapeza, Kalisto

Pasuwa and many other legends who stayed in Chitungwiza in action.

"I grew up in the Dynamos family. They took me when I was in grade 6 and gave me a scholarship to Churchill. While at Churchill we won a number of tournaments that also impressed DeMbare. I remember getting a contract and playing in the (DeMbare) first team. My first game I was in form 4, in Rufaro. We played against Effiel Flats."

Amisi regrets lacking proper advisors in his career as he found himself hopping from one team to another.

He believes if he had a manager who could at least advise him on some of the decisions to make he could have done better in his career.

"The fact that you will be on demand, I lacked proper advice because you can see that I couldn't stay at one place for long. And also when I get to that team they would want to make me work so hard that even if you tell them that you are feeling some pain they will still make you play.

"I won't disclose names of the teams but there are a number of games that I ended up being injected with pain killers before the game so that I can just play but after the game no one would do a follow up.

"So I can say that led me to so many injuries because they were not healing and I was not getting medical help," he says.

However, he added that he was happy to learn that the artificial turf was going to be removed.

"That turf was so hard. It is not recommended to play in a surface like that. That is the reason why when I felt I was really affected because it's a hard surface.

"When I heard that they were removing the artificial turf I was so happy because I can say there are a number of people that were affected by that surface."

"It's the same pitch that made me shine, it holds all the glory and good moments for me and also the worst nightmare because that's the same venue I got injured in," he adds

He said lack of funds also made him forego the option of getting help. He had to choose between fending for his family and raising funds for the injured leg."

"It was a hard decision. I had to give up on my career so that I can look for other means to help the family. I couldn't continue to play because the more I played the more I got hurt and the more I needed medical help," he said.

Currently he is looking after his family

and also his late siblings' children.

"I am the only surviving male child in my family. We were four boys and the other three are all late. They left behind children that I am taking care of.

"For myself I have a daughter who is now 10-years old. So I must make sure that all of them get the same. I am also looking after my ailing mother.

He added: "Currently, I am not employed. I used to be but this injury sometimes it makes it hard for me to walk so I am now home and managing a Zimdancehall artist Bernard "Liquid Yonke" Hweta."

Amisi remembers the year where he was supposed to leave for Malta.

He said he made a decision which was based on emotions and love for his team, Dynamos.

"In 2005 I had a chance to go abroad, there was this country called Malta that I wanted to go but Dembare came back looking for me. I felt for my team as they were battling relegation. So we helped the team to survive."

He played alongside the likes of Norman Maroto, Samson Choruwa, Eddie Mashiri, Leo Kurauzvione amongst many other players. His wish is to start a football Academy.

"For me to be a star it was because of someone. I want to start an Academy just to impart my knowledge to the youngsters and nurture their talent. You find that there seems like there is no competition in the national team because our junior policy is now dead.

"During our time, Dynamos vs CAPS United under 13 it would be war. So I think there is no push. I wish to revive that. If I can get help, and funding I am willing to give it my all."

Amisi believes he could have made it to the national team but says, "I think it's just cruelty in Zimbabwe because I remember the Warriors coach once wanted me in the national team but he was made to believe that I was too short."

However, the former star is appealing to well-wishers to help him get medical help. "The last time I made consultations, the specialists in South Africa were talking about something like US\$300 but as I said earlier I couldn't raise that amount. If I can get someone to help me I will forever be grateful. I am always in pain to the extent that I breakdown especially during winter it is something else.

"So, please help me so that I can be able to fulfil my dream," he says.

CAF slam Napoli owner for 'irresponsible and unacceptable' remarks on AFCON, Africa stars

CAF have condemned Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis over his recent remarks regarding African players.

The Italian said that unless African players sign an agreement backing out of the Africa Cup of Nations, the Serie A club will not sign players from the continent. Consequently, Caf has asked Uefa to institute disciplinary action against De Laurentiis.

"Caf is appalled by the irresponsible and unacceptable remarks made by Napoli president, Mr. Aurelio De Laurentiis, on African players and the Africa Cup of Nations," the statement by the African body read.

"By publicly declaring that players who sign for Napoli must sign a waiver denouncing participation in the Africa Cup of Nations as a condition of employment, De Laurentiis' comments are likely to fall under

Article 14 of the Uefa disciplinary regulations. Caf, therefore, urges Uefa to initiate a disciplinary investigation against him."

While stating the unique unifying role football plays in the world, Caf wondered whether Napoli's president would restrict their transfer activities involving players from regions other than Africa.

"Caf is committed to the role that football plays in Africa, Europe, North and South America, Asia, and globally in bringing together and uniting people of different cultures, language groups, races, ethnic groups, and religious backgrounds," the statement added.

"We have no doubt that Napoli and Uefa are as committed as Caf is to these global humanitarian objectives.

"Are we to assume that the Chairman of Napoli is going to include similar



Napoli owner, Aurelio De Laurentiis

restrictive conditions for players from South America, Asia, and other confederations, prohibiting them from playing in their continental competitions, which are important for the development and growth of football globally?

"The African Cup of Nations is the

flagship competition of the African continent and one of the leading global football competitions. Its last edition in Cameroon was shown in more than 160 countries and attracted more than 600 million viewers."

Caf's statement follows a comment made by Nigeria's assistant coach, Usman Abdallah, who said De Laurentiis' remarks lacked respect.

"Even at that, his statement shows a lack of respect for Africa and it is stupid to say that. It is so disheartening that someone of his calibre can make such a statement," Abdalla said.

"Some will tag this as racism because he only mentioned Africans and not players from other continents."

Cameroon's Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa and Nigeria forward Victor Osimhen are the current African players with the Serie A club. --GW

Table tennis not for the elite- ZTTU

Shelly Guni



In order to advance the sport of Table Tennis in the country, there is a need for brand recognition and the creation of successful facilities all over the nation, Tinashe Duri, secretary-general of the Zimbabwe Table Tennis Union (ZTTU) says.

Duri made the remarks soon after the successful hosting of the Zimbabwe Open Tournament at Divaris Makaharis School recently.

"We need more brand visibility for our game. Table tennis is for all and not for only the elite. I grew up in Kuwadzana and played; now I'm in administration. Our strategy is to re-establish more playing centres in high density suburbs, schools, churches, hotels, city council parks and that way we will have more people to have access to the game," said Duri.

He also noted that the tournament was a success as a number of affiliates registered at the tournament with the opportunity still open for the parties willing to be part of the sport.

"We managed to register 99 affiliates on the tournament. These include coaches, athletes and umpires. The tournament was fine, we saw the giants claiming back their titles from the juniors which means they have been working hard to retain their titles."



"There was a good representation from our provinces: Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Harare, Bulawayo and Mashonaland West. We also had ZUSA teams which came to participate. We look forward to having all our provinces being represented in the upcoming Zimbabwe closed tournament."

"However, there was a low turnout from our government schools being our seedbed of athletes. Most of them were crying about economic hardships, as executives we agreed to engage schools early and plan together on modalities to have athletes participate. We do not want talent to sink, I am sure we will work out a plan

with the schools that will see more government schools taking part."

He also thanked Divaris Makaharis school for their support in offering the venue for the tournament and all who made the weekend a success.

"We continue to thank Divaris for the established long lasting relationship. The venue is now our permanent Zim Open table tennis venue and our athletes enjoyed the good environment. We also want to thank athletes, umpires, TICs, coaches and the executive members from all provinces for keeping our beloved sport alive," he said.

From all the categories, winners had cash prizes for seniors whilst juniors won table tennis each and playing kits. From the under-10 girls and boys category, Talia Mahachi and Nyasha Dhliwayo claimed first positions respectively.

Naama Boterere and Trust Madoro also came first in the under 15 girls' and boys category respectively.

Kudakwashe Chidhakwa was the champion in the under-21 girls category whilst Tinotenda Fambira also came first in the men's category.

For open men's doubles, open women's and open men's singles, Singh Vikram and Brian Chamboko, Ashley Dlamini and Vikram Singh were the winners respectively.

HSA seeks to revive softball

Shelly Guni



Harare Softball Association is on a drive to groom and develop players in the country.

This comes after the association hosted trials for under 16 and 20 in the capital last week.

HSA chairman Tawonashe Paswavavira said their main objective is to reignite the Harare softball team "In order to improve in mobility, stability, strength, and power are all products of solid strength and these qualities will contribute to all aspects of our softball game and making our player to have more game time and better player on and off the field," he said.

"Since the coming of Covid-19 the people's participation in sport and physical activity has been profound, government enforcement of lockdown required many sports and leisure facilities to close their services meaning opportunities to access physical activity changed dramatically as our players could not have time to play softball.

"More so our objectives also was developing players at a tender age in the instant we were training the under 16 and developing players at a tender age is of great importance as it work ethic, instils physical toughness high skills and its guaranteed that in coming 10 years we could make a good team for provincial and national team."

Softball is a bat-and-ball sport played between two teams of 10 players.

It is a direct descendant of baseball although there are some key differences: softballs are larger than baseballs, and the pitches are thrown underhand rather than overhand. Softball is played on a smaller diamond than in baseball.

Softball is played between 2 teams on a large field, with nine or ten players from one team on the field



at a time. There are 4 bases on the infield (first base, second base, third base and home plate). Near the centre of this square is the pitcher's circle, and within the circle is the "rubber", a small flat rectangular area.

The object of the game is to score more runs (points) than the other team by batting (hitting) a ball into play and running around the bases, touching each one in succession. The ball is a sphere of light material, covered with leather or synthetic material. It is 10 to 12 inches in circumference.

The game is officiated by one or more neutral umpires. Players and umpires are generally free to ask for a brief stoppage at any time when the ball is not in play, or immediately following a play once its outcome is clear.



Neville worried about Man Utd

Gary Neville insists he will not put "any real pressure" on Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag this season, but admits the club will be "embarrassed" if top target Frenkie de Jong joins Chelsea.

The Red Devils kick off their Premier League campaign at home to Brighton at Old Trafford.

It will be Ten Hag's first competitive match in charge after a productive pre-season.

United have brought in Lisandro Martinez, Christian Eriksen and Tyrell Malacia so far this summer but are hoping to wrap up more business before the window closes.

They have been linked with Barcelona midfielder De Jong all summer but the player is not keen on a move to Old Trafford as he would rather play in the Champions League.

Furthermore, he is owed £14-17million in deferred wages so would prefer that situation to be resolved before leaving the club.

Chelsea have been added to the mix in recent weeks and are reportedly interested in bringing the Dutchman to Stamford Bridge.

This would be a huge blow for Ten Hag and United, who have been pursuing this deal for months.

And if De Jong does move to United's Premier League rivals, the club's former defender, Neville, thinks it could be an embarrassment.

"Manchester United will look like they're incredibly smart if they get De Jong in for the money they wanted or they might look embarrassed if he goes to Chelsea," Neville said (quotes via the Daily Star).

The club legend believes Ten Hag needs time to settle into his role and insists he will not put pressure on the Dutch manager.

"Look, Manchester United's a huge job full stop. Manchester United that struggled like they did last season have to pick up the baton is even more difficult. It's become even more difficult the fact they haven't got the players in as early as he wanted, he might still get them in the next couple of weeks.

-B65

Help Gems realise their dream

Shelly Guni



It is more difficult for Zimbabwe to conquer the world in football than in netball, hence the belief that just half the efforts in football could help netball realise its dream.

The Gems are preparing for the Netball World Cup qualifiers to be held in Pretoria from August 20-27, but little support has been shown towards the team.

The team is eyeing for their second successive appearance at the netball global showcase to be held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Spar has come on board and been helping the team on monthly basis after their successful partnership in March. But is it enough for a team that carries the country's hopes?

This is the first time the tournament is held on African soil, after South Africa won the bid over New Zealand in 2019.

The technical team named a 15 member squad that will travel to South Africa for the tournament.

Gems manager Agness Chiroodza confirmed the development saying they have registered 15 players.

"We have trimmed our team to 15 and they will all be traveling to South Africa."

Australia based Joice Takaedza was also named in the traveling squad.

"We are expecting Joice to join the team on the 13th. We are also scheduled to leave the country on the 16th for South Africa."



Gems training session

Netball is one of the most followed sports in Zimbabwe but it has been failing to get the same priority as football.

This is despite the fact that netball is one of the most popular women's sports in the country.

The finer aspects of the game has evolved so much, talent-wise Zimbabwe is one of the best in the best in Africa.

As the landscape of women's sport grows, netball still has the chance to be at the forefront of this developing phenomenon, but in order to do so it must seize the

initiative; it must start asserting itself as that possibility.

The Gems as the Zimbabwe senior netball side is affectionately known, in 2019 shook off some unwanted rust on their diadems to surprise all and sundry when finished eighth during their maiden appearance at the Vitality Netball World cup.

Sadly, it had to take the Gems participation at the World Cup for netball to command a huge following.

Historically, In 2017, the young Gems also played their first ever Netball Youth World

Cup and finished ninth.

The tournament was held in Botswana but they have also failed to get the recognition like any other sport after such an achievement.

It seems like it took the 2019 Netball World Cup to finally make people realise how much joy netball could give to the nation.

The senior netball team, Gems, showed the world how passion, resilience, hard-work and determination can bring positive results.

Despite the Gem's embarrassing defeats to Botswana and Namibia in last year and in June this year, respectively, the team overall performance has been improving in the past years, and their debut appearance at the world cup showed how the sport has grown in the country.

Team

1. Felisitus Kwangwa
2. Claris Kwaramba
3. Priscilla Ndlovu
4. Tanaka Makusha
5. Elizabeth Mushore
6. Tafadzwa Matura
7. Joice Takaedza
8. Chipso Shoko
9. Nicole Muzanenamo
10. Progress Moyo
11. Sharon Bwanali
12. Nobukhosi Ndlovu
13. Beaula Hlungwane
14. Ursula Ndlovu
15. Patricia Mauladi

Signature returns, after a year of absence

Shelly Guni



Tatenda 'Signature' Bingu marked triumphal return to the boxing arena a year later since he last fought.

The 21-year-old was crowned the new World Boxing Federation (WBF), World Alliance Boxing Association (WABA) Super Bantamweight champion during the 'Inauguration of Kings Boxing tournament held at Phil-Jen in Chivhu.

The tournament had nine bouts, four international bout with two title matches.

The bout had two female bouts.

Bingu was just too good for his Malawian opponent Robert Kachiza, who did not last three minutes of the super bantamweight 12-rounder which was the main bout.

But make no mistakes Bingu did what he has mastered for years: unleashing a lethal right jab, either to the body or the head, while reserving his stronger left for a few clear combinations. His uppercut was equally dangerous though it missed often and even when it hit the target, Kachiza's jaw kept him going. He succumbed to a hard right to his lower side belly and failed to beat referee count.

"This win means a lot in my life," Bingu told Review and Mail.

"My wish is to continue striving for the best moving forward," he added.

"I felt so happy seeing people supporting me on my fight. Many thanks to my manager Charles Manyuchi and I hope he will continue creating such chances in future," said Bingu.

Bingu turned pro in 2019 and has a boxing record of seven wins and one defeat.

"I started my boxing career at the age of four in Chitungwiza up until I started contesting for national titles. So this win really means a lot to me and will go a long way."

In the second international bout Evans Usaiwevhu looked to have an equally smooth slide to victory as Malawian Yohane Banda conceded.

But the former national champion had to work for all 12 rounds as the challenger grew into the fight.



Tatenda Bingu poses for a picture soon after being crowned the WBF/WABA champion.

Usaiwevhu used his reach advantage to throw some hard shots at Banda, though many hit the guards. Some that landed forced Banda to gesture that he wasn't hurt, which just invited the opponent to prod more.

"I feeling happy on winning this title, you know it's something satisfying to achieve something like this in your career," he said.

"As I was fighting I was thinking of the way I prepared for this match and what I want to achieve and this gave me the spirit to keep on fighting.

"From the onset I knew that I was going to go for 12 rounds and that needed a lot of endurance.

"And for sure this was my first longest title fights since I won the previous one with knock out."

"Such results keeps one motivated and moving forward I need to go for a world title."

Charles Manyuchi said the event was a success and he is looking forward to host more title fights.

"This is the second tournament we have hosted under the Charles Manyuchi

Boxing Academy.

"We have managed to host title fights and also promoting these upcoming champions.

"I am happy with how the boxers played. They showed some level of professionalism, zeal, and determination."

Other Results

Andrew John won by split points over Terrence Muronda in the Light welterweight

Clever Sithole won by unanimous decision over Lazarus Sithole in the Super Middleweight

Itai Mutsvairo won by technical knockout over Romeo Chibanda

Tafadzwa Mushando won by unanimous decision over Tarisai Shumba in the Lightweight

Monica Mkandla won by unanimous decision over Sasha Mambo (Malawi) in the Super Bantamweight

Faina Musekiwa won by majority decision over Rutendo Sasha in the Bantamweight

Revai Madondo won by technical knockout over Loveness Khaka (Malawi) in the Bantamweight

MMA: Stevie Ray will fight for a \$1m prize after outpointing Pettis

Scotland's Stevie Ray will fight for a \$1m prize after outpointing Anthony Pettis to secure a spot in the lightweight final of the Professional Fighters League (PFL).

Ray, 32, beat top-seed and former UFC champion Pettis for the second time in six weeks with a unanimous points decision.

Ray is the first British fighter to compete for the PFL's \$1m (£828,328) prize and will face Canada's Olivier Aubin-Mercier for the world title on 25 November.

The victory is a huge moment for Ray, whose career has spanned 12 years with a five-year spell in the UFC.

It is the first time Ray has challenged for a major promotion's world title.

Ray again utilised his grappling skills against Pettis, controlling large parts of the fight but was unable to submit the American star as he did in June.

Pimblett on reaction to his mental health plea

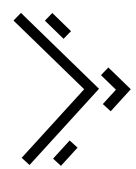
UFC heavyweight Aspinall has knee surgery

It is the 25th win of Ray's career and the Scot is now just one win away from becoming a lightweight champion and picking up the impressive prize money.

Manchester's Brendan Loughnane could join Ray in the final, albeit in the featherweight division, if he beats American contender Chris Wade.

Loughnane faces Wade on home soil in London on 20 August in the PFL's first show in the UK capital. --BBC

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Sports



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