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DUPED

Information Ministry loses ZW\$32m in botched car deal

Supplier previously blacklisted by PRAZ over similar scams

Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa

By Mary Taruvinga
Senior Reporter

THE Ministry of Information was left counting its losses after being duped by controversial

government vehicle supplier, Solution Motors, in a \$47m deal, a Harare court heard recently.

Solution Motors has been involved in similar scandals before, begging the question

why the company continues to win contracts with government departments.

The company was, last year, one of three vehicle dealers blacklisted by the Procurement Regulatory

Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) for failing to deliver after winning tenders to supply vehicles to government departments and local authorities.

● to page 2

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INSIDE

I was swallowed by a hippo

PAGE 5

PAGE 16

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PAGE 20

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ALSO INSIDE 3 girls expelled from school after being forced to write reports about sex with Zanu PF politician | Page 2



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Information Ministry loses ZW\$32m in botched car deal...

• from page 1

In the latest case with the Information Ministry, the company was paid about ZW\$47m to supply seven Toyota GD6 double cabs, four Datsun Go vehicles and one Renault K-wid.

Only supplied four Datsun Go and one Renault K-wid vehicles were delivered, causing the ministry to suffer a prejudice of about ZW\$33m.

However, a fraud charge against Solution Motors owner Patrick Siyawamwaya and two other accused collapsed after Harare chief magistrate, Faith Mushure, ruled that the State failed to prove its allegations.

Siyawamwaya consequently walked free with the court telling the parties to pursue civil remedies.

"The relief the complainant seeks should be pursued in

the civil court," the magistrate ruled.

"All the three accused persons are accordingly found not guilty and acquitted. This is not to be taken that this court has made a pronouncement on the validity or otherwise of the contract.

"The court notes that it is sitting as a criminal court to determine whether or not essential elements of fraud have been proved.

"It is not for this court to delve into matters

not before it by overreaching into the civil arena. It is not for this court to make any pronouncement on the nature and validity of the contract.

"This should be determined at the appropriate forum by a court clothed with the appropriate jurisdiction."

Three witnesses, who include permanent secretary, Nick Mangwana as well as Ministry staffers Nyasha Bwirire and Farai Makuwaza testified against the car dealer.

Bwirire was the deputy director in charge of the Ministry's procurement management unit and advised an evaluation committee for the contract which was chaired by Makuwaza.

Court heard that as part of a due diligence process, the Ministry team visited a bonded warehouse in Eastlea which supposedly belonged to Solution Motors where they were shown the type of vehicles the company had available.

The parties then signed the contract and payment of ZW\$47 379 292 was made.

Only five vehicles were supplied. The twin cab trucks were never delivered although they were among the ten vehicles shown to Ministry staffers at the warehouse.

It would also later emerge that the bonded warehouse actually belonged to government tax collector Zimra.

Said the magistrate; "The third State witness (Mangwana) stated that he had concerns on the capacity of the third accused (Solution Motors) and therefore directed the evaluation committee to do due diligence and to obtain a bank guarantee.

"Despite such a clear and unequivocal instruction, the evaluation committee, led by the second State witness (Makuwaza), never bothered to verify the ownership of the vehicles, yet that was the main reason they had visited the bonded warehouse, according to him.

"It was Mangwana's evidence that after initially holding out that the bonded warehouse belonged to Solutions Motors, it later turned out that, in truth and actual fact, the bonded warehouse belonged to ZIMRA.

"Considering that the contractual document was

subjected to scrutiny by the ministry's legal team before execution, it is highly unlikely and not in the least probable, that they too could have advised that it was in the best interests of the Ministry to enter into the contract without satisfying themselves that all the nitty-gritties of the contract had been covered.

"To the Court, that the contract was entered into in the face of these anomalies shows the complainant's representatives chose to turn a blind eye to the anomalies and walked into the contract with their eyes fully open.

"That being so, the Court finds that the State has failed to discharge this onus as far as the crime of fraud is concerned."

Solution Motors has been involved in similar controversies with government departments before, resulting in its blacklisting by PRAZ in 2021.

Among other cases, the company prejudiced the government of US\$207 540 after failing to deliver vehicles in 2018.

This was picked up by the 2018 Auditor-General's report, where the department of irrigation in the Ministry of Agriculture bought 10 vehicles from Solutions Motors worth US\$518,850, but the company failed to deliver as per the tender awarded.



Nick Mangwana

3 girls expelled from school after being forced to write reports about sex with Zanu PF politician

By Clayton Shereni
Masvingo Correspondent

A RULING party councillor in Chiredzi has hogged the limelight for wrong reasons after three girls were expelled from Hippo Valley High School following revelations that he was having an intimate relationship with one of them.

The councillor (name withheld for legal reasons) would reportedly sneak the trio to his lodge where he would be intimate with a Form 5 pupil who was said to be his girlfriend.

In reports to school authorities written by the girls which are in possession

of NewZimbabwe.com, the three confirmed visiting the lodge numerous times between June and July this year.

The councillor reportedly bought them Chicken and Pizza at a local Chicken Inn and would lock himself in a room with the claimed girlfriend while her friends were in another room.

All hell broke loose on June 30, 2022, when one of the employees at lodge budged into the room and screamed after she saw her boss naked and kissing the student.

Sources said the trio returned to the lodge on July 1 where the two

lovebirds allegedly had sex but the councillor did buy food as he usually did, in a development which reportedly annoyed the girls.

They started telling friends about their escapade and the matter spilled to school authorities who interrogated them until they confessed.

When the matter came to light, the councillor reportedly promised his lover US\$200 if she did not implicate him.

However, in her report, the student confessed to having been taken to a fast food outlet and a lodge where she would have sex with the councillor during

sports days.

"We were bought two boxes of Chicken Inn and one box of Pizza. We went back to the lodge then (the other two girls) locked themselves in a room whilst I was with Mr Ngwenya in another room," wrote the student.

"We just kissed and when he was about to take off his clothes, a maid just came unknowingly. She was like 'maihe-ee' and ran away because (the councillor) had already taken off his trousers."

Asked for a comment, the councillor hung up his phone and further efforts to get his own side of the story hit a brick wall as he

was said to have left his mobile phone with another unidentified person who said: "He has left his phone, he went to Triangle."

Hippo Valley High School Head, Luckson Gondo, declined to comment saying he was not allowed to comment in the press in terms of education ministry protocols.

"I am not authorized to speak to the press, you have to call the District Schools Inspector (DSI). She is the one who can comment," said Gondo.

Chiredzi DSI, Petronella Nyangwe, wasn't answering calls when reached for comment.

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ZRP Brutality: Man shot by police during protests granted ZW\$3,7m compensation

• Left paralysed and wheelchair-bound with broken spinal cord

By Mary Taruvinga
Senior Reporter

THE government has been ordered to pay ZW\$3 million damages to a victim of police brutality from Epworth who was shot during protests against a fuel hike in January 2019.

This follows a successful lawsuit by the 25 year-old Pardon Chitongo against home affairs minister Kazembe Kazembe and commissioner general of police, Godwin Matanga.

Chitongo who was aged 22 when he was shot, is now paralysed and wheelchair bound after his spinal cord was broken.

His doctors also said he will never walk again.

Court heard that, after the shooting, his liver was left bleeding while his right kidney was ruptured.

His right colon was perforated by a bullet, right forearm fractured in addition to sustaining a burst fracture and paralysis on the lower limbs.

The damaged kidney has since been removed.

A police representative, Chief inspector P Mangwende, who was officer-in-charge at ZRP Epworth had distanced the police from the shooting, blaming the Zimbabwe National Army.

However, High Court judge, Justice Gladys Mhuri ruled that evidence against the ZRP was overwhelming and glaring.

She said the police should meet the consequences of their unprofessional conduct.

In granting Chitongo's request, the judge also said it was common cause that there was commotion between the police and protesters in Epworth on January 14, 2019.

The judge said it was lame for the police to shift blame to the army or the

victim when evidence pointed to them as the perpetrators.

"Plaintiff (Chitongo) in my view gave credible evidence which was corroborated by his father Teerai," said the judge.

"Teerai gave evidence of what he saw and did when he got to where the plaintiff was and saw that he had been shot. He did not exaggerate his evidence to support his son's story.

"His testimony that he proceeded to the police station to make a report but was barred from entering rings true.

"He corroborated the plaintiff's testimony that it was the police who had firearms. He was not shaken under cross examination, I therefore find his testimony credible."

During the trial, the police representative Mangwende gave four scenarios which could have led to Chitongo's injuries.

He admitted that civilians had no guns but the police did.

Mangwende suggested that Chitongo could have been shot elsewhere during a criminal activity.

He also alleged that he was involved with the military or shot at Munyuki which is five kilometers away or shot by a demonstrator.

However this was rejected by the court.

"The scenarios he gave cannot be accepted. It was not stated that the military was involved in quelling the commotion," said the judge.

"Having considered all the evidence led by the witnesses, it is my conclusion that plaintiff was unlawfully shot by a member of the ZRP and this was during the course and scope of his or her employment."

The court granted



Pardon Chitongo with his legal representatives

ZW\$3, 7 million compensation which was broken down as follows;

ZW\$252 302 is for medical expenses,

ZW\$471 500 for past loss of earnings,

ZW\$1 million for loss of future earnings,

ZW\$1 279 520 for future medical expenses,

ZW\$600 000 for disability and ZW\$600 000 for pain, suffering and humiliation.

The court heard that Chitongo is still being nursed and some of his requirements include a box of linen savers and latex gloves every two weeks, 750 ml Gel every week, gauze roll every month, new wheelchair every two years,

high protein diet, assistance for morbidity, vocational training, catheters and urine bags changed every two weeks.

According to his testimony, he was employed as a kombi driver earning US\$65 per week and has not been working since January 14, 2019.

Narrating his ordeal, Chitongo said he left home for work on the fateful day.

'Stay away' demonstrations were called on the day disrupting transport and he decided to go to his uncle's home.

He said there were people protesting at a police station and he stood under a tree watching the confrontation between

civilians and police officers.

According to Chitongo, the police tear gassed the public who strayed into his uncle's unfenced residence.

He said the police started firing at the crowd as they drove through the residential area.

In the process he was shot by a police officer.

A bullet went through his body to the back and he fell down.

He was ferried to a local hospital before being transferred to Parirenyatwa where he was admitted in an intensive care unit.

Chitongo was being represented by a top rights lawyer Paidamoyo Saurombe.

ANGRY, ANGRY HIPPO:

I was swallowed by a hippo that ripped off my arm... here's what it's like inside the beast

By Jacob Bentley-York

A SAFARI guide who was savagely attacked by a hippo has revealed how he survived being swallowed by the huge beast.

Paul Templer was leading a small safari tour of six people down the Zambezi river in his native Zimbabwe when the life changing encounter unfolded.

Boating near the country's famous Victoria Falls in 1996, he jumped to attention when the animal knocked one of his pals out of his canoe.

"As I paddle towards him, the hippo was coming towards me under the

water and the ripples on top looked like a submarine torpedo cutting through the water," he told 7 News.

"So I turned towards him (his pal) and tried to grab him, and it was like something out of a movie because our fingers almost touched and then everything just went dark.

"It happened so quick, I had no idea what the hell was going on."

At this point, Paul realised that he was stuck in the beast's throat - with no means of escape.

He described the hippo's putrid breath smelt of "rotting eggs" and his throat and mouth were "warm and slimy."

However, quick thinking Paul knew he needed to agitate the animal so it would let him go and spit him out.

"I was so far down his throat, and I'm not a small guy," he said.

"So I managed to grab a hold of the tusks and push myself out, and burst to the surface.

However, after the hippo spat Paul out, he quickly swallowed the safari guide again - but this time feet first.

Despite being armed with a handgun - Paul was unable to reach for the weapon during the relentless attack.

He recalled seeing his



Paul Templer had to have his left arm amputated

dying friend in the water as he was swallowed for a second time.

"His eyes were like saucers. He tried to stay afloat but I think adrenalin literally overwhelmed him," Paul said.

"It happened so quick, I had no idea what the hell was going on."

Paul Templer

"So I turned and swam back for him, and just as I'm moving in to grab his hand, I'm hit from below."

"I'm up to my waist down the hippo's throat. The hippo is just thrashing me around," he said.

"This time my head, neck and shoulders are outside one side of his mouth, and from my waist down is outside the other," he said.

"He just goes bezerk. I remember at one point he threw me up into the air and I did a crazy sort of half twist.

"And when I fell back and he caught me in his mouth, but so hard that I thought he was gonna chop me in half," Paul said.

"One of the clients said it was like watching a vicious dog trying to rip apart a ragdoll."

Paul later recalled the moment he was then dragged to the bottom of the river - knowing he may

not survive.

He said: "I remember just lying at the bottom of the river, looking up and I'm waist-deep inside the hippo's mouth."

"I can see green and blue and the sunlight on the water surface. And when I look around, I can see my blood mingling the water."

LIFE CHANGING INJURIES

Paul was eventually rescued by one of his friends, taken to shore and eventually received treatment at hospital.

Tragically, his friend who was knocked from his canoe by the beast, drowned.

Looking back, Paul has described the experience as a "bad day at the office," despite incurring life changing injuries.

Speaking to The Sun in 2018, he recalled how he suffered 39 "major" bites and was forced to have his left arm amputated by doctors.

But despite the incident, Paul has used the attack to inspire others as a motivational speaker living in the United States.

He has also survived cancer and is the proud father to three children.

This article was initially published by The Irish Sun



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Mutodi makes her money from mushrooms all year

By Bird Story Agency

It is early morning and despite the slight chill following a touch of rain the night before, Charlotte Ebber Mutodi's five-year old son is following her as she checks on the oyster mushrooms in the growing room.

With a tray in her hands, ready to pick the mature mushrooms, she inspects the progress on the new batch she planted three weeks ago in a concrete cement structure covered with plastic and grass-thatched roofing. Once she fills the tray, Mutodi empties the mushrooms into a bucket.

Her son is trying to mimic what his mother is doing. But Mutodi has her eyes and mind firmly fixed on the "flowering gold".

Inspiration

This has been the 27-year-old's daily routine for the last five years, ever since she graduated from Zimbabwe's Midlands State University with an Agricultural Economics degree, in 2016.

Unlike other young graduates, Mutodi never even attempted to send out a resume. After graduation, she decided not to put herself through the tedium of trying to find a job.

"Most of my former classmates are still looking for employment five years after graduating. Those formally employed complain daily because they get paid in our local currency. It is not stable because of high inflation," she explained.

According to Education Statistics Report released by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency in December 2021, 62,629 female and 53,699 male students enrolled at Zimbabwe's universities in

What you need to know:

- Mutodi initially planted 30 bags in that structure, and after harvest, she made a profit of \$60.
- She used that money to buy more materials and spores.
- She started on a small scale but today has a number of structures where she grows mushrooms, including on a small plot eight kilometres away, in Goromonzi.
- She hopes to expand her project further



Charlotte Ebber Mutodi

2020. Yet unemployment rates are sky-high and opportunities for young graduates are few. Having seen those who had graduated before her get stuck in limbo after seeking formal employment, Mutodi chose not to become a statistic.

Her dream

Mutodi had fallen in love with oyster mushroom farming during a student work-related learning attachment. She got an opportunity to do her industrial attachment at the Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), a government department that mobilises and provides advisory services to farmers. During this time, Mutodi was taught how to grow mushrooms. For her,

this offered a way of life that she had always dreamed of. "Mushroom farming has enabled me to be self-sufficient; I run my own business and have managed to employ three other people," Mutodi said.

Oyster mushrooms are scientifically referred to as *Pleurotus ostreatus*. They are usually white, but some can be grey or tan, with oyster or fan-shaped caps. They grow in clusters of small mushrooms or individually as larger mushrooms.

Their growing requirements offer a business opportunity for anyone who can reproduce the mushroom's optimum growing conditions, even in a small space.

A back-yard business

After university

and now, living with her husband, Mutodi pursued her dream, planting oyster mushrooms right in the backyard at her new home. She started her mushroom project with growing structures made of black plastic sheeting at her home in Ruwa, about 25 kilometres from Harare. She has been steadily improving her growing rooms with every harvest.

"I did not have enough capital to start this project, so I gathered maize stalks and bought spore and mushroom seed for \$10. I then went around collecting plastic paper bags from people; I basically recycled bread bags. I built my mushroom growing structure from black sheeting and started growing mushrooms. I

started with a total of twenty dollars," she explained.

Starting on small scale

Mutodi initially planted 30 bags in that structure, and after harvest, she made a profit of \$60. She used that money to buy more materials and spores. She started on a small scale but today has a number of structures where she grows mushrooms, including on a small plot eight kilometres away, in Goromonzi. She hopes to expand her project further.

For a visitor, they are an eyesore and intrusion on this orderly and modern neighbourhood with houses standing on neatly manicured lawns fenced off with well-cut green hedges and brick walls. But soon, Mutodi plans to reconstruct the growing rooms into complete cement blocks to strengthen and expand the structures. However, her venture is paying off.

Market

"My desire has always been that one day I would run a successful farming business," Mutodi said.

Mutodi supplies local supermarkets and is in the process of making mobile vegetable carts. These will be moving around suburbs selling mushrooms as ice cream vendors do.

Currently, she supplies 200-300 punnets of mushrooms a week with the intention of scaling up to 900 punnets weekly.

Spotting an opportunity

Mutodi has not only been successful because of her agricultural training. She also spotted an opportunity, mushrooms thrive during the rainy season and are a delicacy in Zimbabwe. But the prices spike when out of season due to low supply and high demand.

● to page 7

Mutodi makes her money from mushrooms all year...

• from page 6

Mushrooms are so popular in Zimbabwe that when in season, it is common to see families out in the deep woods picking mushrooms, which grow wild. They say the rains are the equaliser as both the low-income earners and the elite can all afford the treasured dish.

But the mushroom season is now unpredictable because of erratic rainfall patterns caused by climate change—and this threatens to relegate mushrooms to the elite tables only. Even those who can afford the pricey delicacy are never assured of its availability.

All-season supply

Which is where Mutodi comes in - to keep a constant, all-season supply using smart farming techniques where the oyster mushrooms, which take 21 days to flower, can be harvested all year round.

She has found a way to bring this luxury to the dining table of every family that not only desires it but can afford it, in and out of season.

A healthy alternative

Sandra Garwe, a Global Health Professional, says mushrooms are known for their low fat and high protein content. The Zimbabwean diet is primarily based on cereals (maize), and there is an increased chance of protein deficiency. "Proteins and amino acids are fundamental to optimal nutrition. They also play a central role in biological processes. These oyster mushrooms are a healthier and cheaper alternative source of protein.

Also, with challenges in non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, there is a need to rethink our diet, and mushroom is a good substitute because of its low fat," Garwe explained.

In addition, William Rumbidzai Mukori, a registered nutritionist and certified health and weight management coach, said that mushrooms are the only vegan, non-fortified dietary source of vitamin D and provide vegans with micronutrients that are not available from other foods.

According to Mukodi, mushroom farming promotes food security as it does not occupy a large space and can be grown irrespective of weather patterns. Mushrooms are grown year-round across the nation. On average, one square foot of space in a mushroom

bed can produce 6.55 pounds of mushrooms.

"Mushroom produce can also be used in the production of a variety of products, such as dried mushrooms, soups, seasoning, fresh and canned," William said.

Growth in Africa

In Zimbabwe, mushroom farming is still in its infancy, with women such as Mutodi leading in establishing Zimbabwe as a mushroom farming hub. According to reports, Zambia is the largest dried mushroom supplier in Africa, comprising 81 percent of total exports; followed by Egypt, with a 4.5 percent share of total exports. Senegal comes in third with a 2.7 percent share.

Hazel Munatswa, who heads the Research and Development department for the Zimbabwe Mushroom Farmers Association, says that there is room for mushroom farmers to increase their production scale until they can tap into the export market.

"We target the markets that we have here in Zimbabwe because mushrooms are highly perishable; you have to know where you will take your product before you produce it," Munatswa explained.

"I chose mushrooms because it is easier to grow. When growing mushrooms, the monitoring and supervision is minimal and simple compared to someone growing onions or tomatoes on a hectare.

Plenty of challenges

But running the business has not been without its fair share of challenges. Mutodi had to rebuild her growing rooms in February this year after a hailstorm destroyed them, and she lost all the spores she had.

Apart from growing and selling mushrooms, Mutodi offers training to people who want to start mushroom farming under her company Ebber Mushrooms. They also sell kits; these are already-prepared implements compromising of spores and feed that are ready for the growing room. These kits will only take seven days to start fruiting.

Natasha Munhande, 30, a resident of Midlands province in Gweru, learnt all about mushroom farming from Mutodi. "There is a big market for mushrooms this side because not many people are doing it. People are dependent on wild mushrooms that grow seasonally.



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But with me, they get it all year round," Munhande says.

Mutodi agrees. On the day we visit her operation, she is with one of her employees getting ready to take a fresh batch to a local vegetable market, located a few kilometres from her home. She hopes to make more money there because it has become the primary mushroom market.

Challenges

Running a mushroom business has not been without its fair share of challenges. Mutodi had to rebuild

her growing rooms in February this year after a hailstorm destroyed them, and she lost all the spores she had.

Apart from growing and selling mushrooms, Mutodi offers training to people who want to start mushroom farming under her company Ebber Mushrooms. They also sell kits; these are already-prepared implements compromising of spores and feed that are ready for the growing room.

'Electricity can go anytime here'

How Zimbabwe's iron men ran out of steam

- Livelihoods are on the line with outages of up to 17 hours a day as the country's ageing power plants struggle to cope



Main Picture: Tafadzwa Nyakurewa rents two ironing tables, but because of the lack of power is having to offer his services carrying loads and mending shoes to make ends meet. Photograph: Nyasha Chingono

Inset: Student Ruvimbo Makombe reads by candlelight during power cut in Harare, 28 July 2022. Photograph: Aaron Ufumeli/EPA



By Nyasha Chingono

INSIDE a grimy flat in the heart of Mbare, one of Zimbabwe's oldest townships, steam billows from a hissing iron.

It is 7am and Nhamo Chari, 42, is racing to finish ironing a client's clothes before the power cuts out.

"Electricity can go anytime here. We are lucky that today power is still available around 7am. It normally goes at 5am and is restored in the evening," Chari says.

Zimbabwe has been reeling under crippling power shortages since the start of winter in May. Some of the country's ageing power plants are being repaired and the rest are struggling to cope with growing demand.

The country has the capacity to generate about 2,240 megawatts of power, but is producing just 1,300 megawatts.

People in Mbare, in the south of the capital, Harare, regularly go without electricity for more than 17

hours a day.

The shortages have hit Mbare's ironing businesses, which are becoming a popular hustle in the suburb as unemployment and inflation rates soar across the country.

Almost 60 people run their businesses from the Matapi block of flats in Mbare before the power cuts they were earning up to \$100 (£83) a week. They support a booming secondhand clothing industry in the area. Chari and his colleagues are inundated with orders from used clothing dealers who want their goods ironed before selling them on.

"Individual traders and companies come to give us work, especially those who manufacture school uniforms. But mostly individuals selling secondhand clothes are our biggest business. I got at least \$20 a day, depending on how much work I get," he says.

However, due to the power cuts, Chari, who

started his ironing business when he lost his job eight years ago, now earns just \$3 a day – hardly enough to buy a loaf of bread and some milk.

"Things are tough. Electricity is our biggest problem here as it comes and goes, with no actual timetable. But during the few hours where electricity is there, I try to work as hard as I can so that I feed my family," says Chari, adding that the money he has earned from the business has helped him put his two children through school.

To make his income stretch, Chari runs a pool table where he charges 150 Zimbabwe dollars (about 34p) for a game.

"At least it is something, I can supplement the little I get when the electricity is back," he says.

Tafadzwa Nyakurewa, 35, rents two ironing tables inside a warehouse in the township, but because of the power challenges spends most of his day carrying loads of clothes and goods

for traders, rather than ironing them.

"Power cuts have made us redundant. Business was good before this mess," Nyakurewa says.

"This is where we survive and if power is switched off every day we are stuck. I have three children to feed."

Japhet Moyo, secretary general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), urged the government to act.

"People in the informal sector are hard hit. They have nothing to earn because their businesses rely heavily on electricity. Something needs to be done," he says.

Energy minister Soda Zhemu couldn't say when the crisis would be over. "We would not know ... because currently we are working on aged equipment. We can only give assurance when Hwange power station is up and running ... That is when we will have self-sufficiency from internal generation," he recently told

parliament. Hwange coal power station, a leading supplier, has been under repair for more than a year. Two new units are being built to increase output, but they are unlikely to be in operation until the end of the year at the earliest.

Zimbabwe recently signed a deal with Zambia's state energy company Zesco to supply 100 megawatts of power each month over the next three to five years at a cost of \$6.3m a month.

According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat), more than 2.8 million people work in the informal sector in Zimbabwe, compared with 495,000 in formal employment.

Nyakurewa used to earn about \$25 a day. Now "if I get \$6, I would have worked very hard", he says.

"I spend my time mending shoes now because during the day, we do not have power. It is a side job to make ends meet."



Marry Mubaiwa; When enough becomes enough

By Leopold Munhende
Chief Correspondent

DESPITE his sickness not being as clear, seemingly made up and definitely posited as a way to flee President Emmerson Mnangagwa's post-2017 purge, former tourism minister Walter Mzembi did get his passport and 'got' his 'much-needed' treatment in South Africa even as charges were laid against him.

He had been arrested by the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) on January 6, 2018, alongside former energy minister Samuel Undenge on allegations of abuse of office during their tenure in government.

Although their alleged fraud involved millions of taxpayers' money, some of it from philanthropists, their bail was surprisingly granted in hours; \$400 and \$300 respectively.

Mzembi's lawyer Job Sikhala told magistrate Elisha Singano he was sick after skipping bail and making a run for it; Zimbabwe later learnt he had been diagnosed with gastric intestinal cancer.

He was said to need urgent attention and for a while, before he became as active as he now is on Twitter, everyone was made to believe he was battling for his life.

Marry Mubaiwa, ex-wife to Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, was wheeled into court last Wednesday, bandaged and frail, her sickness did not 'seem' there, it was clear; it still is.

She had been taken to court in an ambulance, as has become usual, after having been admitted at a private clinic in Harare after her right arm was declared gangrenous.

Mubaiwa has been in and out of court for the past three years. Unlike Mzembi she has been denied her passport.

She might not get it, meaning her mortified arm might either fall off or she might have to give in, accept that she will not be going anywhere as has been her hope and get it amputated.

On Wednesday she moaned throughout her court hearing, visibly in pain, Mubaiwa was forced up to Court 18 where she had to endure the pain of being pulled up Rotten Row Court steps.

A directive to bar her ambulance and force her onto a stretcher or wheelchair was

said to have been an 'order.'

Besides all this, prison doctors Moses Kadhau and Itayi Macheka's report surprisingly argued she was not mentally ill and should stand trial.

"When she came to court last week, she was too unwell to get upstairs, that led to a warrant of arrest being issued to her. Today she came to court in an ambulance to cancel that warrant, however when she arrived the ambulance was denied entry and we were told it was a directive," said Douglas Coltart, her lawyer.

"She was meant to be taken into court, she was on a stretcher, they refused to allow her, they said the only grounds that she could come in was if she would be put in a wheelchair. We then had to run around to make arrangements for a wheelchair."

Mubaiwa, who is facing allegations of assault and attempted murder, is now on stage four of lymphangiosarcoma, a result of untreated lymphedema, according to the Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Stage four is characterised by large, deformed limbs, skin thickening with 'wart-like' growth and extensive scarring.

Images and videos of Mubaiwa's arm are evident of this.

Her options for treatment in Zimbabwe have become limited, hence her request to seek better healthcare outside the country, like every other top government official has been doing since before late President Robert Mugabe opted for Singapore instead of Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals.

The only surgical option Mubaiwa has is a lymphatic bypass procedure where her lymph nodes are harvested from one part of her body and surgically implanted in the affected area to rebuild her system.

Having been diagnosed over two years ago, during her 'tenure' as 'second lady,' time is not on Mubaiwa's side.

Although the Kansas University Cancer Centre (KUCS) argues this type of cancer can take years to develop, due to its slow-growing nature, some experts argue at stage four, Mubaiwa has less than two years.

"As untreated lymphedema prolongs, it can develop into lymphangiosarcoma - a lymph-related cancer that limits a patient's life expectancy from a few months to two years. Untreated or mismanaged lymphedema can also lead to sepsis, a scary, potentially terminable infection that rapidly spreads throughout the entire body," reads a Total Lipedema Care communique on the ailment.

None of this was proved when Mzembi was given back his passport.

Even Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) vice president Tendai Biti's condition was not as evident as Mubaiwa's, when he was given back his passport in December 2018 to seek medical attention in South Africa.

"Marry Mubaiwa has suffered enough! The inhumane and insensitive treatment to her condition is totally unacceptable. Soko, VP Chiwenga, no-matter what wrong she did to you, Marry remains the mother of your children. Forgive her and allow her to heal. This is too much!" said Labour Economists & African Democrats (LEAD).

She is not the only one who believes Mubaiwa has had enough, many have bemoaned the decision by Chiwenga to bar her from seeing her children, and the iron fist attitude towards a woman he shared his bed with for years.



Marry Mubaiwa in wheelchair

MUPONDA WEEKLY



Zimbabwe Diaspora expertise shouldn't be lost

By Gilbert Muponda

THE ZIMBABWEAN Diaspora made up of Non Resident Zimbabweans (NRZs) has steadily grown over the years to current estimates of at least 4 million according to IOM UN Immigration.

This is a significant number considering that the recent population census puts Zimbabwe at 15.1 million, excluding the Diaspora. This translates to a total population of at least 20 million, showing that 26 % of Zimbabwe's population is in the Diaspora.

Such a number represents a significant part of the population which needs to be properly engaged and involved in the national development agenda as it can contribute much more than its current levels.

A clear and coherent strategy is required to ensure that the NRZs are an integral part of the national socio economic set up if the nation is to achieve its true potential.

In the 2021 financial year the NRZs contributed more than \$1 billion in remittances to Zimbabwe. The amount was well over \$1 billion as these statistics are mostly from formal sources which ignore informal and unregulated forms of remittances.

This played a critical role during the Covid 19 induced economic downturn as it helped the Country achieve a positive current account balance.

NRZs have settled across the world and a significant number are considered well educated and middle or upper class. Many have become Global citizens and are at least dual citizens. Whilst statistics vary, significant numbers are permanently based in South Africa, the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Botswana, China.

A number have achieved climbed high on the corporate ladder in these Countries. Some have become well established lawyers, Doctors, Accountants, Artists, Musicians, and Entrepreneurs whilst many have built careers in the medical field with the NHS in the UK being one of the biggest employers of NRZs.

In various sporting fields we have seen NRZs being part of World Champions in sports such as Rugby, whilst cricket has seen a number of Zimbabwean Diasporans do very well. In soccer there's probably enough NRZs to field several Warriors teams, assuming ZIFA and SRC stop their circus and gets their house in order.

Such talent cannot be lost to foreign lands when ways can be found to tap into their expertise and resources to create mutually beneficial systems which allow NRZs to contribute locally whilst based abroad.

The sheer number and background diversity of the NRZs call for greater formalization of structures to engage the NRZs and assist on improving their already significant contribution to the Economy and national development.

Such structures can conceivably include direct and indirect incentives to visit Zimbabwe more frequently, invest in Zimbabwe and bring investment partners into the various sectors of the Economy. The financial contribution through remittances and investments justifies creation of a whole Ministry to adequately handle Diaspora interests and issues.

Zimbabwe can draw lessons from several other countries which have strong vibrant Diaspora communities that play a meaningful well-structured role in their home Nations. Leading examples include Nigeria, Israel, India, China, Italy and Pakistan whose nationals have flourished abroad yet remain very involved in their national economic development and progress.

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Thin line between being anti-crime and being xenophobic



● It's true illegal immigrants commit crime, but rape is synonymous with locals

By Malaika Mahlatsi

The story of the gang rapes of 10 women, by zama-zamas, at a disused mine in Krugersdorp is gut-wrenching. Though it has been weeks since the story broke, I find myself thinking about it on a daily basis. It haunts me. The helplessness that those women endured, at the hands of balaclava-clad men brandishing weapons, is unthinkable.

The thought of 20 men taking turns on each of those women is paralysing. And while for so many of us, it is this abstract idea of gang rape that traumatises us, for those women, it is the visceral reality that will be with them for the rest of their lives. I remember a line from a Jodi Picoult book I read when I was younger, which said that rape is worse than murder, because with murder you only die once, while with

rape, you die every day but are forced to go on with the motions of being alive.

Days after the story broke, the ANC staged a march against illegal mining and zama zamas. On the surface, this was a progressive protest against illegal mining, which is not just a national issue but an issue of international concern. The United Nations has long noted that illegal mining and trafficking precious minerals is a global calamity that sets parameters for violence, war and economic decline. The organisation has also often argued that illegal mining undermines the rule of law and the development of affected nations.

We have seen in countries where illegal mining and mineral trafficking happen that

these are breeding grounds for economic crimes such as corruption, tax evasion and fraud. Additionally, they are a festering ground for gross human rights abuses, as we see in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and in Zimbabwe. The discovery of diamonds in Chiadzwa, a district in the Mutare province of Zimbabwe, led to atrocious human rights violations by the government, including the killings of illegal miners by government forces. There can be no doubt that illegal mining is a serious problem that needs urgent intervention.

The problem comes when a serious issue such as this one is used for opportunistic posturing. For starters, the issue of zama zamas is not new. The ANC as an organisation and a governing party

has long known about the effects of illegal mining, not only on the economy but on the safety of communities. As recently as 2018, violence erupted in the City of Ekurhuleni metro in Gauteng, between rival zama zama gangs.

This has been a common occurrence across the country and the government has done nothing about the situation despite communities constantly raising the alarm. Today, when there's a headline about women being gang raped, those in power feign shock. But perhaps worse than this is that the gang rape has set parameters for another opportunistic narrative – one that seeks to suggest that illegal miners, who are largely illegal immigrants, are the cause of crime in our communities.

It is true that illegal immigrants do commit crime, especially in areas where they operate as zama zamas. But the narrative that is finding expression now seeks to conflate subjective issues with an overall argument that illegal immigrants are criminals and are the perpetrators of rape in particular.

This narrative must never be accepted, because rape in particular is a crime synonymous with locals. Statistics are the evidence. About 80% of women are raped by men known to them – usually family members, intimate partners or neighbours.

Rarely are we raped by strangers. So, in our calls for illegal miners to be held accountable, we must be careful that we are not venturing into xenophobic sentiments.



Main Picture: Michelle Maisvoveva says she has struggled with obsessive compulsive disorder and has attempted to take her own life several times.

Inset: Dr. Fungu Mazhandu, a psychiatrist who is also the chairperson of the Zimbabwe College of Psychiatry

MENTAL HEALTH: SYSTEM OVERLOAD

As Zimbabweans abandon traditional beliefs, more are seeking mental health services, overwhelming an already underfunded and understaffed system

By Linda Mujuru

HARARE, ZIMBABWE — When Michelle Maisvoveva was an adolescent, she couldn't understand why she began feeling like her life wasn't worth living. The feeling became so intense that at the age of 15 she made the first attempt to take her own life.

She went to three traditional healers. Although one finally told her that she was suffering from a mental illness, Maisvoveva, now 23, says she didn't fully understand the cause, or how to get treatment. The feelings

continued and so did the suicide attempts. It was sheer luck that through a psychiatric evaluation during a job interview at the Zimbabwe OCD Trust, she got the correct diagnosis: obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). It was then she learned that her childhood trauma had a lot to do with the way she felt.

"I was bullied a lot at school and at home because I was a slow child in a number of areas, including eating, bathing and getting things done," Maisvoveva says. "I was also a bedwetter

until the age of 19, and I got called names for that even at home."

Maisvoveva says the diagnosis helped her understand that her condition required medical attention. As more Zimbabweans learn about mental health and abandon traditional myths and beliefs about it, they are increasingly seeking services at medical facilities. But the rising demand has strained a critically underfunded and understaffed area of the health care system that has

been further weakened by more than two years of the coronavirus pandemic. It's yet another setback for a country that in the 1980s had one of the strongest health care systems in southern Africa.

Linus Dhire, head of public relations at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, says Parirenyatwa Annexe Psychiatric Unit, which can admit up to 80 patients, relies entirely on recurrent grants from the treasury because it doesn't have direct budget allocation.

"One of the major challenges we face is that of poor rehabilitation services for abuse of alcohol and other substances," Dhire says.

Although Zimbabwe's spending on health care increased during the pandemic to 13% of the national budget — pushing it closer to the 15% recommended by the 2001 Abuja Declaration by African Union member states — spending on noncommunicable diseases fell steeply from 1.9% in 2020 to 0.3% in 2021,

● to page 12

Mental health: system overload...

from page 11

according to an analysis of the country's public health spending by the United Nations Children's Fund, known as UNICEF. It's unclear how much of that was spent on mental health, but Dr. Patience Mavunganidze, the deputy director of the mental health department in the Ministry of Health and Child Care, says the government has completed an investment evaluation and will share the results when they are ready.

Dr. Debra Machando, the mental health technical officer at the Zimbabwe office of the World Health Organization, says that although misconceptions about mental illness persist, there is evidence that perceptions are gradually changing and more people are seeking counseling. Machando says existing policies, if implemented, are adequate to address many of the current challenges the system faces.

"There is a need for strong awareness and training in application of the different pieces of legislation that exist," Machando says.

Dr. Fungu Mazhandu, a specialist psychiatrist and chairperson of the Zimbabwe College of Psychiatry, says the work of mental health professionals has become even more difficult since the pandemic began.

"There were a lot more patients with mental issues, but the number of psychiatrists didn't increase," she says.

The WHO estimates that in 2020, there were 18 psychiatrists — 94% of whom worked in Harare — six psychologists and 917 psychiatric nurses serving a country with a population of 15 million at the time.

In 1996, lawmakers replaced Zimbabwe's Mental Health Act of 1976, but the laws have not been updated since. Three years ago, the government

launched the National Strategic Plan for Mental Health Services 2019-2023 to strengthen mental health laws, increase financing for primary care facilities, expand access to outpatient services and raise the number and quality of mental health professionals.

But an exodus of health care professionals, who have moved abroad for better opportunities, undermined that plan. Between January and March this year alone, 379 health practitioners, including 28 medical doctors and 236 nurses, resigned, says Angelbert Mbengwa, the acting executive director of the Health Service Board, a Zimbabwean government agency.

Another challenge is lack of medicine at public mental health care facilities. Tatenda, a patient who asked to be identified only by his first name because of concerns about stigma, says he was 6 years old when he was diagnosed with a mental illness, for which he takes medication. He has always gotten his prescription drugs free at a government facility but says that in 2021, the hospital began asking for \$30, which he couldn't afford. When he tried a private psychiatrist for a new prescription, he found out that option was even more expensive. "A consultation session of less than an hour costs between \$80 to \$120," Tatenda says.

Mavunganidze, the deputy director of the mental health department, denies that public hospitals charge patients for drugs. "The medication is free," she says. "Patients are asked to buy medications from private pharmacies only when there is a shortage of drugs at government hospitals."

Another factor in the shortage of mental health practitioners may be young Zimbabweans' lack of interest in the field, says Dr. Walter Mangezi,

a psychiatrist who is also a lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe. He says an average of four students a year enroll in postgraduate studies, a requirement to practice psychiatry.

"People do not venture much into psychiatry because of the stigma attached to it," Mangezi says. "We have been trying to fight the stigma so that people realize it's an important area of medicine and that it really needs support."

Mazhandu, the Zimbabwe College of Psychiatry chairperson, initially trained as a medical doctor but switched to psychiatry because she saw a dire need for mental health services. She agrees that cultural myths and misconceptions have made it difficult to convince Zimbabweans that a mental health professional is as important to the well-being of society as a medical doctor.

"In a society that places more value and stature on surgeons, obstetricians and others in the medical profession, it can be very difficult to get your family to accept that you are still a doctor — that you have chosen a good career path," she says.

As more Zimbabweans seek help, Mazhandu says it's important for mental health service providers to stay healthy to minimize burnout. She usually starts or ends her day at the gym.

One of the symptoms of burnout, she says, is lack of empathy, which could result in a mental health worker being harsh or less sympathetic to clients. "These are things that when I see them manifesting," she says, "I stop" serving clients for a while.

Linda Mujuru is a Global Press Journal reporter based in Harare, Zimbabwe. This article was first published by Global Press Journal



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Zimbabwean businessman uses cows to create wealth for working class in the face of high inflation

By Stephen Nartey

Kelvin Chamunorwa, UK-trained actuary and founder of Nhaka Life Assurance, was recently adjudged one of the top three performers in the Zimbabwean insurance industry.

Six years ago, he gave up a lucrative career as an actuary in London to start a life insurance company, according to his LinkedIn page. A space that was plagued with high rising inflation in a failed economy.

He did not falter in the face of the prevailing reality, but, rather opted for an unconventional business model that ordinarily does not conform to the everyday product on the market.

The idea was to get Zimbabweans who wanted to invest in insurance to put their savings on cows.

By this strategy, Nhaka Life Insurance secured the investment of its clientele against inflation and other economic shocks.

"Storing wealth in herd of cattle or oxen has been an age-old tradition among Zimbabweans. What I did differently was to give it a modern touch," he added.

The business model, according to Chamunorwa, does not require patrons to invest in a full cow but place their monies on the kilos of the animal they could afford. In that regard, several working Zimbabweans can put their savings in a single cow and share the profits when it's sold.

He said the motivation

to settle on cows as an investment vehicle was inspired by his mother's sad story after working for 25 years with a pittance in her account as a pension. According to him, her mother, who was a middle manager at a bank in Zimbabwe, had her savings reduced in value by the high inflation that hit the country in 2008.

"My mum didn't see it fit to even go for her pensions. This pathetic story brought me to the realization that I can improve the working conditions of ordinary Zimbabweans with this business model," he recounted.

He jokingly pointed out that, the value of cows cannot be touched by the downgrade of the Zimbabwean currency or liquidated by forces from international market.

Chamunorwa said he has gotten many Zimbabweans smiling and restored business confidence by bullet-proofing their monies.

Giving further insights into his business, he explained that the company purchases cattle with the funds

received from the customers.

The insurance company has a large swathe of land and ranch where it keeps the herd of cattle under the strict supervision of veterinary staff.

The investors are given the opportunity to make periodic visits to the ranch to take a look at how the animals are doing.

He said the only way to sustain hope of Zimbabweans is to give them an investment they could see and touch adding that, "this is how I have managed to bring trust into a sector that doesn't have any."

Zim's clean technology use rises to 38,7%

By Alois Vinga

ZIMBABWE'S clean technology usage has risen to 38,7% signifying a huge shift from the use of fossils recorded in the past years, a preliminary report on housing characteristics and living conditions by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) has established.

The data shows that of the surveyed populace 1,4 million Zimbabweans were using clean technology for cooking making up 38,7%.

The use of fossils in the country has also registered a huge decline from a high of 45% as a percentage of total energy stock recorded in the 1980s to the current national averages of 27%, according to the World Bank.

The report also shows that the majority of Zimbabweans at 60,7% are however still using firewood for cooking.

While the majority 38% of the households did not have any source of electricity at 34% of households indicated that they used grid electricity with the remaining 28% used off grid electricity.

Harare, Bulawayo and Matabeleland South Provinces had 450,068; 158,896 and 36,693 households using grid electricity respectively. The number of households using off grid electricity were 1,079,785.

"The distribution of households by main source of lighting indicates that nationally, households use clean fuels for lighting (91%).

"These include electricity, solar lanterns, battery powered flashlights and LPG lamps. Eight percent of the households use polluting fuels for lighting including firewood, paraffin lamps, grass and oil lamps," the report said.

In terms of dwelling units, nationally, 83% of the dwelling units were modern with just about 16% of the dwelling units were traditional old style family settlements in which buildings are made of pole and dagga.

"The predominant materials for walls observed nationally were finished walls, burnt bricks, cement, cement blocks and shingles which constituted 91, 4%. Natural walls made of mud, pole and dagga, cane/trunks, no walls constituted just 5, 5%.

The majority 81,4% of households had dwelling units with finished roofs metal, tiles, asbestos, cement, shingles about 18% of households had dwelling units with natural roofs thatch, no roof.

Kelvin Chamunorwa

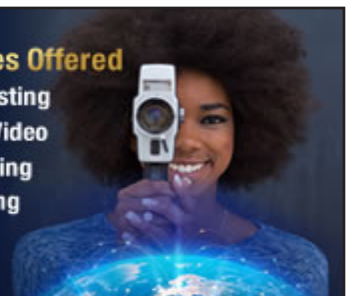


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ENTERTAINMENT



Kudzanai-Violet Hwami in her London studio

Kudzanai-Violet Hwami Wants the Choice to Reveal Herself—or Not

By Kay Hopps

WARM, gray tones convey the delicate features of a child's face—tightly pursed lips, beady eyes—while also drawing attention to their own materiality, as thick brushstrokes construct an arresting visage.

The figure's opaque expression functions like a point of entry into Kudzanai-Violet Hwami's

large-scale work in acrylic and oil on canvas, *The wedding of the astronauts* 3, 2022, which is currently on view in the 59th Venice Biennale.

Dark skin is accentuated by contrast with the neck of a beige garment and vibrant swathes of red behind.

The rest of the composition enacts forms of obscuring: as the face of another similarly clad

figure is obstructed by a cluster of dashes, a bluish bull layered atop the two children conceal them from view and the lines and labels of a map around the periphery of the painting are veiled by red and tan bands of paint that leave the text mostly indecipherable.

This play with the friction between a declarative presence and forms of concealment and indeterminacy is

emblematic of the London-based, Zimbabwean artist's reckoning with what it means to construct and present an identity, both in painting and in the world at large.

Hwami problematizes identity-driven painting, attempting to frustrate its expectations by fracturing her picture planes and employing visual markers of censorship—taking on what she has called the

supposed inescapability of identity when you are a minority, especially if you are making figurative painting.

Hwami develops her fragmented picture planes as a form of collage. “To me, painting is a practice that allows me to remain curious,” she says, “and the act of using collage is helpful as a reminder of the fragility of the human condition.”

to page 15

from page 14

She is particularly motivated by parsing her own heritage—born in Zimbabwe, she moved to South Africa at the age of nine and to the UK in her late teens—as her painting becomes a mode of staging a formal dialogue between her diasporic and digital experience. Like looking back to her native Zimbabwe, by referencing its Shona Sculpture tradition or taking old family photos as a starting point, Hwami also culls images from the internet, as well as allusions to subcultures she initially accessed there, from emo culture to Trans and queer porn.

The latter informed her repeated depiction of men without penises, a body she initially conceived as a form of self-portrait, in works like *Jonga 1*, 2021, and *Trauma Pond 3*, 2022.

Other recurrent motifs are also present in Hwami's work, including banana leaves and yellow, devilish horns, which she employed as a kind of signature detail in her earlier work.

While Hwami continues to draw inspiration from memories, as well as research trips to southern Africa, her painting has also been indelibly shaped by encounters with the work of artists like Jenny Saville,

Henry Taylor, Kerry James Marshall and Michael Armitage during her studies in England.

The Robert Rauschenberg exhibition at the Tate Modern in 2017 was a particular watershed moment for Hwami. She graduated from the Wimbledon College of Arts that year and recently received her MFA at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford.

The city of Venice has also played a significant role in Hwami's emerging career, as she was one of the youngest artists to ever participate in the Biennale, as part of a four-artist presentation in the

Zimbabwe Pavilion in 2019, and was included in this year's "The Milk of Dreams" edition as one of the four recipients of the inaugural Biennale College Arte grant and residency.

Hwami's installation of paintings, floor-to-ceiling photographs and a sound piece for the latter was inspired by Zimbabwean artist Henry Munyaradzi's stone sculpture *The Wedding of the Astronauts* (1983–1994), which she was drawn to for its intriguing title.

Taking a cue from Munyaradzi, her use of the title was similarly opaque, as she drew out what may have been its

nod to Afrofuturism for her series of paintings called "The Wedding of the Astronauts," which comprised her installation in the 2022 Biennale.

She likens the title to a train of thought: a kind reflection upon something personal and familiar that might drift off and begin to change, as if entering another atmosphere.

Transmuting memory towards something mutable—or perhaps tapping into this open endedness as its essential quality—is something like what her paintings do.

This article was originally published by The Culture Magazine



'Family Portrait' by Kudzanai-Violet Hwami



Rev Cathrine Ngangira: the next Archbishop of Canterbury

Her
journey
from
Zimbabwe
to rural
Kent



By Leo Devine

Despite the growing number of women bishops across the Anglican Communion – 123 have been consecrated worldwide since 1998 – the Lambeth Conference is still very much a male affair. Women priests are also thin on the ground in some places, even prohibited in others.

In the face of these odds against, it was good to see a woman priest from Africa assuming an extremely visible and prominent role at the Conference last week.

The Rev Cathrine Ngangira has been on the Lambeth design committee since 2020. Consequently, she became a high-profile regular at many of the briefings during the eleven days of the conference, where her quiet and charismatic confidence quickly earned her admiration and respect.

"There goes the next Archbishop of Canterbury," said one older male bishop, as she walked by him. Some were just as effusive, proudly proclaiming her a rising star of the church.

So, what was it about this young priest, aged 30, originally from Zimbabwe, that captivated those who saw

her speak and preach during seven extraordinary days in Canterbury?

From her first outing on day one of the conference, sitting alongside Archbishop Justin Welby at the press briefing, attendees were struck by her calm composure, coupled with a quiet and prayerful voice: a sharp contrast to those who felt compelled to speak out a little more loudly last week.

Let's not forget, this was not an easy conference: controversy, anger and condemnation all played their part, as liberals and conservatives ripped chunks out of each other over same-sex marriage.

When I finally caught up with Cathrine for an interview, she was quick to diminish the praise being heaped on her shoulders.

"It's an honour to hear people in leadership saying things like that, but it's also scary," she said. She attributes her prayerful demeanour to "God's grace", adding: "I've become more comfortable in it, that's all."

Cathrine first came to England to join the Community of St Anselm, Archbishop Welby's monastic gathering of young people, who live for a year in prayerful

contemplation at Lambeth Palace.

"That was where I learnt to be still and in the moment, doing nothing but waiting upon the Lord... I wouldn't be where I am, had it not been for that experience."

Back in Zimbabwe, Cathrine was raised in a Christian family. She says she was a shy child, and not as fluent in English. She credits her mum for gently pushing her into youth services at church, where she learnt to pray and to continue to grow in faith.

At the same time, life in Zimbabwe was hard. The economic crash, the disintegration of society and the lack of food under President Robert Mugabe was difficult for everyone, especially her family. And yet: "Zimbabweans are always full of hope. People don't stop being prayerful. People don't stop being positive. And that's what kept us going."

After university, Cathrine became active in youth ministry at a national level, an important factor in her journey to ordination. Another key moment came in 2016 when she attended the Anglican Consultative Conference in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia.

"Everyone kept saying to me, 'you should think about ordination', but I said no, we don't do that in this part of the world. But they planted something in me that became hard to ignore."

The conference opened up the opportunity for her to leave Zimbabwe to spend that crucial year in St Anselm, and from there to St John's College, Durham.

Knowing that being ordained a priest might not be fully accepted back home, Cathrine says she drew strength from the story in Genesis of Abraham being called away from his people and family to go to a new land. She saw huge parallels in her own life and what God was calling her to do.

She describes the moment of ordination as extremely emotional. "At first, I was filled with doubt about my worthiness, my weaknesses too, and all the things I couldn't do. And then I realised this isn't about what I can do, it's about what God can do through you."

Cathrine, now working as a full-time priest, is a curate at Bearsted, a rural parish in Kent. Metaphorically and in reality, she's thousands of miles from where she started.

"I'm enjoying it," she says.

"It's very exciting." More than anything, she loves speaking to the children in the local infants' school. "There is something authentic about their expression of faith... it's a humbling opportunity for growth," she says.

Humble is a word she uses a lot. She won't be drawn on anything that smacks of self-praise. Even when I quiz her about her elevated role at Lambeth, her response is typically self-effacing: "I think God has a sense of humour, or maybe people saw something in me that I can't see."

What she does say with passion is that the role of women in the church is still unfolding and will become much bigger and even more significant in the near future.

As for her own future, which some already see as marked down for advancement, the most you'll get from this wonderfully gentle and deeply spiritual person is: "I don't know where my future lies. I'm just happy to go wherever the Lord sends me."

As for that bishop's lofty predictions for her future, we'll have to wait and see whether Lambeth has more to hear from Cathrine Ngangira. Watch this space.

'We were the only African start-up in the final of global student entrepreneur awards' — Dzinotiwei

• Languages ace honoured to represent the continent

By Times Live

MANDELA Rhodes scholar Chido Dzinotiwei is using her love for language to try to preserve and promote indigenous African languages.

Zimbabwe-born Dzinotiwei, who was raised in SA, is the co-founder of Vambo Academy, a specialised online teaching platform that teaches African languages.

When Dzinotiwei took a gap year in 2019, she found herself unemployed and needed money for petrol to attend interviews.

"I started teaching language to children in the neighbourhood and from there I went from one student to three to eight and it grew," she said.

Dzinotiwei soon realised she wouldn't be able to serve everyone in person. This was

also complicated by Covid-19 since she couldn't visit people's homes.

"It became difficult to drive to people's houses and offer lessons, so we decided to introduce technology into the business. We took our offering online and the rest is history," Dzinotiwei said.

However, this came with its own challenges.

"We had a skills gap. We were not technical people. We had to learn about technology and understand what it would require for us to build a website that would do what we wanted it to do."

The chiShona native speaker said her love for languages began in early childhood when she was exposed to different linguistic scenarios. When she reconnected with her mother tongue a decade ago, she began a love story with African

languages, realising they are the gateway to understanding identity, as well as the community. Vambo Academy was born out of this realisation.

"I have always been very interested in languages because I had to learn languages to navigate the places where I was moving. I learnt isiZulu when I was younger and became quite fluent in it and also had to do Afrikaans and other languages such as French. I was always fascinated by African languages, especially how similar they are and how they are used on the continent and in the country I live in," said Dzinotiwei.

The platform offers 12 languages available to study through virtual lessons and is continually growing its offering through a self-learning tools, tutors, informative blogs, regular podcasts and more.

Dzinotiwei said there

have been about 680 lessons since the launch in 2021.

"We have also managed to create different kinds of employment for people. We have content creators for the different languages we offer and a lot are based in their provinces of origin," she said.

One student, Nobuhle Khanyile, who used the platform to learn isiZulu in 2021, said it was something she had been waiting for.

"I did a Zulu course, the basics of Zulu, and I opted for the one-on-one sessions. Once you have booked your appointment online and the payment goes through you get a Zoom link and you are contacted by a teacher," she said.

"I enjoyed the process. It is something I had been looking for because even though I am Zulu I was never taught Zulu," she said.



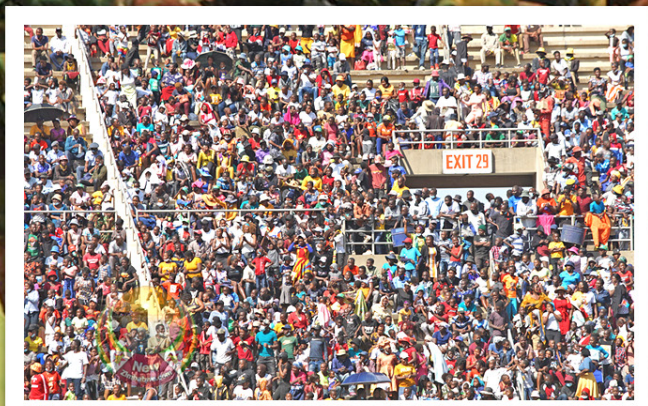
Chido Dzinotiwei

Dzinotiwei finished in the top 6 during the final round of the EO Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) 2022.

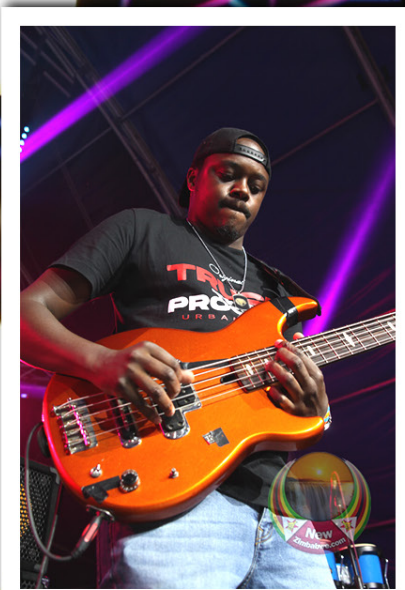
Out of the many candidates from more than 25 SA institutions who submitted their businesses this year, she represented the continent through several rounds, making it through to the last stage.

"For us, it's a major achievement. It's the biggest competition we have competed in and it was on a global level. We were the only African start-up in the final. We felt so honoured, not only to represent SA, but Africa as a whole," she said.

Zimbabwe Defence Forces Day 2022

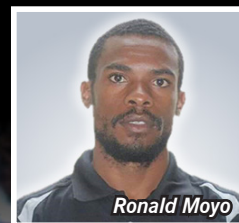


Zimfest 2022





"I am a conduit between generations," says youthful Highlanders CEO: places faith in club's junior players



Ronald Moyo



By Leopold Munhende
Chief Correspondent

On March, 22, 2022
premier ship giants
Highlanders, Bosso,
appointed 30 year-old
Ronald Moyo (RM) as
its chief executive officer
(CEO).

The move was lauded as brave but the right way to go for one of the country's top three clubs that have traditionally been led by old tech.

His first major decision was to hire two time UEFA champions league winner Baltemor Brito, who worked under former Chelsea gaffer Jose Mourinho.

NewZimbabwe.com chief correspondent Leopold Munhende (LM), had a sit down with Moyo (RM) to get an understanding of why the club chose him, where his club is headed and his view on the extended period the club has failed to finish top of the log.

Below is an excerpt of the interview.

LM: As the youngest CEO in the topflight what do you bring to the table?

RM: I see myself as a conduit between generations. There has been a misconception that Zimbabwean football in general, and Highlanders in

particular, is run by old people who don't tolerate young people and modern approach to football administration. I think my appointment is a bold statement by the club on its willingness to cover generational gaps.

LM: The big three, Bosso, Caps and DeMbare have a combined 30 years without winning the title. What has been Bosso's challenge and how are you trying to address it?

RM: I think the club's failure to win the league in the past 13 seasons has been a result of a number of issues.

With a bit of luck, we could have won the league in 2012 and 2013, but we went on to lose the title to Dynamos on both occasions. But most importantly, eras are cyclical. That's the nature of the sport. In any competitive league any team will have its epoch. It happens world over. You just need to pay attention to every detail of the game to remain competitive.

We previously dominated Zimbabwean football because of a brilliant recruitment policy. This is what we are trying to do now. Talent and skill are not enough to play for Highlanders. A player needs to understand the culture of the club. That is very key. It's easier to instil

the Highlanders culture in younger players, especially those who come through the system, than trying to instil the Highlanders culture to a player who has played for eight premier league clubs in the past ten seasons.

I think the club has also been let down by the lack of continuity. That's why we are now trying to tie down these youngsters for longer periods.

LM: What investments are you looking at as a club in the short and long term?

RM: We are currently seized with the mining claim we got from government. We want it to be operational as soon as possible because we are seeing a lot of potential in mining. Some other projects will be announced as we roll them out.

LM: Your main sponsor Sakunda has reportedly secured Rufaro stadium for rivals Dynamos which they also own; are there any similar discussions with you for Barbourfields?

RM: We take one step at a time. The project that we are currently focusing on is the Office renovation which should be commencing in a few months' time. By the way, it is outside the sponsorship package, it is a 'donation' from Sakunda. That is how committed they are to helping

the clubs grow.

LM: Your club was described as brave in many circles after it promoted young Prince Ndlovu; a 16 year old graduate of your Bosso 90 squad. He was barely known before exploding at the MNF tournament. What happened to the culture of these squads curtain-raising PSL matches?

RM: We have been engaging stakeholders, that is, the premier soccer league (PSL) and Bulawayo city council with the aim of having our developmental side Bosso 90 curtain raising our home matches.

The objective is to try and give the fan value for their money. Our matchday activities are limited, that is one of the major reasons why the numbers at our stadium keeps going down.

Fans want to 'buy experience', not just 90 minutes. It also plays a pivotal role in the development of a player as they get used to playing in front of crowds at a tender age. It however, has got its own disadvantages, for instance, it poses a lot of stadium maintenance challenges.

LM: What expectations have you laid on new coach Brito?

RM: When we employed Brito we were hovering just above relegation. Our squad's average age was around 27, but results were not coming. There was little hope of selling players because very few were young enough for business.

Fans were no longer coming to the stadium. So his immediate task was to play a productive beautiful brand of football so that we bring fans back into the stadium. We also expect him to start building a formidable side that will mount a meaningful title challenge next season.

They have also introduced a few youngsters into the team and we hope to start selling players in the next few years, because that is the main business in football.

LM: Highlanders is turning a hundred and three years from now. Do you think the club is where it is supposed to be?

RM: We are proud of the milestone ahead of us. The club has stood the test of time. Many clubs have been formed in between and they are now defunct, but Highlanders is still competing. We are obviously not satisfied with what we have achieved so far. We hope to do better both on and off the pitch in the next three years and beyond.



New Zimbabwe SPORT

"I am a conduit
between
generations"

PAGE
19



'MASSIVE POSITIVE'

Galloway's return from injury delights Plymouth boss



Brendan Galloway

By Sports Reporter

ENGLAND: Plymouth Argyle boss Steven Schumacher says it is a "massive positive" that Zimbabwe defender Brendan Galloway has returned after a serious knee injury.

Galloway, 26, played 70 minutes in his side's 2-0 Carabao Cup loss to Peterborough United on Wednesday.

He had not played since

dislocating his kneecap last November - an injury that saw him miss the Africa Cup of Nations.

"He's such such a good player when he's fit, and we're just made up to have him back," Schumacher told BBC Radio Devon.

"He was outstanding for us at the start of last season, he was one of our most consistent and

best players until he got injured.

"He's had a real tough journey to get back, and to have him on the pitch tonight - the fans appreciated him being back on - and for him to get to 70 minutes as well, at that level, he's done brilliant."

Galloway signed a new 18-month contract in January to keep him at the Pilgrims as he recovered from his injury.

The former Everton and Luton Town player moved to Argyle ahead of last season and played 16 times before his injury.

"He knows how important he is for us, he knows what he brings, the attributes that he's got," added Schumacher.

"He's a great lad, you want him to do so well because he's a brilliant professional, so I'm made up that he's back."