



New Zimbabwe

Price: FREE

Top Senator blasts 'blatant' Mnangagwa aggression, demands Biden action

● to page 2

PAGE
15

PAGE
16

PAGE
20

ALSO INSIDE Chamisa: 'Stop exploiting female students at Chinhoyi University' | Page 4



DIASPORA

FUNERAL CASH PLAN

+44 770 3838 304 or +27 65 907 0419

Permanently US\$/£/€/ZAR Cover - ✓

**It's the
Best
By Far!**





US officials in tense Harare car chase with suspected CIO agents...

● from page 1

After departing their meeting with the activist, they got into a U.S. Embassy vehicle, one of a fleet of clearly marked American government cars with diplomatic plates driven by an embassy staffer. They were driving away when several cars slotted into the road in front of them, to the side, and behind them. Suddenly, their car was boxed in.

At one point, according to one official briefed on the matter, they tried to call the U.S. Embassy for

help, but their phones all lost reception, apparently simultaneously. They were on their own. After a tense standoff, as the phalanx of cars crawled along the road, the driver of the U.S. Embassy car saw an opening and swerved onto a side road to escape the tail. They rushed back to the U.S. Embassy compound before the pursuing cars could intercept them. From there, the U.S. Embassy worked to quickly ferry the two Senate staffers out of the country without further

incident.

The ordeal, described to Foreign Policy by four current and former U.S. officials familiar with the matter, stunned U.S. diplomats and left them questioning what would have happened to the two Senate aides had the embassy vehicle not been able to make its escape. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity, as they were not authorized to speak on the matter publicly.

The officials, who suspected Zimbabwean

security services orchestrated the entire incident, said it underscored the increasingly brazen tactics of Mnangagwa's government to suppress and intimidate political opponents and civil society activists as he strengthens his grip on power ahead of national elections next year. However, all of the officials cautioned that they couldn't say with certainty who followed the staffers and chased the U.S. Embassy car.

The incident

incensed U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who sent a letter to President Joe Biden informing him of the harassment and car chase his staffers experienced. In the letter, he urged Biden to step up U.S. attention on the "dire" repressive political atmosphere in Zimbabwe and boost support for the country's increasingly embattled civil society organizations and pro-democracy activists.

Let's do more deals – Belarus dictator says to ED on his birthday; Zim leader among Africa's oldest

By UK Correspondent

PRESIDENT Emmerson Mnangagwa turned 80 Thursday and was commended by Belarusian dictator and ally Aleksandr Lukashenko who claimed that the Zanu PF leader had turned Zimbabwe's economy around.

Unlike his predecessor and mentor Robert Mugabe whose birthday became a national holiday and was marked by a no-expense spared party, Mnangagwa chose to spend his away in Angola.

He was attending the inauguration of President Joao Lourenco after his re-election in a vote disputed by the opposition last month.

Among the foreign leaders to congratulate Mnangagwa were his Belarusian ally Lukashenko whose forces are backing Russian in its invasion of Ukraine.

"Under your leadership, Zimbabwe

has achieved impressive success in socio-economic development and confidently defended its interests in the international arena," reads Lukashenko's message.

"I am convinced that an open and trusting Belarusian-Zimbabwean dialogue will contribute to the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors, the effective implementation of new joint projects."

Zimbabwe's deals with Belarus have been the subject of local controversy after it emerged that the government had procured fire-fighting vehicles for local authorities despite the fact that the councils never asked for them.

The opposition demanded reversal of the deal, arguing that prices for the vehicles were inflated and vowed that councils it controls would not pay for them.

Local government minister July Moyo insisted that the deal would go

ahead and that funds set aside for devolution projects would be used to pay for the trucks.

Meanwhile, at 80, Mnangagwa is among Africa's five oldest leaders.

He took over power after a military coup toppled Mugabe who had also refused to step down having run the country since independence in 1980.

Mnangagwa is being confirmed by Zanu PF structures as the ruling party's candidate for presidential elections due next year.

His candidacy is expected to be confirmed at a party congress expected to be held in October this year.

Allies have also been insisting that he will still be in office by 2030.

AFRICA'S LEAGUE OF THE ELDERLY

Paul Biya (89) – Cameroon

Paul Biya has been the President of Cameroon since November 1982. At the age of 89 and still

in power, Paul Biya is the oldest president in Africa. He is also the second-longest ruling president in Africa (after Teodoro Obiang of Equatorial Guinea), and the longest-ruling non-royal leader in the world.

Hage Gottfried Geingob (80) – Namibia

Hage Gottfried Geingob is currently serving as the third president of Namibia since 21 March 2015. Geingob was the first Prime Minister of Namibia from 1990 to 2002, and served as prime minister again from 2012 to 2015.

Alassane Ouattara (80) – Ivory Coast

Alassane Dramane Ouattara has been the President of Côte d'Ivoire since 2010. At 80, Alassane Ouattara is the third oldest president in Africa and the second oldest president in west Africa.

Teodoro Nguema Mbasogo (79) – Equatorial Guinea

Teodoro Nguema

has been President of Equatorial Guinea since 1979. He ousted his uncle, Francisco Macías Nguema, in an August 1979 military coup.

He is the fourth oldest president in Africa, the longest serving president in Africa and the second longest-serving non-royal national leader in the world (after Paul Biya of Cameroon).

Muhammadu Buhari (79) – Nigeria

Nigeria's Buhari came into democratic power in 2015. He had been unsuccessful in earlier bids for the presidency in the 2003, 2007 and 2011 general elections. The President previously served as the nation's head of state from 31 December 1983 to 27 August 1985, after he took power in a military coup d'état.

In February 2019, Buhari was re-elected, defeating his closest rival former Vice President Atiku Abubakar by over 3 million votes.



President Emmerson Mnangagwa with his Namibian counterpart in Luanda, Angola

10th Anniversary Apr '22 - Decade of Delivering Peace Of Mind!



DIASPORA INSURANCE

Peace Of Mind, Guaranteed!

DiasporaInsurance.com

**YOUR COVER IS A
WHATSAPP AWAY:**

WHATSAPP
 **+44 770 383 8304**

OFFICE
 **+44 121 295 1116**

Brings You The Bespoke **Diaspora Funeral Cash Plan**

- Guaranteed Acceptance. No Medicals At All ✓*
- Immediate US\$/£/€/ZAR Cash Payout On Proof Of Death ✓*
- Worldwide Protection Without Borders ✓*
- Burial Abroad / Cremation All Covered ✓*
- Body Repatriation Not Mandatory ✓*
- All Funeral Expenses, Covered ✓*
- Cover Yourself In Diaspora ✓*
- Cover Family Back Home ✓*
- Children Covered For Life ✓*
- Free Cover In Future ✓*
- Best For Transnational Citizens ✓*



Qualifying Nationalities & Counting...



Peace Of Mind, Guaranteed!



DiasporaInsurance.com

United Kingdom: Regulated and Authorised by FCA No.: 795897

Underwritten by: GuardRisk International | Re-insured By Africa Re

SCAN ME NOW!



Your Dignified Send-Off, Guaranteed!

'Stop exploiting female students at Chinhoyi University'

Chamisa urges local men and landlords

Nelson Chamisa

By James Muonwa
Mash West Correspondent

THERE is rampant sexual exploitation and general abuse of female students enrolled at Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) by local men and landlords, Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC) leader, Nelson Chamisa, has said.

Of the estimated 14,000 students enrolled at the tertiary institution, only 1,000 stay at the campus hostels, while the rest seek alternative accommodation in nearby suburbs, particularly the populous Coldstream and Gadzema areas.

It is at these boarding houses where female learners are susceptible to sexual abuse by monied men, commonly referred to as "blessers" who demand sex in exchange for money.

Also, greedy landlords usually force as many as six ladies to live crammed like sardines in a single room.

Addressing CCC supporters at a rally held at Gadzema Grounds in Chinhoyi last Sunday, the charismatic opposition leader chastised local men folk to stop taking

advantage of desperate girls facing challenges wrought about by President Emmerson Mnangagwa's bad governance, which has also affected the education sector.

"Before I came to this rally, I was speaking to students' leaders at CUT who told me that of the 14 000 students at the university, only about 1 000 stay on campus while the rest stay in the locations, where I hear they are being abused by local men, they are being exploited... they are finished," said Chamisa.

"Please stop exploiting our girls...stop this greediness of wanting to fry eggs before they hatch, let us let the eggs be chicks.

"I was told of this issue (sexual exploitation) and it got me worried sick."

Female students at tertiary colleges, just like their male counterparts, face myriad financial problems following withdrawal of government grants in recent years, a development that has thrown many into prostitution and vice in order to supplement meagre stipends from their parents and guardians.



Vaka Ekhaya

Diaspora Property Investment Expo

Exclusive Diaspora Mortgages & Stands

THE CONFERENCE SUITE, THOMAS ST,
WEST BROMWICH, B70 6LY
UNITED KINGDOM

DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2022
TIME: 09:30HRS - 22:00HRS

BEFORE 31 AUGUST

GRAB EARLY BIRD TICKET £50
THERE AFTER £60

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
+44 7858 946317;
vakauk@vaka.co.zw

DIAMOND SPONSOR



Stanbic Bank
A member of Standard Bank Group

SPONSORS







Zimbabwe relocates 100 elephants to northern parts of country amid drought

By Xinhua

HARARE: The Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) said since July this year, it has relocated 100 elephants and a significant number of wild animals from the arid southern parts of the country to the north where there is better vegetation and water.

ZimParks spokesperson Tinashe Farawo told Xinhua that the Authority issued permits for the transfer of 2,650 animals from the Save Valley Conservancy to three national parks in the north namely Tsapi, Chizarira and Matusadonha.

The animals targeted for relocation include 400 elephants, 2,000 impalas, 70 giraffes, 50 zebras, 50 buffaloes, 50 elands, 10 lions and 10 wild dogs.



The relocation exercise began in July and so far, 100 elephants and a "significant number of other wild animals" had been relocated,

he said.

He said the main reason for relocation was to depopulate overcrowded areas and create a balance in

the ecosystem.

Climate change induced-drought resulting in loss of habitat, food, and water was posing a risk to

the animals and the only way to protect the habitat was to make sure that we create a balance by relieving pressure on overcrowded areas, Farawo said.

Zimbabwe has become prone to frequent droughts in recent years due to climate change, posing the risk of hunger not only to humans but also to wild animals.

Zimbabwe has an overpopulation of elephants numbering over 100,000 against an ecological carrying capacity of 45,000. The jumbos are located in four main ecological zones, and two of the zones are overpopulated.

The four zones are North West Matabeleland where the country's biggest game park Hwange is located, South East Lowveld where the second biggest park Gonarezhou is located, as well as the Sebungwe region and mid Zambezi in the northern part of the country.

This is not the first time that ZimParks has moved the animals. In 2018, it moved 100 elephants from the South East Lowveld to mid Zambezi while plans to relocate 600 elephants in 2020 were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The relocation program is an expensive exercise and ZimParks has in the past lamented inadequate funds to successfully carry out the program.



**Building Doctors,
Entrepreneurs,
Lawyers, Engineers**

**ENROL
NOW!!!**

ECD to grade 7



+263 772 613 552

+263 778 467 640

adamgavaza6@gmail.com

www.shalomjuniorsch.com

4249 Knowe phase 2 Norton



CB Solicitors



CB SOLICITORS FOR BESPOKE LEGAL SERVICES

IMMIGRATION

- Visa Application and Appeals
- Leave to Remain Extension & Settlement Applications
- British Nationality Applications

ASYLUM & HUMAN RIGHTS

LEGAL AID AVAILABLE TO QUALIFYING CLIENTS

- Asylum/Human Rights Applications and Appeals
- Fresh Claims/Further Submissions
- Detention and bail applications
- Deportation Appeals

EMPLOYMENT

- Unfair Dismissal
- Discrimination at Work
- Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure
- Unfair treatment/Bullying

FAMILY

- Divorce
- Out of Court Settlements
- Child Arrangement Orders

CONSUMER RIGHTS

- Faulty Goods Refunds and Returns
- Replacement and Repairs
- Unfair Contracts

CIVIL LITIGATION

- Letters Before Claim and
- Responding to same
- Issuing and Defending Claims
- Execution of Judgements

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Commissioners of Oaths
- UK/Zimbabwe Correspondent Lawyers

CALL NOW: 0121 289 6920

G.T. Chapwanya: 0795 052 9478

V Madanhi: 0794 786 6649

123 High Street, Birmingham, B12 0JU



New Zimbabwe Courts & Crime



Illegal South African immigrant in court for 'defrauding' Zimbos in botched cattle deals

By Erica Jecha

AN undocumented South African has been hauled to court for allegedly duping several Zimbabweans in botched cattle deals after misrepresenting that he owned a company.

Thulani Silvester Dube (36), from North West Province in South Africa, appeared before Harare Magistrate, Dennis Mangosi, facing fraud charges and was remanded into custody to Tuesday.

Dube entered Zimbabwe and proceeded to stay without a permit.

He went on to invest in a cattle buying and selling business, Simbra Livestock

Management based in Milton Park.

Accused person is said to have negotiated a deal with complainant, Tatenda Matsika (19).

Dube is said to have been buying cattle at the price of US\$600 each and reselling them at US\$750. He convinced his client to inject US\$9,000 into the business and would make a profit of US\$2,250 after the sale on September 6.

Matsika paid US\$9,000 on August 5.

On the day in question, complainant went on to inquire about his returns, but Dube gave excuses saying that he was encountering

challenges in giving him his money.

This raised suspicions and Matsika proceeded to the business premises, and was dismayed to find no one at the offices.

Suspecting he had been duped, Matsika teamed up with other victims, and searched for Dube before finding him at Avondale West.

Dube was apprehended and claimed he was not the owner of the company but just an employee of unidentified 'investors.'

He failed to repay the victims their hard earned money resulting in the case being reported to the police.



Former minister Mupfumira given longer remand, back in court January 2023

By Mary Taruvinga, Senior Reporter

FORMER cabinet minister Prisca Mupfumira facing corruption related charges has been given a longer remand awaiting the High Court's determination on an application with a bearing on the present case.

Mupfumira is being charged with criminal abuse of office and concealing a transaction from a principal. She is jointly charged with former Public Service permanent secretary, Nyasha Masoka.

The matter was last Thursday postponed to January next year.

The former minister wanted separation of trial but the application was dismissed by former chief magistrate Munamato Mutevedzi.

Mupfumira recently approached the upper court seeking nullification of Mutevedzi's ruling.

Through her lawyer Admire Rubaya, she complained that the magistrate's decision was based on facts not before the courts.

She also wanted trial separation because Masoka was her star witness in her trial.

According to Mupfumira, Masoka was the accounting officer during their time in office and as such the best person to articulate transactions that led to her arrest on criminal abuse of office charges, and concealing a transaction.

Mutevedzi dismissed her application saying there were witnesses who had testified and linked her to the offence during the on-going trial.



Prisca Mupfumira

High Court trashes businessman's lawsuit against PG and four magistrates

By Mary Taruvinga, Senior Reporter

THE High Court has dismissed a lawsuit against four Harare magistrates and the Prosecutor General (PG) filed by controversial property developer George Katsimberis.

Katsimberis had sued the PG Nelson Mutsonziwa alongside Justice minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, magistrates Barbara Mateko, Noel Mupeyiwa, Stanford Mambanje and Letween Rwodzi complaining that he was not getting favourable responses in his court applications.

In this case, he said in June 2020, he has been appearing before the cited magistrates as a witness in a criminal case where Pokugara Properties, in a similar business, was charged with perjury and malicious damage to property.

He was charged with fraud on the same circumstances in the case he was the witness.

Katsimberis complained that this was in violation of his rights and was seeking a permanent stay of proceedings in the case he is a suspect.

But High Court judge

Justice Siyabona Musithu ruled that he failed to justify his complaints.

"It is the conclusion of this court that the applicant has failed to discharge the minimum threshold set out in the aforementioned authorities to justify the court's interference with the undertermined proceedings of the lower court.

"Applicant's counsel advised that an application for referral of the matter to the Constitution Court was dismissed by the lower court.

"One wonders why that decision was not appealed against at that earlier stage of the proceedings if the applicant was indeed serious about having the alleged constitutional infractions scrutinised by the apex court.

The judge said there was no firm foundation laid for interfering with the undertermined proceedings of the lower court and granting the relief sought.

Katsimberis had claimed that the entire process was so warped to the extent of constituting an absurdity in view of the many postponements and disruptions of trial dates.

He had alleged he was

the first to make a police report.

In response the respondents argued that in that case Pokugara Properties was the first to make a police report against Katsimberis saying he opened his own two months later.

Court heard that for unknown reason the police processed Katsimberis docket first as opposed to Pokugara.

They further submitted that Katsimberis misrepresented that his building plans were approved but senior City of Harare officials submitted documents stating that the Plans were never approved.

But the judge ruled that he was supposed to support the relief he sought.

"This court will only interfere where there is a clear demonstration of grave injustice having been occasioned as a result of the parallel prosecution of the two matters. That has not been done and for that reason, the court does not accept the submission that the right to remain silent, which is intertwined with the right against self-incrimination has become illusory," the judge said.



Model policy aims to harness artisanal and small-scale miners into mainstream economy

By Thobekile Khumalo

THE Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) has crafted an artisanal and small scale miners' model policy to help alleviate challenges faced by the sector and to boost its contribution to the country's economy.

Artisanal and small scale miners contribute over 60 percent of gold to Fidelity Gold Refineries.

ZELA mining engineer, Tatenda Mapooze said the policy helps reduce operational setbacks faced by the sector.

"(The) artisanal and small scale mining sector in Zimbabwe contribute around 60 percent of gold to Zimbabwe through Fidelity Gold Refineries owing to their

importance. However, there are a lot of challenges faced by the sector in the country that have to be dealt with in order to provide smooth operations," he said.

"As ZELA we have come up with a model policy that helps address and alleviate these challenges faced by artisanal and small scale miners across the country."

Mapooze said social economic developments that come from the mining activities by artisanal and small scale miners are met by a lot of challenges, which include restricted access to mining space, poor safety, health and environmental practices, child labour, poor access to capital, limited use of equipment and high rates of conflict, rampant occupational accidents, amongst others.

"Poor coordination



Artisanal miners

amongst government institutions, corruption and lack of value addition also add to challenges faced by the sector," he said.

Mapooze said the model policy seeks to transform the

sector for the better.

"This policy is to promote organisations in the artisanal and small scale mining sector by improving governance, promote sustainability, suitability and profitability and also promote responsibility amongst artisanal and small scale miners to have environmental protection, health and safety, and social development in order to transform," he said.

"The policy also looks at creating employment and making sure that the sector contributes to the nation's economy through payment of taxes. Also, occupational and health standards, promote implementation of environmental impact assessments."

He said that it is important to make sure of the availability of mining titles and other information, promoting access to finance and other support services promote responsible sourcing.

The policy also looks into gender issues.

"There are gender issues also affecting the artisanal and small scale mining sector.

You find that a lot of women are trying to join the sector, but by looking at statistics you find that up to now only a few women participate due to hindrances, some of them fail to access claims, lot of stigmatisation and abuse so the policy is trying to address some of these issues including child labour policy that is prohibited in the artisanal and small scale mining sector," he said.

"Artisanal and small scale mining sector contributes to value change due to a lot

devegetation that comes with trial and error due to environmental degradation.

"This degradation results in increase in carbon emissions and also improper tendency of waste management strategies these result in a lot of erosion and siltation of rivers that affect climate change.

"The modern policy talks of responsible sourcing, also safety health and the environment."

The policy also attempts to address issues to do with pricing and administration were it mentions application policies, the authority should grant permits and the duration of mining permits.

"There is a lot of support needed by artisanal miners, it suggests that the provincial mining offices should have the adequate special personnel like geologists, engineers and surveyors to help small scale miners in their operations.

"It also talks of the role of Rural District Councils (RDC) when in need of disaster responsive committees and solutions that increase effectiveness in small scale miners.

He said the model policy requires miners to advertise their minerals through formal channels according to requirements in Zimbabwe.

"The model policy addresses the issues of transparency, miners should give profile of financial reports and submit the production statistics and contracts signed.

"The policy also emphasises the need for proper safety considerations and need for budgeting for closure and rehabilitation purposes."

NORTHWAY HOLIDAY HOMES

"Today's perfect meeting place for Tomorrow's memories"

4 Houses + Caravan : Total

12 Bedrooms

Hosting (24)

1 Bedrooms

Hosting (2)

Of 24

Guests

Twin North & Twin South	North & South
• 3x Luxury Queen size Bedrooms	• 3x Luxury Queen size Bedrooms
• Ensuite full Bathrooms	• Full common Bathrooms
• Lounge for 6	• Lounge for 6
• Dining for 6	• Dining for 6
• Common Bathroom	• Fully furnished open plan kitchen
• Fully furnished open plan kitchen	• 2 Parking Slots for each house
• 2 Parking Slots for each house	

Borehole water | Ds TV | WiFi | Solar Backed Power | Gysers | Parking slots | Security Barbacue Stations | Outdoor Traditional Cooking Places | sitting area

(+263) 77 699 2810

(+263) 71 602 4112

bookings@northwayholidayhomes.co.zw

www.northwayholidayhomes.co.zw

278b Northway Prospect

Waterfalls, Harare



New Consumer Act sets 5-year jail term for denying customers refunds and returns

By Alois Vinga

RETAILERS and businesses denying their customers the right to a refund and return goods under the recently promulgated Consumer Protection Act (CPA) risk imprisonment, top lawyer Alex Majachani has warned.

Unpacking the hidden details in the recently birthed legislation during Destiny TV's Business Brief Programme, legal expert Majachani of Alex F & Associates revealed that the CPA, promulgated in December 2020, consolidated consumer rights through its far reaching 92 sections.

"You would appreciate that prior to its introduction, we had a disjointed framework for the regulation of consumer rights, regulating the market place, and there was no consolidated legal piece for managing the market in relation to the consumers.

"If you look at the new Act, you will understand that it is basically an Act that is there to protect the rights of the consumers," he said.

Majachani said the legal piece covers those acting as consumers

buying goods and services and those on other end of manufacturing and selling the goods and puts in place mechanisms, one of them is the Consumer Protection Commission, which hears complaints from the public, adjudicates over them, and also conducts arbitration.

"Responsible authorities need to raise awareness on this document which I think most companies are not even aware of right now.

"Section 10 of the Act brings the right of customers to safety, value, and substance of the goods. Section 11 brings in the idea of the implied warranty. It doesn't matter whether one is the producer, retailer, and wholesaler.

"The implications are that within a period of six months if that warranty is breached the customer is at liberty to return the goods without any consequences. Section 21 of the Act, deals with displays which mention that there are no returns, exchanges and refunds. It outlaws such notices and they carry a jail term of up to five years or fines at level 14," he said.

Also unpacking the CPA during the programme, lawyer Tendai Nyamanhindi said in terms of the CPA, if a client buys a product from the supplier, and within six months they find out that there is a defect, the Act still allows them to return the goods.

In that event, a supplier can either offer to repair the product or take it back to the client. If there are other issues within a period of three months after the repair, the seller is obligated to replace or refund.

"There are several entitlements that have been given to the consumer by the statute. These include the rights to health and safety, the right to choose, information, to be heard. Some of these rights were previously provided for in the previous Act and they have been broadened by this particular Act," she said.

The experts added that companies should urgently go through the CPA and comply with it well in advance before customers begin to comply with the legal piece.

Zim milk output reaches 59,01 million litres, still lower than demand

By Alois Vinga

ZIMBABWE'S milk output has reached 59,01 million on the back of increased activity in the dairy farming sector, Dairibord Zimbabwe Limited (DZL) has reported.

The details are contained in DZL's half year performance report for the period ended June 30 2022.

"According to latest figures from the Ministry of Agriculture's dairy services department, the country's milk output in the first eight months of 2022 rose 17% to 59.01 million litres from the 50.62 million litres recorded in the same period last year," the report said.

However, market watchers still believe that more needs to be done considering that Zimbabwe's annual milk demand stands at 120 million litres per year.

Trade sources estimate that the value of milk and cream imports concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter to Zimbabwe totalled US\$ 9 million in 2020.

The top sources

from where the product is imported from South Africa with a share of 46% US\$4,18 million, Ireland and Belgium.

From the mid-90s, the dairy cattle herd decreased due to recurrent droughts, economic contraction, and the land reform programme that disrupted large-scale dairy operations responsible for 95% of the national milk pool.

Official records confirm that capacity for the processing of the product with a quantity of 400 million litres per annum.

Meanwhile, DZL said during the reporting period, the entity's demand for products remained firm across all categories.

Overall sales volumes for the period grew 11% ahead of the same period last year. 40% of the total sales volume was sold in foreign currency, with 8% going into the export markets and 32% through the domestic market.

Liquid milks' contribution to total volume was 28%, Foods 10% and Beverages 62%.



Climate Hero: Nyaradzo Hoto

By Agencies

THE AFRICAN savanna elephant population has been decimated by poaching, with as many as 33,000 of these iconic animals killed every year for their tusks. Now, there are just 415,000 savanna elephants left in the wild — down from 526,000 in 2006. But this threatened, matriarchal species has a watchful ally in Nyaradzo Auxillia Hoto, a commander of another women-led group, the Akashinga rangers.

Akashinga, which means “the Brave Ones” in Zimbabwe’s predominant Shona language, is an all-women anti-poaching unit that is making a dramatic difference in protecting elephants and other wildlife in the south African country. The rangers of Akashinga have, since 2017, led an astonishing turnaround in elephant poaching numbers, reducing the cruel practice by more than 80% in Zimbabwe’s Lower Zambezi Valley, where they operate.

A fresh start

And for the members of Akashinga, safeguarding other living beings is deeply personal.

“Animals shouldn’t suffer or feel pain for the sake of our needs and desires,” says Hoto, the Akashinga squad leader, who, along with the other members of the unit, agreed to a required plant-based diet — part of a holistic commitment to protect animals. “They have the right to live and enjoy their life. Now the animals feel secure, and we have a strong bond with them. We are like family.”

The family bonding these rangers feel with the animals they protect is also a kinship they have developed with each other. Most of the 200 members of Akashinga are former victims of domestic abuse, and Akashinga has given them a renewed sense of confidence, purpose — and sisterhood.

Shattering stereotypes



Nyaradzo Hoto. Image credit: Courtesy of IAPF

As much as they are protecting elephants and other wildlife, Akashinga is also shattering stereotypes: of what women can achieve and what jobs are “appropriate” for women.

“I work near an important Zimbabwean highway that leads to Zambia,” recalls Hoto, “and I have seen a female truck driver making her way along it. When I was young, I would not have believed that. I also work in a field that was once said to be a man’s job. Seeing the woman truck driver made me realize that nothing was holding back my aspirations when I was young.”

And those aspirations have now expanded to include the hazardous occupation of a wildlife ranger. How hazardous is the work? Consider that about three-quarters of Zimbabwe’s 13 million citizens live on less than \$5.50 a day, and a pair of contraband elephant tusks — average weight of about 250 pounds — can command almost \$400,000 on the black market. So when heavily armed poachers have an elephant in their sites, they’re often not persuaded by rangers. Sadly, throughout Africa, ranger fatalities are far from uncommon.

But the Brave Ones are not flinching, and they’re arresting those poachers,

always through a conflict-reduction prism. They have made more than 300 arrests since 2017, yet without firing a shot.

“When the Akashinga project first started,” says Hoto, “I heard that the conservation model would be an all-female ranger team. The rangers I had seen in my life were mostly men, and I was excited by the prospect of joining an all-female ranger team. I felt that this was an opportunity to prove something to myself and others that women could accomplish something great in a previously male-dominated space. Our biggest challenge at first as an Akashinga ranger was to penetrate a male-dominated career. The community could not understand that we could equally do the job.”

Female empowerment

Akashinga was created as a unit of the International Anti-Poaching Fund, a nonprofit animal protection organization, the philosophy of which is that “change happens when it’s community-led, and who better to lead change within a community than the women that have been raised in them.”

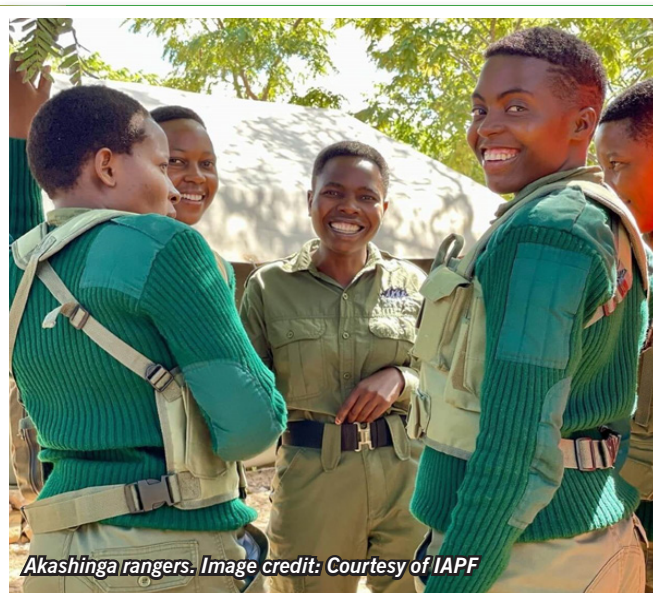
“The primary strategy of Akashinga is female empowerment,” says IAPF founder Damian Mander. “The Nature Conservancy

states, ‘Empowering women is the single biggest force for positive change in the world today.’ Also, the United Nations says: ‘When women work, they invest 90 percent of their income back into their families, compared with 35 percent for men.’”

Further, according to UN Women, economic autonomy for women “boosts productivity, increases economic diversification and income equality in addition to other positive development outcomes.” And the IAPF agrees, finding that 62% of operational costs of the Akashinga model go directly back to the local community, with 80% reaching the community at household level. The women in this program are able to help wildlife, their communities, and themselves as a result. It’s a more sustainable future for them and the world they help protect.

‘Transformed my life’

Their work — and Hoto’s leadership — have been recognized by their peers. This summer, at the IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress in Kigali, Hoto was one of 12 rangers and ranger teams from around the world to receive an International Ranger Award today for their “extraordinary commitment to protecting nature and helping local communities.”



Akashinga rangers. Image credit: Courtesy of IAPF

The awards committee cited Hoto for “helping to pioneer more inclusive and less confrontational approaches to protection that focus on positive social impacts as well as on conservation.”

Her courage, perseverance, diligence, and honesty have helped her overcome personal and professional obstacles to become a respected and trusted ranger sergeant. Operating with her team in often dangerous environments, her innovative work has proved highly effective in reducing poaching, building local support and empowering local women, earning the admiration of her colleagues and the support of her community.”

“My job and duty as a ranger has totally transformed my life,” she notes. “The braveness in me — I couldn’t ever have imagined it before. Wildlife rangers in Africa are the frontline protectors of the natural world. They are also ambassadors for wildlife and natural resources to the communities that live around conservancies or protected areas. Without rangers, we could lose Africa’s natural heritage and, in some cases, rare and endangered species forever.”

BENJAMIN NCUBE: Champion in Chief for men's health

By Artiom Turcan

Trailblazer and medical services entrepreneur, Ben Jammaine Ncube's mission is to break the stigma around men's health. Ben founded Men's Health Zimbabwe, a clinic that specializes in the provision of men's health care services.

A trained lawyer, Ben pivoted to men's health care due to his father.

"My father started

having health problems," says Ben. "However, he did not want to get checked because of social stigma attached to it. It is a huge issue here in Zimbabwe. Men do not seek health care services because they fear appearing as weak."

The realization that Zimbabwe needed health care centres that specialized in the treatment of men and addressed

social stigma sparked an innovative idea in him. He launched in 2018 the Men's Health Clinic. He was only 23 years old.

"It all started out small. I found a medical doctor to partner with," says Ben.

"At that time, I was so young. There I was, a fledgling lawyer with a big vision for a medical start up. Honestly, I can say the imposter syndrome got to

me at times. Most people would not trust such a young person to carry out a vision of this scope."

In 2021, Ben participated in the Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) for Young African Leaders (YALI) program after a friend told him about it. "I applied for it because I hoped that I would get access to the exact knowledge and skills I need to grow my clinic."

"One of the most important lessons I learned during the MWF program was a 'strengths mindset.' Leaders should focus on their strengths, rather than obsess over weaknesses. All MWF fellows take an exhaustive test, measuring their aptitudes and talents. In many cases, fellows discover/realize talents they never thought they had. The process changed my entire life, and I not only apply them in my work, but also my personal life."

Ben cites another MWF advantage as crucial to his success: his newly acquired network. "Having a network of other young leaders, who are going through similar challenges to mine, has been invaluable. We can call upon each other, collaborate, share ideas and experiences."

Ben now frequently works with other fellows of his cohort. "I cannot separate the fellowship from my life and work, as everything I am doing is now in conjunction with other fellows."

The men's clinic has grown significantly and now has a workforce of 12 core staff, nine supporting staff and 55 community health champions. The clinic has treated over 8,000 male patients. It

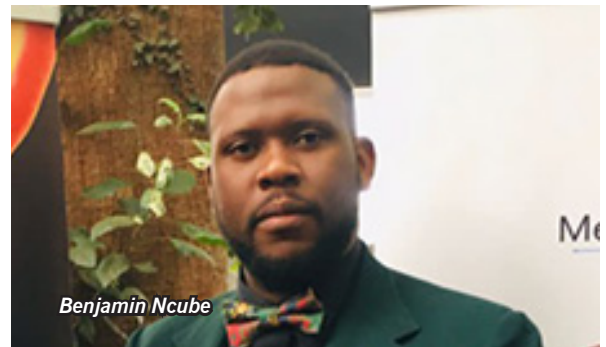
has reached out to 10,000 more through outreach programs in both rural and urban areas. The clinic also produces a free weekly men's health magazine, which provides easy to read and jargon free insights into men's health. It also has a significant social media footprint.

The journey has not been easy as the Covid-19 pandemic was a colossal challenge.

"The pandemic hit us extremely hard. At one point, I was ready to close the clinic," states Ben. He was personally convinced otherwise, however, through personal interactions with previous patients. "My one-on-one encounters with patients reminded me why I do what I do. To hear their accounts of how much the clinic has helped them gave me the drive to persevere and adapt."

"Sometimes the biggest impediment to our progress at leaders and innovators is our own self-belief. Being part of MWF, I have met people in similar positions. Our exchange of experiences and expertise has helped motivate and validate my journey. I know I am not alone."

Ben's long-term goal is to keep fighting social stigma. "I have been involved in a number of community initiatives trying to help men see the importance of healthcare. Not just for them, but for their families' sakes as well. I want to teach men that health is not just for women and children. Everyone should get the help they need, and I hope to keep being a champion in chief for the cause of men's health in the foreseeable future."



Benjamin Ncube

Vaka Ekhaya
Diaspora Property Investment Expo

Exclusive Diaspora Mortgages & Stands

THE CONFERENCE SUITE, THOMAS ST,
WEST BROMWICH, B70 6LY
UNITED KINGDOM

DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2022
TIME: 09:30HRS - 22:00HRS

FEATURING

- EXPERT INDUSTRY SPEAKERS
- ALL DAY CONFERENCE
- AN EXHIBITION
- LUNCH & DINNER
- NETWORKING
- EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

GRAB EARLY BIRD TICKET £50
THERE AFTER £60

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
+44 7858 946317;
vakauk@vaka.co.zw

DIAMOND SPONSOR

Stanbic Bank
A member of Standard Bank Group

SPONSORS



Where can one find truth and justice in this society?

Online

"THERE IS freedom of speech, but I cannot guarantee freedom after speech."- Idi Amin

Matigari came up to them and stood on the veranda. 'Kindly tell me this, my friends, where can one find truth and justice in this society?'

This is one of the questions that Zimbabweans have been grappling with for the past three months as Chitungwiza St Mary's legislator, Job Sikhala languishes in prison for demanding justice for the murder of CCC activist Moreblessing Ali.

If anything, history has taught us that the battle for justice is not linear, it's a high road that passes through travesty trials and tribulations, which if not persisted upon, liberties may be tramped upon at will.

The quote above from Ngugi Wa'Thiongo's Matigari, sums up operations of the post colonial kakistocracy Zimbabwean state, which failed to live up to its promises of an egalitarian state.

Upon the inception of a new government following the removal of Robert Mugabe in 2017, Zimbabwe was regarded as the second republic, whatever that meant, a place that was supposed to have savored its ties with the first two dictatorial governments.

Civil liberties in the second republic are not just provided but rather are enshrined and engraved in a constitution that binds every one in a state.

Back to Matigari, to his bemusement, after returning from the war of liberation, fails to see the fruits of his struggle for independence.

The upper echelon who participated in the war of liberation failed to reward the masses who fought at the forefront, choosing to neglect them whilst alienating them to live in abject poverty.

Matigari fails to distinguish the difference between colonial and post colonial state.

The black on black treatment was characterized by repression and brutality.

More or less the same confusion that befell Clover, a proletariat and the other animals in George Orwell's Animal Farm, when watching the arguments between the pigs and the humans.

The pigs, after chasing away farmer Jones, inherit everything they hated about humans.

The pigs were now accustomed to the same rituals as humans, they had adopted everything they despised about man. Consumption of alcohol, sleeping in bed with sheets, and cunningly crafting laws such that they can be above them.

All animals were equal but some, more equal than others.

The same odd predicament is also highlighted by Paulo Freire, in his writings Pedagogy of the Oppressed, when he laments the treatment of the citizen in a new state.

The oppressed are socialized through brutality, suppression and subjugation, as such for them to feel liberated they themselves in turn become the oppressors they loathe.

Franz Fanon termed this ambience, The Pitfalls Of National Consciousness.

In every battle for liberation and emancipation, many dedicate their energy

and zeal to extinguishing certain definite abuses such as forced labour, corporal punishment, inequality of salaries, limitation of political rights among other.

After liberation, national consciousness falls short of embracing and crystallizing the deep harboured hopes of the people, instead of uplifting the endeavours fought for, national consciousness becomes an empty shell, a crude and fragile travesty of what might have been.

The rituals and paraphernalia of the government have made it difficult for the people to critique it without getting a fierce backlash for the authority.

As Sikhala spends over 90 days in pretrial detention having been denied bail countless times, it's safe to describe him as a political prisoner, especially when a ruling party member, Justice Mayor Wadyajena, walked scot-free following charges of having defrauded COTCO \$US5 million.

Zimbabwe's status declined from Partly Free to Not Free, as Freedom House reports, due to the authorities' intensifying persecution of opposition figures and civic activists.

Studies conducted in 2021 showed that Zimbabwe on a scale of zero to hundred had a 28/100 global freedom Score.

As the country prepares for the 2023 general elections, cases of political violence are rising and with each disturbance seemingly intensifying.

What remains clear, however, is the need to liberate the voices that speak for many that have been stifled and choked through arrests and detention without trial.



ABOUT US

Destiny Media Group (DMG) is a diversified information and events management business involved in the creation and distribution of world class and multi-genre content across all platforms from news and current affairs, to entertainment and sport.

We pride ourselves in giving our audiences autonomy and ensuring that they can engage with our content wherever they are in the world, at any time of their choosing and using platforms and gadgets of their choice.

OUR VISION

To be one of Africa's leading content creation and events management organisation.

OUR MISSION

To connect people and business through landmark events and world class content across all genres and platforms, always ensuring that audience autonomy and control are at the heart of the content engagement process.

OUR VALUES

**Accountability
Creativity
Innovation
Professionalism
Transparency**



NewZimbabwe.com

Group Chairman
Jeff Madzingo

CEO
Gilbert Nyambavyu
+447535806404
ceo@newzimbabwe.com

General Manager
Tatenda Madzingo
admin@newzimbabwe.com

Sales & Marketing Executive
Gillian Gondo
gillian@newzimbabwe.com/
advertising@newzimbabwe.com

Chief Correspondent
Leopold Munhonde
news@newzimbabwe.com

Senior Reporter
Mary Taruvinga
courts@newzimbabwe.com

Managing Editor
Paidashe Mandivengere
managingeditor@
newzimbabwe.com

Social Media Producer
Thandiwe Garusa
pictures@newzimbabwe.com

Design and Layout
Kayi Studios
design@kayistudios.com

Zim's informal sector plays a key role in skills development but gets no recognition

By Martin Magidi

THE INFORMAL sector plays an important role in the development of skills among Zimbabwe's disadvantaged groups, and should be recognised as an alternative training path for those who cannot access formal training.

Yet, training in Zimbabwe remains tied to the formal education system. To be recognised as "trained", one must go through and attain passes in primary, secondary and tertiary education or training. Without this certification, one is generally not recognised as adequately trained or skilled. This is regardless of expertise or competence in a particular trade.

Formal training plays an important role in skills development in Zimbabwe, but it has some serious limitations. For example it is expensive and most families cannot afford the high tuition fees after the government stopped tertiary education grants in 2006 and 2011.

Moreover, tertiary institutions' entry requirements exclude learners with a poor academic record. High schools are producing far too many students whose exam results are not good enough for university or college entrance. In 2020 for example, only 24.8% of all O-level learners passed at least five subjects required to enrol into a formal training institution.

My research queries the effectiveness of such an exclusionary training. It highlights the fate of all the learners who are excluded from tertiary training for different reasons.

Skills are empowerment tools the disadvantaged can use to fight poverty and inequality. Skills enhance their chances of getting better jobs, which also improve their earning capacity and increase their self-sufficiency. This will in turn improve their food security, livelihoods and living standard.

What does the future hold for young people who are denied a chance to acquire life-changing and poverty-fighting skills? I argue that, since most of them end up in the informal sector, harnessing the training benefits of the sector can be a positive step towards addressing this uncertainty.

Zimbabwe's labour market is dominated by informal employment. In 2011, 94.5% of its employed population were working in the informal economy.

The country's formal education and training system is structured as follows:

1. Primary school
2. Ordinary level
3. Advanced level
4. Tertiary training (such as university, technical, teacher, agricultural, vocational, nursing, professional colleges; offering certificates, diplomas and degrees)

Most learners do not proceed beyond Ordinary level. Statistics from 2019 show that only 13.5% of young people proceed to post-secondary and tertiary training. As such, while formal training is the recognised form training, only a minority access it.

Vocational skills

My research found that the informal sector plays a crucial role in the acquisition of vocational skills. These include trades such as carpentry and joinery, metal fabrication, plumbing, construction, and domestic electrical installation. Others repair electrical gadgets such as televisions, laptops, cellphones and refrigerators. Some master garment making, shoemaking, cosmetology, panel beating, spray painting and catering.

The research encountered highly skilled people who did not get formal training, but gained their expertise through participating in the informal economy. Some failed their high school exams while others could not afford college or university tuition, and sought refuge in the informal sector. After years of learning and perfecting those skills, they are equally skilled to or better than those who attended formal training.

The study involved speaking to clients most of whom expressed satisfaction with their products and services. They noted that based on their experience, there was no real difference between products made by tradespeople with formal training and those trained informally.

In addition, consumers also applauded their products, arguing that in most cases, there was little or no notable



People trained in the informal sector are equally skilled or better than those who attended formal training

difference between products made by those informally trained and tradespeople with formal skills.

One example involved a builder who mastered construction skills through participating in informal construction work. He mastered expertise in site preparations, foundations, masonry, bricklaying, stonework, decorations, plastering, skimming, painting, renovations, tiling and others. He could also manage big construction projects like church, school and storey buildings. Had it not been for the informal sector, he would not have to mastered these skills as he had dropped out of high school. He could not qualify for tertiary training and would probably be unemployed.

This applies to many others in such trades as garment making, beauty therapy, catering and carpentry who could not get into formal training institutions, but were now highly skilled and experienced professionals.

Soft skills

People who participate in informal economy activities also acquire many soft skills necessary for both employees and entrepreneurs. These include knowledge and thinking skills, planning, objective or goal setting, basic numeracy and market research. Other skills are literacy and computer skills, networking, interpersonal communication, negotiating and bargaining,

teamwork, problem solving and decision making. These skills are important on their own, but they also complement vocational skills. It is difficult for one to thrive on vocational skills alone without soft skills.

The informal economy is a rich hub from which these skills are learnt, nurtured and perfected. For example, the informal sector is a very contested space as entrepreneurs compete for business, and is also often criminalised by the law. Operating successfully in such environments requires negotiating and bargaining skills.

Moreover, the highly competitive nature of the sector makes conflicts inevitable. Entrepreneurs in the same trade often clash over clients and deals. However, because working together is unavoidable, they learn to resolve their conflicts amicably to continue working together.

Entrepreneurial skills

The informal sector is also equipping its participants with a range of entrepreneurial skills. Entrepreneurial skills in this context refer to the ability to device and exploit an idea to make income out of it.

Taking part in informal sector activities exposes actors to complex situations which require them to learn various skills. These include:

- project planning and management,
- delegation of work and tasks,
- building relationships

through networking,

- time management, budgeting,
- costing and pricing,
- marketing and advertising,
- leadership and decision making, and
- customer care.

To boost their businesses it is imperative for them to be innovative and inventive, creative, identify niche markets, marketing, leadership, risk-taking skills and ability to raise, invest and manage money.

They also include the ability to be productive, hire and manage people and identify new trends and niche markets. Together with soft skills, entrepreneurial skills complement vocational skills and turn one from a mere trades-person into a complete entrepreneur.

Why it matters

Promoting the informal sector as an equally important alternative training platform as well as recognising and standardising informally acquired skills will allow skill holders to participate in the main or formal economy. They will have a chance to challenge for formal jobs and tenders in private and public sectors.

Since most of these skill holders are from disadvantaged backgrounds, recognising their skills and allowing them to participate in the formal economy will play an important role in uplifting their living skills.

Martin Magidi is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Cape Town



It's Enrolment Time!!!

NewZimbabwe.com will be publishing 2023 Intakes Feature in It's Epaper publication of 25th September 2022.

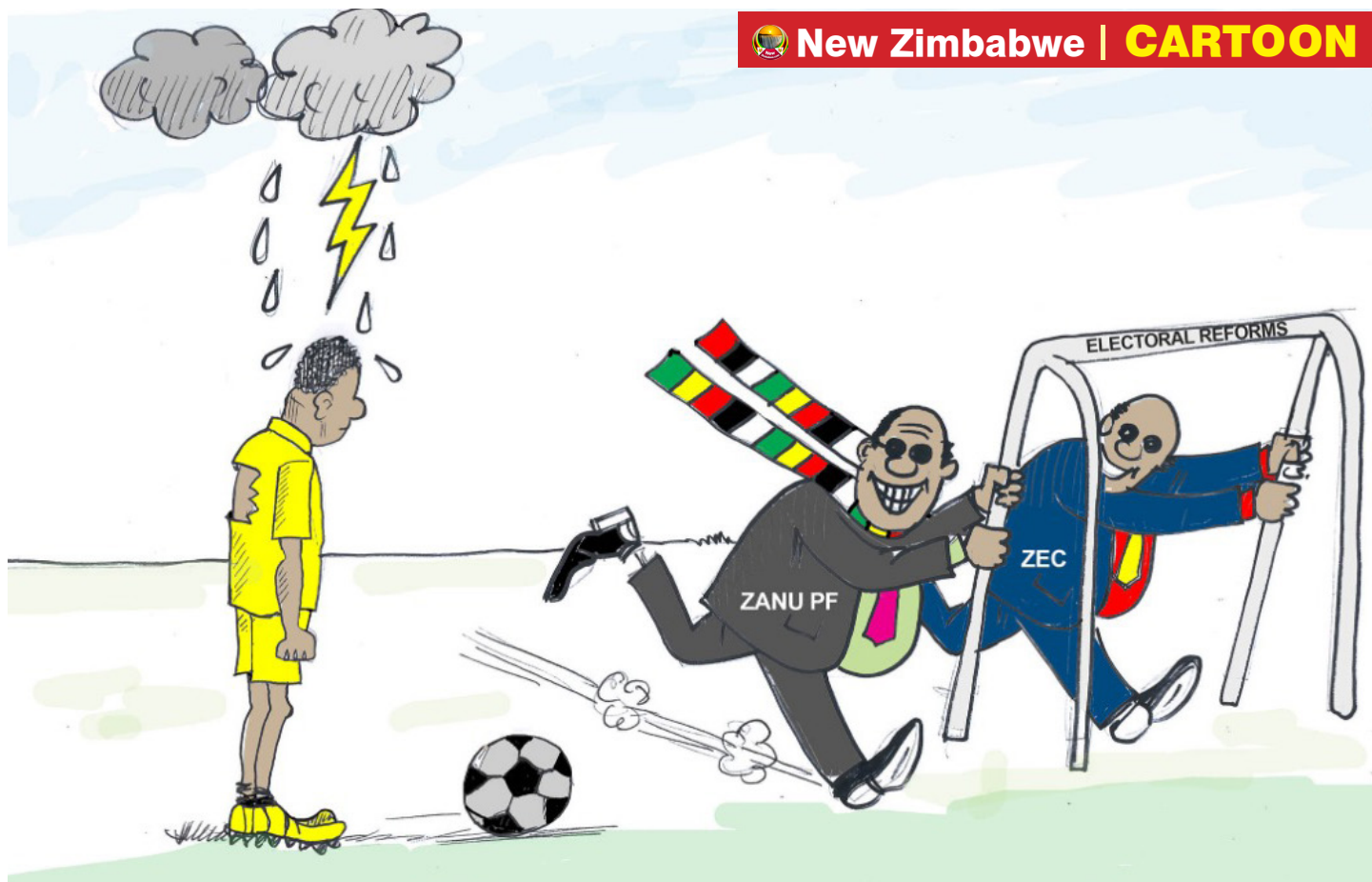
The Epaper is distributed via Website, Facebook and WhatsApp groups.

This feature will inform our readers on the institutions available and subjects being offered such that they will be guided accordingly.

Grab this opportunity to participate in this feature as it will assist in positioning your brand, increasing awareness as well as generating leads.

Editorials and pictures to accompany your advert will be welcomed at no extra charge.

To participate call or app +263 789 728 995/+263 772 614 893
Email: advertising@newzimbabwe.com



New Zimbabwe | CARTOON



UK-Africa ties: future looks gloomy under Liz Truss as political myopia reigns

By Michael Jennings

BRITAIN has a new prime minister in Liz Truss. For African leaders wondering what the new administration might mean for UK-Africa relationships, the view must be pretty gloomy.

British politics has been solidly inward-looking for the past two (post-Brexit Conservative) prime ministers – Theresa May and Boris Johnson. It shows few signs of changing. Looking at the UK's shifts in relationship with African countries over the past three decades, I see little prospect of African issues rising up the political agenda. And little chance of an active Africa policy, whether at a continental or regional level, before the next general election.

The election must be held by January 2025, but is likely to be sooner.

Aid levels are unlikely to be restored. Nor is UK aid likely to be placed back in an independent government department. In addition, British politicians are unlikely to look beyond domestic and European crises. The result is that Africa is likely to feature in British high-level politics only when it is in the government's narrow self-interest.

Nevertheless, UK policy will still have impact on the continent. A retreat from climate-emergency pledges, and continuing cuts in aid, will create real harm in many vulnerable African states. Sadly, there will be little scope for their voices to be heard in response.

Shifting priorities

Africa and the UK lack the close (some would argue too close) formal political, economic and military linkages of Franco-African

relationships. Still, Africa has in the past been a much bigger part of the UK's political conversation.

The creation of an independent aid ministry – the Department for International Development – by the Labour government in 1997 was a key platform for building relationships.

It was also key to raising African politics and issues within the UK government. With both prime minister Tony Blair (1997-2007) and finance minister Gordon Brown (2007-2010) interested in African prospects and development, close ties were forged. Through the Department for International Development, links with civil society voices were also stronger.

The transition to a Conservative government in 2010 (initially as part of a coalition) saw little change. Indeed, the raising of aid spending to 0.7% of gross national income – an increase of £1 billion – expanded the Department for International Development. At the time, other domestic-focused departments faced severe cuts to their budgets.

The first conservative minister of international development, Andrew Mitchell (2010-2012), had long-standing interests in the continent. He developed close relationships with key leaders, including Rwanda's Paul Kagame. He also maintained close ties with the Ethiopian government, among others. Prime minister David Cameron (2010-2016) was also interested in Africa, as a visible indication of his ambitions for a strong UK global role.

Since the Brexit referendum in 2016, however, Africa has slipped

from its precarious but tangible place in UK political discourse. The dismantling of the Department for International Development and its incorporation into a new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in 2020, as well as subverting aid to British self-interest, led to the departure of many experienced personnel who maintained the relationships with African political and civil society leaders.

It also removed a key ally for Africa within UK debates. Recent discussions around Africa have focused removing some migrants to Rwanda, hardly the bedrock of a high-level relationship.

And it's hard to imagine former governments remaining silent over the Ethiopia crisis, for example, as the most recent Conservative administration has done. **Truss offers little prospect of change**

Before her elevation to prime minister, Truss was the foreign, Commonwealth and development office minister. She showed little interest in development, anti-poverty policies or creating relationships based on mutual respect and dialogue. In fact, in my view, she contributed to the subversion of UK aid to British diplomatic and economic self-interest.

Her global tours as minister did not include a visit to Africa.

It is true that agreements have been signed with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique in 2019. But they offer little consolation in place of a new and powerful friendship.

More importantly, UK politics, and the attention of the new prime minister,

will be firmly fixed on the domestic cost of living and inflation crisis, on a potential new row with the UK's European Union neighbours (one of the UK government's own making), and the conflict in Ukraine. Next on the agenda will be China, and the pursuit of trade deals elsewhere in the world.

It's unlikely Britain's limited attention span will have much space left for African issues and policy.

There is an argument to be made that African issues might receive a listening ear within the government given that most senior offices of state will, for the first time, be led by ministers with African heritage. The new chancellor is Kwasi Kwarteng, whose parents migrated from Ghana in the 1960s, and who has written a (mildly critical) book on the history of the British empire; the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be led by James Cleverly, who has a Sierra Leonean mother; and the parents of the new Home Office minister, Suella Braverman, came to Britain from Kenya and Mauritius.

Never before have the top posts been held by so many with direct links to Africa.

In my view, however, this is unlikely to make any real difference. None of the ministers have a strong record of advocating for closer or deeper ties with the continent. And despite Kwarteng's criticism of the legacy of British colonial occupation, all three have signed up to the Conservative Party culture wars which see criticism of a glorious British past as treasonous wokery.

Danger ahead



Liz Truss

There is a real danger that Britain will institute policies that actively harm African countries. Restoring UK aid to previous levels is becoming a vanishingly small possibility, which means cuts to vital social welfare programmes for some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Calls for renewed investment in fossil fuel production, and the possibility of backtracking on climate emission promises in response to the energy price crisis, will undermine efforts to reduce the impact of the climate emergency.

African leaders and civil society organisations hoping a new broom will lead to a new set of relationships look set to be disappointed. Britain's political myopia and navel-gazing will continue, with global engagement framed as something strictly to be done where it benefits the UK. Africa will likely have to wait for a new government, and a revived Department for International Development, for strong and close relations to be restored.



New Zimbabwe

ARTS | CULTURE ENTERTAINMENT



Sha Sha

**SA-based Zimbabwean
vocalist crafting a
legacy as the**

*'Queen of
Amapiano'*

*The pioneering African
artist's boundless and free-
flowing debut album proves
that she possesses a riveting
star quality*

By Cora-Jane Jordon

EACH WEEK in Breakout, we talk to the emerging stars blowing up right now – whether it be a huge viral moment, killer new track or an eye-popping video – these are the rising artists certain to dominate the near future

When it comes to creating an Amapiano track, there are three main components: the melodic piano chords, a simple yet infectious beat, and a sultry and vibrant vocalist. Charmaine Mapimbiro, better known as Sha Sha, is a powerhouse artist that is currently dominating the genre. Dubbed the 'queen of Amapiano' by a growing global fanbase, the 28-year-old's voice features on just about every major contemporary Amapiano track; from collaborations with South African industry figures DJ Maphorisa to Kabza De Small, Sha Sha is truly commanding her space in the field.

● to page 17



Sha Sha

Sha Sha: SA-based Zim vocalist crafting legacy as the 'queen of Amapiano'...

● from page 16

Amapiano is relatively a young genre, having come to prominence in the late 2010s after becoming a mainstay on the radio stations of the South Africa's Gauteng province. Recently, the sound has become a not-so silent rival to the African giant that is Afrobeats, a genre led by international superstars Burna Boy and Wizkid, who have garnered commercial and critical acclaim in recent years with their hit songs 'Ye' and 'Essence' respectively. Now, with artists like Sha Sha leading the way, Amapiano's popularity is steadily growing, amassing billions of views on TikTok in the process.

It is hard, then, to imagine that Amapiano was not Sha Sha's first choice when her career started – or even her second. While working in an artist development program in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, Sha Sha experimented with country, rock, and EDM sounds, all in an attempt to find what style worked for her. But eventually, it was Amapiano that stuck out as the genre to focus on; she was fascinated by the expanding wider culture around the sound, and knew she had to create "music that matched that vibe", she tells NME.

In 2020, Sha Sha made history by becoming the first Zimbabwean artist to be named Best New International Act at the BET Awards, an award that has previously been won by the likes of Tems and former NME cover star Bree Runway. It made for a pivotal moment for an artist that has spent years pioneering the Amapiano sound, and all that hard work will come to fruition on her debut album, 'I'm Alive' (due September 23), a collection powered by strong drum patterns blended with lively flourishes of saxophone notes and percussion.

Ahead of its release, Sha Sha meets NME to talk about her Zimbabwean heritage, the recent surge in popularity of both Afrobeats and Amapiano, and her dream of Latin superstar J Balvin featuring on an Amapiano

track.

NME: How has your Zimbabwean background influenced your sound?

"I grew up listening to Zimbabwean artists like Oliver Mtukudzi and Thomas Mapfumo, so I have always been exposed to those types of sounds. Now, when I tap into Amapiano, and when I create my own music, I bring in my Shona – my culture – because it represents where I have been. I have lived in Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa, and the exposure to these cultures are put into my songs. I like to play around with them and merge them into my music.

"Yet I haven't felt any different as a Zimbabwean in the music industry. I'm just a female in the industry, trying to push my work and trying to do what I want to do. I have been accepted with open arms, and people have treated me amazingly. The fans and the industry welcomed me as their own."

You were part of an artist development program in Harare. How has that shaped your approach to music?

"When I look

back at it, I actually see how badly it was needed because back then, I was such a shy person. I was really in my shell, I was an introvert, and I used to have such serious, crippling stage fright. Through the program, I was introduced to Audius Mtawarira, a radio personality, who then became my mentor. I worked with them for a good four years, working on my energy and my presence – just getting the hang of being an artist.

"I spent so many hours in the studio working that I even lost count. I spent time without dropping any music because we were

working on finding my voice and coming out of my shell. It was a very important part of my career."

Amapiano is quite a young genre, in that it has not necessarily been around for as long as some other African music genres out there. How did you first discover it?

"I discovered [the genre] in late 2018. I had just met [producer] DJ Maphorisa, and he really has a gift of just knowing what is going to be big. He was already bumping the sound, so when I listened to it I knew it was fire. It was just so crazy. I

listened to it more and more, and it grew on me. Eventually, I knew I had to jump on this. It was exactly what I needed to be creating. When I look back at my career, I realise Amapiano was what I needed to grow and evolve as an artist. This is the music that I embraced as being Sha Sha."

Winning a BET award must have been such a memorable moment in your career. What did it mean for you?

"It was so unexpected. At the time I had just dropped my EP [2019's 'Blossom'] and was still working towards that type of recognition and success. So, when I heard I was nominated? I could not believe it. I told my colleagues, "You must be joking". I was so excited about the nomination, but I thought that's where it would end because I didn't think I would win it. Me? Win? That was a whole different level of joy and happiness. It was insane."

You were also the first Zimbabwean artist ever to win the award...

"Isn't it crazy to think about that? I remember after I won, people back home reached out to share how proud they were of me. And when I went back [to

Zimbabwe] on tour, the love I received was just insane. It was a very beautiful moment."

In recent years, the biggest genre to come out of Africa has been Afrobeats, yet Amapiano is starting to gain exposure, and is becoming a clear rival. Do you think it could ever be bigger than Afrobeats?

"I feel like it might be at a par, because Afrobeats is so timeless. That genre evolves and morphs into all these different sounds which are the same in Amapiano. They can both live at the same time. I know people will be against this, but both [genres] have that same element of being timeless. And with Amapiano, more and more people are jumping on to the sound. Imagine if J Balvin was on an Amapiano track? It will continue to grow, but for now, both genres can exist together."

Amapiano is steadily growing outside South Africa, with a growing popularity across the globe. What do you think is attracting this audience?

"It has to be the vibe! You cannot resist Amapiano. When you hear that beat, you feel the energy. It is impossible to just sit still and look pretty. No, you have to get up and move. It is so contagious."

The past few years have really been about 'Amapiano to the world'. Do you think interest in the genre has peaked, or is it still growing?

"There was a point when people back at home actually thought [Amapiano] was going to fade away, and that the hype would eventually die down. But like I said before, the genre keeps morphing into different sounds and keeps growing. Amapiano is not going away – it is here to stay."

Sha Sha's debut album 'I'm Alive' will be released on September 23



Tsitsi Dangarembga: “People started pointing fingers at me, saying ‘She’s a Western puppet!’”

Prize-winning novelist on colonialism, her family, and being tried in Zimbabwe for political protest

By Ellen Peirson-Harper for
The New Statesman

ON 31 JULY 2020 Tsitsi Dangarembga and her friend Julie Barnes went onto the streets of Harare, Zimbabwe, to protest against government corruption. Dangarembga, a novelist and film-maker, carried a sign that read: “We want better. Reform our institutions.”

The corruption they were protesting against is wide-ranging, she told me. “The enforced disappearances, the torture – sometimes people die of torture – the clampdown on opposition and on people who express any contrary ideas to the ruling party’s ideology.”

The demonstration was expected to be large, but just before it was due to take place President Emmerson Mnangagwa imposed tighter restrictions on public movement under the guise of reducing rising Covid-19 infections. “However, the constitution of Zimbabwe does confer the right to demonstrate, protest or petition the government peacefully,” Dangarembga said, and so she and Barnes, a journalist, went ahead.

Following the protest Dangarembga and Barnes were arrested, spent one night in prison, and then were released on bail. In September 2020 the pair were charged with intention to incite public violence and with breaking Covid-19 lockdown measures. The case has dragged on, with the trial beginning in May of this year.

When we met in a hotel lounge in London in early September, 63-year-old Dangarembga was awaiting the verdict, due at the end of the month. She was in the city for an event to celebrate her new essay collection, *Black and Female*, and had spoken the previous evening at a bookshop in Bath.

For the last two years she has existed as both an internationally successful author and the target of a criminal case. Just days before she was arrested in

2020, her novel *This Mournable Body*, the third part in the *Nervous Conditions* trilogy, was longlisted for the Booker Prize. It went on to be shortlisted.

“When I was longlisted, I was really happy,” said Dangarembga, who wore a black and white checked jacket, jeans and stylish cat-eye glasses. She spoke seriously. “I thought, ‘I’ve been working, as far as I’m concerned, very hard at my writing for decades, and it’s nice that there will be some recognition’ – because I really was living hand to mouth. And then the arrests came. There were people who immediately started pointing fingers at me: ‘She’s a Western puppet!’ ‘Look, she’s getting all these prizes now!’”

The way the case has been prolonged, and that there has been so much publicity around it, “makes me feel that something is being engineered here,” she said. “It makes me think that a story is being constructed to show people that you may not transgress.” And who is constructing that story? “The government.”

Dangarembga was born in 1959 in Mutoko, in what was then Southern Rhodesia. Aged two she moved with her parents and older brother to England. Her mother, Susan, was the first black woman from her country to obtain a bachelor’s degree, and her father, Amon, would later become a headteacher. The couple had taken up scholarships to study for master’s degrees at University College, London, overseen by the British Colonial Office. Tsitsi travelled with her parents only as far as Dover; from there, the children were fostered by a white family while Susan and Amon



Tsitsi Dangarembga

pursued their studies.

When Dangarembga was six, she returned home with her parents and brother, but the time she had spent away – and the difficulties she faced adapting to life back in Rhodesia – altered her sense of self.

That period in England “was the beginning of the discrepancies,” she said. Her parents “couldn’t have understood what cross-racial fostering would entail psychologically for a child”. But the impact was significant: “The sense of disorientation, the sense of having a part of me that knows something that other people don’t know. Writing *Nervous Conditions* was an attempt to put those things down so that other young girls could benefit from the kinds of affective knowledges, if you like, that I had. There were things that simply did not fit as well as other people seemed to have them fit.”

Until Zimbabwe became independent following a long war in 1980, Southern Rhodesia was a British colony. The opportunity offered to her parents to come to England was in effect an extension of imperial dominance. “There is not a day when I do not think about how colonisation ripped

through my family,” Dangarembga writes in one of the essays in *Black and Female*, a sharp and profound collection of writing on “the wounds of empire”.

She wrote *Nervous Conditions* during the 1980s, while she was studying at the University of Zimbabwe. The novel follows Tambudzai, a pre-independence teenager, who strives to pull herself out of poverty through education. But the best school she can attend is a convent

institution run by white nuns, and her mother fears what will happen to her if she spends too much time with white people. In 1988 the book was picked up by the London-based Women’s Press and Dangarembga became the first black Zimbabwean woman to be published in English. *Nervous Conditions* was awarded the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize in 1989 and is now considered a landmark African work. Its sequel *The Book of Not* was published in 2006, followed by *This Mournable Body* in 2018 in the US, and in the UK two years later. She has also made a career writing for screen, including *Neria* (1991), the highest grossing Zimbabwean film ever.

Her work is political but she doesn’t see herself as an activist. “I’m a writer, and my subject matter is human beings. I look at myself as an engaged citizen.” In Zimbabwe, where “the economy is in a critical condition” and where “there is no literary industry anyway” – most of Dangarembga’s books are sold outside the country, and for most of her work she travels abroad – there are few ways she can engage in politics beyond taking to the streets.

She has been invited to read at events in Zimbabwe “maybe four times” over the course of her 34-year career.

The country’s lack of a literary culture is intertwined with its colonial legacy. “Writing has been associated with education, which came into the country not even one-and-a-half centuries ago. Literature was commandeered, first by the colonialists and then by Zanu-PF [the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front, the party that has ruled since 1980].” This political hold over literature “has to be dismantled. I think we have to liberate the imagination, and then we will be able to take advantage of it.”

Dangarembga’s experience of the Zimbabwean court system has revealed to her how “the organs of the state function. Now I understand why people are reluctant to engage against the government. Many Zimbabweans think, ‘I’ve got so little to begin with; I can’t afford to begin to lose even a little bit of it.’”

Yet this realisation does not mean she has lost hope for her country, where she wants to remain and help bring about political change. “Because the government does not seem to have any interest in the well-being of the ordinary person, people are going to realise that even that little bit that they do have will be at stake soon. I think that realisation will push people to be more actively engaged.”

In the meantime Tsitsi Dangarembga awaits the outcome of her trial. “They will give whatever verdict they want to, so there’s nothing I can do,” she said, calmly. “My preference is obviously to be acquitted. But that is out of my control. I’ve been reading Hilary Mantel’s *Wolf Hall* trilogy, so I realise how power can play out in situations like that, and I’m thinking: ‘Well, at least I will keep my head.’”

“Black and Female” is published by Faber & Faber

Lights, camera off

Fare thee well Mai Sorobhi, actress par excellence





New Zimbabwe SPORT



Zim starlet Mabaya named in England Under-19 squad

By Sports Reporter

LIVERPOOL'S Zimbabwean youngster Isaac Mabaya has earned his maiden call-up to the England Under-19 squad ahead of their 2022-23 UEFA European Under-19 Championship qualifying matches which start this week.

The 17-year-old versatile player, who was born in England to Zimbabwean parents has been on a steady rise after making his first team debut at Liverpool during their pre-season tour of Asia.

Mabaya caught the eye with some solid performances for Liverpool's senior squad in pre-season matches against Manchester United, Crystal Palace and Red Bull Salzburg.

Since his involvement during the pre-season, Mabaya has been involved in the senior training set-up as he continues to make significant strides at the English football giants.

He is one of the four Reds players who will join the England under-19s, together with Luke Chambers, Lee Jonas and Oakley Cannonier.

England's Under-19 squad will face Georgia, Montenegro and hosts Denmark as part of their 2022-23 UEFA European Under-19 Championship qualifying group.

The latest call-up comes after Mabaya scored on his England Under-18 debut in a 2-3 win against Sweden in March.

The Preston-born who can play as a midfielder or at right-back is eligible to play for both Zimbabwe and England at senior international level.

Mabaya is one of the several talented youngsters born or bred overseas being tracked by the Zimbabwe Warriors technical team in the hope of convincing them to represent Zimbabwe at senior international level.



Isaac Mabaya