WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS!
SAYS CCC AFTER MNANGAGWA’S MOVE TO PROCLAIM BY-ELECTION DATES

THE Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) has declared it will not accept President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s move to call for a by-election in 15 constituencies where its members were recalled by shadowy Senzo Tshabangu.

By Leopold Munhende
Chief Correspondent

THE Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) has declared it will not accept President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s move to call for a by-election in 15 constituencies where its members were recalled by shadowy Senzo Tshabangu.
Mbalula denies axing David Masondo over Zanu-PF criticism, Ibbo Mandaza lecture

By Queenin Masuabi  
Daily Maverick

THE ANC this week announced that its head of political education David Makhura has been appointed as the new head of the party’s governance school, meaning that ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) member David Masondo has been given the boot.

Speaking to the media at the party post-NEC briefing this week, party secretary general Fikile Mbalula told journalists this decision makes sense because it aligns with Makhura’s position in the party. He added that as head of political education, Makhura was full-time at Luthuli House.

He further explained that Masondo would continue making contributions to the school despite no longer being the head.

"It is an alignment Masondo is capable of. The OR Tambo School of Governance is a project of the ANC and Makhura is full-time, Masondo was never full-time," he said.

This change follows a row over Zimbabwean academic and author Dr Ibbo Mandaza speaking at the school amid his home country’s elections.

Mbalula tried to halt a seminar titled The State of Democracy in the SADC Region: A Reflection on the National Elections of Zimbabwe, which was scheduled last month, where Mandaza was set to speak. Mbalula had articulated that the ANC’s posture is to support Zanu-PF while Mandaza has an opposing stance.

The governing party is also involved in behind-the-scenes talks to deal with Zimbabwe’s disputed election.

Masondo went ahead with the seminar despite attempts by Mbalula to have the event cancelled.

Mbalula attempted to brush off this incident as the reason why the change in leadership was made.

He explained that his gripe was that the seminar did not allow both pro and anti-Zanu-PF opinions and was biased toward one idea.

“Masondo would not listen — I think they satisfied themselves with what they wanted to bash, they did not want to debate. "I know you are going to raise an issue about the seminar which is an issue we have solved. Ibbo makes all kinds of allegations and it does not know what he is talking about. I have respect for him as an intellectual and so on. The ANC will never oppress anyone. We did not want him to continue and it was his pulpit alone. We cannot give a platform for dissidence and criticism of other countries. We want an honest dialogue, a dialogue of minds," according to Mbalula.

He further said the governance school should not be used as a "propaganda tool" for one group in South Africa that doesn’t like Emmerson Mnangagwa as a president and Zanu-PF.

Masondo was the first principal of the school which was launched in 2019.

Masondo, who is also the deputy finance minister, had not responded immediately to DM after being approached for comment.
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By Staff Reporter

PRESIDENT Emmerson Mnangagwa has appointed Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Anselem Nhamo Sanyatwe to the position of Commander of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA), with immediate effect following the retirement of Lt Gen David Sigeauke.

In a press statement issued this Friday, October 20, 2023, Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Martin Rushwaya, said the appointment was in line with Constitutional provisions.

“His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Cde Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa has, with immediate effect and in terms of section 216 (2) as read with sections 89 and 110 (2)g of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20), appointed Lt Gen Anselem Nhamo Sanyatwe to the position of Commander of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA).

“The appointment follows the retirement of the outgoing Commander of the ZNA, Lt Gen David Sigauke,” reads the notice.

Sanyatwe is a former Presidential Guard commander, who in 2018, then with the rank of Brigadier, was the tactical schermer of the force deployed on 1 August to deal with election-related demonstrations in central Harare.

Sanyatwe is infamous for giving misleading evidence to the Mothlante Commission public inquiry into the 2018 post-election violence that left some citizens dead.

In December 2018, Sanyatwe was promoted to the rank of Major General.

Viewed as Vice President Constantino Chiwenga loyalist, Sanyatwe was shockingly retired and on May 29, 2019 designated Zimbabwe’s Ambassador to Tanzania.

This was Mnangagwa’s first reshuffle of the top military posts which claimed the scalps of mostly Chiwenga-aligned high-ranking soldiers in a bid to consolidate his power in the wake of cracks in Zanu PF and rumours his subordinate harboured presidential ambitions.

The other three were the late Maj Gen Douglas Nyikayaramba, Inspector General of the Defence Force; Maj Gen Martin Chedondo, Chief of Army Staff; and Air Vice Marshal Shamba Shumbayawonda. All four were later sent overseas on unspecified diplomatic missions.

The new army chief’s wife, Chido Sanyatwe, is a Zanu PF Member of Parliament for Nyanga North, who was recently appointed Home Affairs deputy minister ostensibly at the behest of Chiwenga.

By Emirates News Agency

ZIMBABWE’S Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Monica Mutsvangwa expressed her desire to enhance collaboration between the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe, with the goal of empowering women in both the business sector and leadership roles.

In statements to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) during the 2023 UNCTAD World Investment Forum, the minister praised the achievements of the UAE and its leadership in supporting and empowering women to become an effective and decision-making force in society, providing all support for them, whether through training or financing.

In this context, she stressed the importance of continuing cooperation with the UAE to benefit from its experiences and expertise, saying that Zimbabwean women make up 52% of the population, which requires strengthening their role in decision-making positions. She said that they are working tirelessly to support Zimbabwean women, because they cannot remain job seekers. They must become job creators.

She added that Zimbabwe and the UAE have strong bilateral ties in diverse sectors, such as tourism, mining, and agriculture.

The minister noted that this type of forum creates opportunities to continue to showcase what women can offer. She also said that the participation of the Zimbabwe Investment Development Agency enables them to attract investors from different countries to start their business and investment activities.

She explained that Zimbabwe has many natural resources that attract investors, such as gold, platinum, and lithium. She said that their mission at the forum is to find investment opportunities for their women, as they are experienced in the agricultural, manufacturing, and mining sectors.

The ministry continues to support these institutions through a number of interventions, such as supporting them through financing. The government has also allocated a budget to support female entrepreneurs in their businesses.
AN agency of the United Nations has cleared Zambia and Zimbabwe to build a $5 billion hydropower dam downstream from Victoria Falls, a Unesco World Heritage Site, the authority overseeing its construction said.

The 2,400 megawatt Batoka Gorge project, 47 kilometres from the world’s largest waterfall, has been opposed by environmentalists because of the potential impact it would have on the cataract, a key tourist site for both countries, that spans the Zambezi River.

Unesco “sent inspectors in 2022 after complaints by some environmentalists that the Batoka project was going to affect the Victoria Falls,” Munyaradzi Munodawafa, chief executive officer of the Zambezi River Authority, said in an interview. They “looked at the reports and our presentations and agreed that Batoka could go ahead” at a meeting of the World Heritage Committee last month, he said.

Construction of the 181-metre (594-foot) high wall and power plants by a group led by General Electric Co, and China’s Power Construction had been expected to start in 2020 but was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic and funding concerns. Both Zambia and Zimbabwe, who already share the Kariba hydropower facility further east on the Zambezi, at times have struggled to meet their power needs.

“Now we are good to go” said Munodawafa. “We are on solid ground and by end of next month, I will have an actual date of commencement.”

Unesco didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

The African Development Bank is the lead arranger for the financing of Batoka, which has been designed as a run-of-river project, meaning that there will be little storage of water behind the turbines, minimizing the impact on the Victoria Falls.

Still, there are tensions over the project between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In June Peter Kapala, Zambia’s energy minister, said his country plans to exit the agreement with GE and Power Construction because it was too expensive and a smaller plant could be more appropriate.

Munodawafa also said the $130 million rehabilitation of a plunge pool below the wall of the Kariba dam, which holds back the world’s biggest artificial reservoir, is expected to be completed by early 2025.

Further downstream, in Mozambique, the AfDB is also advising on the $4.5 billion, 1,500-megawatt Mphanda Nkuwa hydropower project.
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Caledonia explores funding options to build Zimbabwe’s biggest gold mine

By Nyasha Chingono | Reuters

CALEDONIA Mining Corp (CALq.L) is exploring options to raise $250 million needed to develop its Bilboes project into what could be Zimbabwe’s biggest gold mine.

The company, which also owns the Blanket gold mine in Zimbabwe, could raise the money via a combination of debt, its own cash reserves and equity, Maurice Mason, Caledonia’s vice president, corporate development, told Reuters.

Caledonia, which plans to construct the Bilboes mine over two years, is doing studies to find solutions to reduce the up-front capital, Mason said.

“It will be Zimbabwe’s biggest gold mine by far,” Mason told Reuters via email. “We are considering phased capital raising, but that will depend on the outcome of the review of the feasibility study.”

Mason said that while investors were cautious to commit to big mining projects, “our experience has been that good projects with good returns investors have been supportive.”

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“Gold is among Zimbabwe’s top foreign currency earning commodities alongside shipments of tobacco and platinum metals mined by units of Impala Platinum (IMP.JJ) and Anglo American Platinum (AMS.JJ).”

Caledonia, which has long sought to expand gold output in Zimbabwe, acquired the Bilboes project last year. Its also exploring for more gold deposits at Motapa and Maligreen projects.
Zimbabwe's Tano Digital moves HQ to Botswana

By Andrew Maramwidze
IT Web Africa

ZIMBABWE-BORN
Tano Digital Solutions, a pan-African tech company, has relocated its headquarters to Gaborone after acquiring Altron businesses in Botswana and Mozambique, last year as part of its regional expansion plans.

The company says the establishment of a headquarters in Gaborone is planned to deliver new tech solutions and drive the expansion of local expertise in Botswana.

Tano Digital Solutions group CEO Wallen Mangere stated that the company’s relocation to Botswana will support local industries and cultivate a trained workforce, with a substantial influence on the region, while the company seeks more prospects on the continent.

“We are not simply entering a new market; we are committing to being an economic driver in Botswana,” Mangere added, emphasising Tano’s desire to establish a hub for IT talent and innovation in Botswana.

He stated that the organisation intends to reshape Botswana’s IT landscape through technical innovation.

Tano Botswana country general manager Tefo Noke expressed similar comments, stating that the company plans to construct a SAP delivery hub in the country that will act as the company’s operational centre.

According to him, the centre would provide a variety of innovative services, including those aimed at addressing the SAP skills gap in Southern Africa and the surrounding region.

“When fully operational, our SAP Delivery Centre has the capacity to employ up to 100 people. This not only benefits our SAP products but also creates job chances for the local workforce,” explained Noke.

Noke stated that the company seeks to expand the market by exporting key skills and ensuring that Botswana remains competitive in the global technology industry.

“This expansion is a win-win, allowing us to support local businesses while delivering exceptional IT solutions,” Noke said, adding that the company aims to contribute to the growth of local knowledge.

HARARE: A new report recently released by the International Trade Center (ITC) on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Zimbabwe has shown that the firms are facing funding and input shortages, as well as environmental risks.

“Small and Medium-sized Enterprises play an outsized role in Zimbabwe’s economy, representing 90 percent of all businesses. These firms face funding and input shortages and high production costs, and more than 70 percent face environmental risks. Informality is pervasive, accounting for 75 percent of employment in 2022,” said the report.

Many companies’ operations were being curtailed due to inadequate infrastructure, poor quality of internet connection and expensive broadband-enabled services, it said.

Nearly half of the surveyed firms consider the quality of the internet to be low, and three of four firms find the cost of internet service to be high, it noted.

While access and infrastructure were a challenge, only one in 10 firms said their employees had the requisite digital skills, it said.

Digital marketing was essential for SMEs as a means to connect with buyers and sellers, bolster efficiency and reach global markets. About 70 percent of SMEs use social media for advertising, poor digital access keeps them from using more sophisticated technologies for business promotion. Logistics in landlocked Zimbabwe affect competitiveness, and only 19 percent of surveyed firms used digital technologies to improve their deliveries, it said.

The report recommended strengthening business support services, access to finance, digitalization and a reliable business environment.

It also suggested focusing on small firms, women and youth-led firms and encouraged financial reforms to facilitate the opening of bank accounts and access to financial institutions, financial literacy training, financial products tailored to SME requirements, and a focus on mobile money expansion in rural areas.

Dorothy Tembo, deputy executive director of ITC, said SMEs that incorporated digital technologies into their business models tended to fare better on the international stage.

“They need a policy environment that enables digitalization and empowers business support services,” Tembo said.

The ITC is a joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations that helps SMEs become more competitive in global markets.

Zimbabwean SMEs face funding, digitalization gaps

By Xinhua

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Conservation champion Patroness Ncube protects Zimbabwe’s wildlife from brutal wire snares

By International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

SKIRTING the great Kalahari Desert, Hwange National Park is a vast and arid wildlife sanctuary containing one of the world’s largest populations of African savannah elephants.

The 14,645 square-kilometre estate in Zimbabwe is even larger than some countries, such as Northern Ireland. Massive elephant herds and a wide variety of mammals and bird species roam the grasslands with the utmost freedom.

Given Hwange’s mammoth size, the burden of protecting it lies on the shoulders of brave people who put their lives on the line to safeguard the wildlife heritage.

One such person is Patroness Ncube.

The 21-year-old is among the conservation champions on the frontline to protect Hwange’s endangered species from ‘Africa’s silent killers’—brutal and indiscriminate wire snares set by poachers.

Close shave with an apex predator

Born to a single mother and raised by a maternal grandmother in Senyanga village, a small settlement on the periphery of the iconic park, Ncube was entrusted from an early age with the responsibility of herding her grandmother’s livestock. She is no stranger to encounters with wildlife, even deadly predators. These experiences left her with a big heart, deeply in love with nature, and endeared to animals.

She also has bone-chilling stories to tell. On a sunny afternoon in 2014, the then 12-year-old Ncube and two other youngsters were ‘shale hopping’ from one tree to the other to escape the sun’s scorching heat as they looked after their cattle.

‘It was kind of scary because nothing had prepared me for the spine-chilling encounter,’ noted Ncube.

As the predator attacked the cows, we had to flee for our dear lives. We had to climb a giant mopane tree to keep ourselves safe from attack,’ she added.

Ncube, the terrifying incident made her appreciate that survival is for the fittest in Africa’s wilderness.

Finding her calling: Ncube’s conservation journey

In March 2022, almost eight years after the lion incident, she found herself among the 170 women who applied to take part in the Dete Animal Rescue Trust (DART) selection course, where the top four finalists were guaranteed to join the de-snaring team as full-time wildlife rescuers.

‘I was the youngest of all the applicants, but that did not worry me. Armed with a wealth of knowledge about the wilderness and a profound passion for nature, I was so confident of making it,’ said Ncube.

The one-day selection course, designed to test the candidates’ mental and physical resolve, saw the aspiring female wildlife rescuers participating in a series of tests, including general knowledge about wildlife, some energetic physical exercises, and a timed snare sweep on a 100-metre stretch.

‘We made sure that the selection process was as transparent as possible, and those that failed appreciated that it was an honest process,’ said Paul de Montille, DART Programme Director.

‘I’m so delighted that I made my grandmother proud by outscoring 169 women and securing my dream job,’ noted Ncube, who is now part of the DART team responsible for rescuing snared and injured wildlife—large and small—in and around Zimbabwe’s oldest and largest national park.

Eliminating the cruel killers

At the IFAW-supported DART, Ncube’s duties include rescuing and rehabilitating snared and injured wildlife. She also regularly participates in sweeps to monitor the 20-kilometre stretch of the buffer area to remove dangerous wire snares and monitor poachers’ movements.

‘Before establishing the permanent DART base, this section was a poacher’s paradise. There were just too many snares around this place. You could easily find five to 10 snares in less than an hour,’ said Ncube.

‘As a wildlife rescuer, an individual animal matters to me, and every snare removed means another animal saved from death.’

Lauded as a change-maker in the Dete community for defying the odds and pursuing a career in the male-dominated sector, Ncube is optimistic about inspiring her peers to become conservation champions.

‘I consider myself lucky to have this opportunity to contribute to protecting our planet. We owe it to future generations to safeguard the wildlife from the serious threat posed by the brutal wire snares,’ noted Ncube.

‘We are proud to be associated with the amazing and hardworking DART team,’ said Neil Greenwood, IFAW’s Wildlife Rescue Programme Director. ‘Together, we are collaborating to protect wildlife from the brutal and indiscriminate wire snares that seriously threaten the long-term presence of endangered wildlife species in the greater Hwange ecosystem.’
Seniors thriving through plastic waste in Zimbabwe

By Jeffrey Moyo

IPS

They do not have a pension nor financial support from families or relatives, but they have themselves. Now they have become collectors of plastic waste, which they turn into products as they battle for survival – earning money from the growing plastic pollution in Zimbabwe.

Such are the lives of the country’s senior citizens, like 76-year-old Tabeth Gowere and 81-year-old Elizabeth Makufa, both hailing from Harare’s Glenora high-density suburb, where they become famous as plastic waste collectors.

Gowere and Makufa, thanks to plastic waste, now care for themselves financially despite their old age, so they said.

“At first, we saw plastic waste just being flown around by the wind, and we started to pick these, cleaning the environment, burning it, but later realized we could make something out of these plastics and earn money. So, using plastic waste, we started weaving different things, including mats to decorate sofas. Many people were impressed by our work, and they started placing orders for the plastic products we were making,” Gowere told IPS.

Makufa, like Gowere, has also seen gold in the dumped plastic waste.

“We say this is waste, but from this, we find something that is helping us to sustain us in life. I make 30 US dollars daily at times from selling the products I make from plastic waste, which means at least I get something to survive,” Makufa told IPS.

The young are learning from the lessons from the senior plastic waste entrepreneurs – like 40-year-old Michelle Gowere.

“Weaving things using plastics is a skill I learned from my mother-in-law, Mrs Gowere. We spend time together daily, and because of this, I ended up learning the skill from her; this is helping me to, at least, help my children with food to carry in their lunch boxes when they go to school,” Michelle told IPS.

To Michelle’s mother-in-law and many others, the environment has been the secondary beneficiary of the geriatrics’ initiative collecting plastic waste.

“You would see that in our area, waste collectors from the council rarely come to empty the refuse bins. So, as we use plastic waste to make our products, we are making our environment clean,” Michelle told IPS.

According to the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) about 1.65 million tonnes of waste are produced annually in Zimbabwe, with plastic making up to 18 percent of that.

Gowere and Makufa and other elderly recyclers and plastic entrepreneurs have drawn the admiration of organizations like EMA.

“This is a commendable initiative that is promoting upcycling of waste and upscaling recycling as a business. This reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and the environment. Plastic waste takes hundreds of years to decompose, and it releases harmful toxins into the environment when burned,” Amkela Sidange, spokesperson for EMA, told IPS.

However, Makufa says it was not the love of money that swayed them into getting into plastic waste but improving the environment.

“It was not because we lacked money that we turned to collecting plastic waste, but we copied some people who were doing it, and we started doing the same. We thought of removing plastic waste from our environment, and we told ourselves if we could take those plastics and weave them together, we could have impressive products that we could sell and earn some money,” Makufa told IPS.

As the group of elderly people are making a difference in collectively fighting plastic waste, the local authorities welcome their contribution but add that it is everybody’s responsibility to care for the environment.

“The job of caring for the environment is not a responsibility of the council alone. In fact, it is the duty of everyone to make sure that they live there is cleanliness. As a council, we thank people who are beginning to realize that there is money in plastic waste. It’s not every waste that should be dumped; there is what we call recycling, and some people make money from it, but the duty to take care of our surroundings is not a prerogative of the council, but ordinary people as well,” Innocent Ruwende, Harare City Council spokesperson, told IPS.

Priscilla Gavi, director of Help Age Zimbabwe, a non-governmental organization mandated to take care of the elderly’s needs, says the elderly, too, are critical in the fight against plastic waste.

“Old age does not make someone incapable of supporting their families and taking care of themselves. It doesn’t stop the aged from working for their country. In fact, old age gives people opportunities to use skills they lacked money that we make from plastic waste, but improving the environment.

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I TRIED showering unparalleled praises on Zimbabwe, exaggerated our beauty, and even made efforts to ignore all the obvious negatives.

If there is any one of the 26 African media practitioners I was with on the Chinese Young Journalists programme who believed me, then to them Zimbabwe is just a Dubai battling currency challenges and human rights issues.

I could not defend our volatile RTGS dollar, not even Deputy Finance Minister Kudakwashe Mnangagwa can. They already knew that it was worthless, and I feared they would do a quick internet search and expose me. They did not even marvel at Mbuya Nehanda’s ZW$50 note which buys nothing.

Ethiopians seemed disappointed we no longer had billion dollar notes, Nigerians expected it, Ghanaians were civil about it and South Sudanese have their own problems.

I did not attempt to defend our human rights record, its levels are yet to be scaled on the African continent in the modern era, and they already knew how bad we had it in 2008 and have been following developments around this year’s contested August 23 polls.

Heated discussions on what was deemed illegal by the Patriot Act resulted in two points: Zimbabweans had to be deliberate in their sharing of national issues, choosing what to say or what not to say to certain audiences, and always prioritising positives.

Sensible yes.

The second, my own, was that the truth had to be stated be it negative or positive depending on whatever perspective. I argued the bad can only be changed once laid out in the open—not hidden—a very intelligent argument.

What was not up for discussion however, self-evident for each one of us was that in China “Nyika irikuvakwa nevene vayo” (The country is being built by its own people). The China Radio and TV (CRTV) facilitated programme emphasized this.

This mantra has been used for over five years but after this visit, one would be forgiven if they were to argue that Zimbabwe has not even started. That China still regards itself as a developing country despite its megatronic state should scare many.

We witnessed over a thousand skyscrapers under construction, we saw new towns being built, brand new roads, spaghetti roads Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) President Nelson Chamisa is known for having promised.

We walked a Beijing Capital International Airport so big there are trains and buses that you have to board to get to its exit points.

My black and light African colleagues marveled at China’s transport system; public buses that do not require any hailing, subway systems that we are yet to imagine, speed trains and stations whose system works better than the rehabilitated Robert Mugabe International Airport.

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These are facts. What the Chinese have done to a country that in 1980 characterised 80% of its population as rural, is exceptional.

Their efforts mock what Zimbabwe has turned into despite having been competitive when Zanu PF took over from colonial Rhodesia in terms of development at Independence.

A visit to Beijing, Xi’an, and Shian Lo (which looks better than Harare but is classified as rural) made us realise two things…again.

One, the Chinese can do far more than they already are in Africa, they have the capacity, and the grounds for such a boom are fertile considering what the continent holds underneath her soil, lithium included.

Remember these are people who managed to build a 52-story building in 19 days and a world-class hospital in five days at the height of Covid-19.

Two, our African leaders (directly pointing a finger at an adult is regarded as rude in African culture), are not learning anything from their visits to Beijing.

These Comrades of the liberation struggle visit China, are exposed to real development, use spaghetti roads, enjoy new technologies being built, marvel at what we marveled at but still choose to keep our urban areas rural.

We drink water from wells, live in houses that could fall at three wolf huffs and have fast gotten used to the smell of sewer.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping, whose pictures are not pasted everywhere as our colleagues do in every office, public building, or as recently witnessed international fora, has managed to ensure that 1.4 billion people are well taken care of.

It is not about the massive public works that are in constant development, it is about the will of government despite criticism of how it has managed affairs since opting for a one-party state against globally accepted democracy.

China, normal or not, has created a community of content citizens.

From being a competitor, Africa now finds itself a mere receiver of donations, from a country it could have stood toe to toe with had it not been marred by rampant maladministration, corruption and disgusting nepotism.

Young media practitioners agreed to these truths in social interactions throughout the month-long visit. Possible solutions were shared but when have African leaders ever listened to anything coming from outside their circle of power?

In the midst of all serious discussions, we did agree on some things; Africa is a sleeping giant whose rise one day will shock the world and knock existing powers off their perches.

We agreed Africa needs a well-thought-out public relations strategy that will create and maintain a balance between telling facts and ensuring its “dark continent” tag becomes a thing of the past.

The narrative that Africa is a continent of poverty, wars, diseases and crime has done little for its development and although some of these might be factual, promotion of our motherland’s positive side could go a long way in shifting perspectives.

We also agreed Winky D was a continental treasure, his hit Disappear shut social engagements we hosted.

The Gaffa President stood alongside Afrobeat giants such as Nigeria’s Burna Boy, Cameroon’s Mr. Leo, Sierra Leoné’s The Therapist and Lesotho’s Nobody hit maker Malome Vector.

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Makhadzi walked off stage in Zimbabwe ‘for safety reasons’

By Nompumelelo Magagula
City Press

SOUTH African superstar Makhadzi almost left her Zimbabwean fans disappointed during her performance at the weekend.

In a circulating video, the award-winning performer, real name Ndlovuhzannny Ralivhona, was seen stopping her performance after almost three minutes of being on stage. This was after someone from the audience threw a bottle at her while she was performing.

"Okay guys, bye-bye. Thank you very much," she said as she walked off the stage.

As people were shocked and complained, the former Open Mic Productions artist said: “No, but you can't throw bottles here. You can't do that, thank you.”

In the same video, the Makhadzi Entertainment founder was seen backstage with her manager and Zimbabwean producer Mr Brown (Lynol Siwela), as well as security and people believed to be the event promoters. She was heard saying she wanted to go to the car, while someone else said the artist “needs protection.”

Speaking to City Press, the manager said her artist’s safety was compromised, and that was the reason she could not continue with her performance. But she added:

“The reason she got off the stage was safety issues. We spoke with the promoters, and they guaranteed us safety and provided more security during her performance. After that, the performance was great. She performed a full set for an hour.

She further said that instead of objects, people threw money while Makhadzi was performing.

Ralivhona said she left the stage because she did not feel safe, and wanted to warn everyone that they should not throw objects while she performed.

I left the stage because I was scared, I didn't know if more bottles would come or not. I didn't know what made that one person to throw a bottle out of 15 000 people who were there. I wanted to go, but what made me emotional is when I left the stage and the whole crowd started shouting my name that they wanted me back on stage.

She added: “I would assume that it was coming from hate, unless someone was just happy to see me on stage because it happened just when I started performing. Maybe they were happy or trying to hype like fans usually do. Throwing things on stage puts our lives at risk because you don't know what can happen. That thing can come to my eye, and the next morning I wake up blind or I cannot perform at my other gigs.”

The energetic artist said she went back on stage for the sake of her fans. She noted that some might have traveled long distances to see her perform, and others would be seeing her for the first time.

Makhadzi felt that some Zimbabweans were still not over her rant, which happened a month ago. The artist set social media ablaze when she complained about Zimbabwean artist Winky D (Wallace Chirumiko) on her Instagram Live.

She had performed in the United Kingdom, and she expressed her frustration towards the Zimbabwean promoters and the said artist.

The MaGear hitmaker mentioned that she was not happy that Chirumiko performed for an hour and 30 minutes while she performed for only 10 minutes.

She explained that she was booked to perform for an hour from 7pm as the venue would close at 10pm. However, to her disappointment, her performance time kept on being moved up, while Winky D performed for over an hour, eating into her time. Makhadzi added that she had to share 40 minutes with another artist (Jah Prayzah), which led to her performing for 10 minutes.

She said she and Jah Prayzah were paid only for their names to be destroyed, and performances sabotaged.

That whole show was planned to promote certain artists with our names. It's not a secret that people bought tickets because of me and Jah Prayzah. They forced me to go to the BBC; I obliged. I promoted the show; people bought tickets at the last minute, and they were sold out.

She added she had rejected bookings in South Africa and other countries for the UK show because she was promised R500 000.

In her rant, the Metro FM Best Female Award-winning said she loved her Zimbabwean fans, and no promoter would make her fight with them.

However, some Zimbabweans defended Chirumiko and said he was a bigger artist than Makhadzi. Makhadzi later apologised to Chirumiko and said they should work on something together.

Before her weekend performance in Zimbabwe, Makhadzi said she loved Winky D and Jah Prayzah. She told City Press that despite what happened in the UK, her Zimbabweans fans still loved her, and they continued to support her.
6 things you didn’t know about Westworld’s Thandiwe Newton

By tvovermind.com

FORMERLY credited as Thandiwe Newton, Thandiwe Newton is a British actress who rose above several challenges in her budding days to become a household name. Newton began her journey in the entertainment industry as a dancer. She was 11 years old when she enrolled to study dance but an injury ended her dreams of becoming a professional dancer.


1. Thandiwe Newton Has Zimbabwean Royal Heritage

Though born in the Westminster area of London, Thandiwe Newton has both British and African heritage. Her father, Nick Newton is a British lab technician while her mother, Nyasha Jombe is a Zimbabwean healthcare worker from the Shona tribe. Jombe is a Princess of the Shona Tribe, one of the most prominent tribes in Zimbabwe. Newton’s family resided in Zambia in her early years but she was born in the United Kingdom during one of their visits. They returned to Zambia where her younger brother was born but the family had to move back to England due to political unrest. Additionally, her father needed to assist in managing his family’s antique business. As such, Thandiwe Newton spent the rest of her budding days in Penzance where her family settled down.

2. She Made Her Acting Debut in the 1991 Film Flirting


Thandie Newton is also popular on the small screen. She played her first main role in a television series when she was cast as Grace Travis in Rogue. Newton was 6 months pregnant with her son Booker when she finished filming Rogue season 2. Perhaps her most popular TV role thus far, Newton portrayed Maeve Millay in Westworld from 2016 to 2022. Other notable television projects she has appeared in include Line of Duty, Big Mouth, and Human Resources.

3. Her Supposed Change of Name Was a Spelling Mistake

When Thandiwe Newton got her first role in Flirting (1991), her Shona name was misspelled as “Thandie.” This is even though her character’s name is Thandie Adjewa. Subsequently, Newton dropped “Thandiwe” which means “beloved” in Shona, and began using Thandie professionally. The name has lingered to date but the actress has made it clear she never intentionally changed her name. It was merely a typo that she decided to go with. Up until the late 2010s, she was credited as Thandiwe Newton in her film and television roles.

4. Thandiwe Newton Opted For Home Birth For Her Three Children

Thandiwe Newton has three children - all born through home births. The British star had her first child, a daughter named Ripley in 2000. Her second child, Nico was born in 2004, while her third, a son named Booker was born in 2014. Newton was married to English filmmaker, Ol Parker who fathered her children. The marriage lasted from 1998 to 2022.

5. Her Daughter Nico Parker Is an Actress

The second daughter of Thandiwe Newton, Nico Parker, is representing her mother’s legacy in the film industry. She debuted in the Tim Burton-directed film Dumbo in 2019. She worked with her mother in Reminiscence (2021) and gained more recognition for her stellar performance as a guest star in the first episode of The Last of Us. Parker has a few projects she’s working on, including How to Train Your Dragon.

6. Thandiwe Newton Studied Social Anthropology in College

Thandiwe Newton attended St Mary’s Roman Catholic Primary School. She also studied dance at the Tring Park School for the Performing Arts until an injury thwarted her plans of becoming a dancer. Newton is a graduate of Social Anthropology from Downing College, Cambridge.

She graduated with a 2:1 (2nd Class Honours, Upper Division) in 1995.
Black History Month: Saluting the inspirational journey of Ruth Mhlanga

By South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

TO celebrate this unique month, we are sharing a spotlight on our trust’s professions lead for acute services and head of physiotherapy, Ruth Mhlanga.

Ruth, who was born in the beautiful country of Zimbabwe, was the eldest sibling of her family – laying the foundation of a caring and responsible individual who made it her mission to help enable her brothers and sisters to feel valued, heard and have a sense of belonging.

She said: "Coming from a large family, I learned to deal with the diverse needs of my siblings. Being the eldest of all, caring for everyone came naturally to me and this has shaped who I am today.”

This innate nature to care for her family encouraged Ruth to seek a profession where she could utilise this trait to look after people in need and make a positive difference in their lives.

This was fulfilled when she gained a qualification in physiotherapy in 1998.

From the landscapes of Zimbabwe to the Tees Valley

Ruth arrived in the UK in the summer of 2002 to work as a physiotherapist at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and since then she has never looked back.

Reflecting upon what touched her during her formative years at the trust, she said: “During my early days, I was fortunate to be under the guidance of a very kind manager, Gill Linton (former director of physiotherapy).

She truly cared and valued me and provided pastoral care. Coming to a different country and being exposed to everything new, Gill’s mentorship was crucial for my health and wellbeing.”

Over the past 23 years, Ruth has steadily climbed the professional ladder and now works in diverse roles across the trust.

Since January 2019, she has held the post of professions lead for acute services and head of physiotherapy with an 18-month secondment into the chief AHP role between 2021 and 2022.

“My job includes providing clinical and professional governance for the physiotherapists in the trust providing strategic and operational management of services, and raising the profile of the physiotherapy and other allied health professions.

“I also chair the North East and North Cumbria Allied Health Professions Council, which is a multi-agency forum that includes local authorities and higher education institutions working very closely with the ICB (Integrated Care Board) – to ensure we support and learn from each other to meet the needs of the populations that we serve.”

Supporting our BAME colleagues

Ruth is at the forefront of supporting fellow BAME colleagues – individuals who are at the start of their careers as well as those who occupy senior posts like Ruth.

Coming from a similar background, she understands that embarking on a new professional journey in an entirely different country may be nerve-wracking and daunting for some individuals.

This has motivated Ruth to work with the wider national teams to address these issues and ensure that our colleagues, especially those from minority backgrounds, have a smooth career transition and have all the support and resources essential for their health and wellbeing.

She values the importance of nurturing our BAME staff and is proud to guide them through any challenges they might face during their journey in the NHS.

She added: “My past experiences have influenced my present work and I am currently striving to create a more inclusive environment for all our colleagues.”

As the inaugural chair of the Chief Allied Health Professions Officer BAME Strategic Advisory Group, I was a part of the group that developed the anti-racism statement within the trust and contributed and supported the development of the NHS EDI Improvement Plan.

“I am currently working with NHS England to review the long-term workforce plan and ensure that equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging are embedded in all AHPs programmes of work.”

More than an AHP

Besides constantly rooting for the growth of our AHPs across the trust, Ruth is also actively involved in the development of “making every contact count” or MECC group.

MECC is our trust’s action on tackling health inequalities and preventing ill health for our patients and communities.

As the chair of the group, she has an opportunity to improve the lives of those around us including herself. She believes that every positive intervention contributes to a better experience and gives hope to those striving to be heard and valued, including all the sisters and women across the world.

Moreover, Ruth lives and breathes the concept of “ubuntu”, an African term that means “humanity to others”.

The word “ubuntu” has been a solid pillar for Ruth since childhood and has shaped her present work and hopes to inspire her colleagues to adopt the distinct concept too.
UK: Zim prisoner died after smoking synthetic cannabinoid at ‘secure’ mental health unit where ‘drugs were rife’

By Lancashire Live

A VULNERABLE prisoner died after smoking spice at a secure mental health unit where some patients are free to leave but can’t be searched.

Cecil Chisale had been imprisoned at HMP Wymott, near Leyland, before being moved to secure unit Guild Lodge in Preston in June 2020 after concerns were raised about his mental health. The 23-year-old had been taking drugs since he was 12.

An inquest held last week at Clitheroe Town Hall Cecil was found unresponsive in the toilets at Guild Lodge at around 7.05am on February 28 in 2021. He had smoked synthetic cannabinoid spice in the minutes before his collapse.

The inquest has heard that drugs at Guild Lodge were rife at the time of Cecil’s death. Legislation prevents staff at secure mental health units from carrying out searches of patients so it is possible that those allowed unescorted leave, who mixed with prisoners detained at the unit, could easily have brought illegal substances back into the unit when they returned.

Cheerful child who was always smiling

During the inquest jurors heard a statement from Cecil’s family, who have attended the inquest, in which they said: “Cecil was special. Different in many ways: unique and extraordinary. Cecil touched our lives in a remarkable manner. He left a legacy of living a fulfilled life.”

The family said they remembered him as a cheerful child who was always smiling and had a strong sense of identity even as a toddler. He adored spending time with his grandfather and was raised in Zimbabwe by his two grandmothers, who he loved dearly, before he moved to the UK.

As he got older, he was “bubbly, outgoing, vivacious, funny and self-assured” and Cecil’s family said he “was always calm and polite in his conversations and loved his music”. This music passion particularly focused on Tupac Shakur, while he was also remembered to recite Bob Marley’s ‘Redemption Song’ at age four.

Remembered as having exemplary leadership skills, Cecil was a class mentor and prefect at school and was scouted by St Helens RFC aged 15. He loved playing rugby league and his dedication was such that he would ask to be taken to training as early as 6am on the days after family parties which ran late into the night.

Family wanted answers about how he died

Cecil, who was born in Zimbabwe, had recently retaken and passed his GCSE Maths qualification and planned to embark on a career in health and social care. His family explained they had no concerns about his health and wanted answers about how he died. They added: “The void Cecil left in our lives is colossal and will never be filled.”

The inquest heard how two leading medical experts were unable to agree if there is a link between synthetic cannabinoid and pulmonary haemorrhage which caused Cecil’s death.

Professor Simon Elliott, a consultant forensic toxicologist who is highly experienced in the field of synthetic cannabinoids, suggested a cause of death of pulmonary haemorrhage caused by synthetic cannabinoid use. He highlighted several cases where an individual has died from a pulmonary haemorrhage after taking spice.

However, Home Office pathologist Dr Alison Armour, who is among the UK’s 30 most qualified pathologists, put forward the mechanism of death as pulmonary haemorrhage caused by an underlying unknown cause and said that spice is simply too new to allow for sufficient scientific research to confirm a link between widespread pleural bleeding and spice.

After deliberating the jury concluded that spice did play a part in Cecil’s death. In their conclusion they said: “Cecil Shingirai Chisale died as a result of pulmonary haemorrhage which was partly drug-related and partly due to unknown causes.”

After the inquest a spokeswoman for Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust said that their policy for searching follows the principles set out in The Mental Health Act Code of Practice (2015), which is statutory guidance.

Clinical colleagues at LSCFT do not conduct intimate searches as they do not fall within the remit of the Trust (according to Section 65 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984).
ZIMBABWE international Jonah Fabisch is reportedly edging closer to making his first team debut at Germany second tier club FC Magdeburg following a string of impressive displays for the club’s reserve side in recent weeks.

The 22-year-old midfielder, who joined the club ahead of the new season, has been named in FC Magdeburg’s match day squad twice in nine matches so far this season, including Friday’s match away at Hannover.

Fabisch’s slow start to his career at Magdeburg has come as a surprise as the attacking midfielder came to the club with high expectations after scoring eleven goals and five assists in 35 regional league games for Hamburger SV’s reserve side.

Although Fabisch is yet to get a chance in the 2.Bundesliga, the Zimbabwe international has been a regular feature for Magdeburg’s second team where he has scored four goals and two assists in eight league games.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed by the club’s head coach Christian Titz, who was full of praises for Fabisch following his good performances during Magdeburg’s U23 side’s friendly match last week was also against Eintracht Braunschweig.

Fabisch was reportedly in brilliant form during the match as he played a key role during his team’s -2 win.

With his impressive long-range shot, Fabisch made it 4-2 and his brilliance didn’t surprise his coach.

“I see him in training every day. That was a typical Jonah goal. Because he just has it in his left foot,” said Titz.

“He played a good game, was handy, offensively and defensively.”

Despite the great competition from Silas Gnaka, Amara Condé, Ahmet Arslan, Jean Hugonet and Connor Krempicki, among others, Fabisch seems a little closer to his second division debut.
By Herald Live (SA)

MAKHANDA – Two young rugby talents in Makhanda, Eastern Cape, are looking to carve out their careers in enemy territory once they finish their matric exams.

Kingswood College matrics Stanley Muranganwa and Tadiwa Chikutiro have packed their bags and are champing at the bit to start their rugby careers with professional outfit Club Aurillac, north of Toulouse, come December.

“As a school, we are very proud of Stanley and Tadiwa,” head of sport Murray Ranger said.

“Obviously, the international interest in two of our players speaks to the quality of Kingswood and the programmes we offer, but even more so, it shows how these boys have excelled through their hard work and dedication to the sport they love,” Kingswood head of sport Murray Ranger said.

Both boys, originally from Zimbabwe, made their way to Kingswood in grade 8 when the Makhanda school offered them scholarships for being standouts on the rugby field.

They became close friends, and both boys are excited to embark on this journey together.

“Two weeks ago, we were standing in roll call when I checked my phone and saw the message about Aurillac,” tight-head Muranganwa said.

“At that stage, I had already received bursaries from the University of Johannesburg and the University of Cape Town, but it didn’t feel like the right call.

“But this contract in France immediately had me excited.

“I just know this is where I belong.”

Kingswood’s Stanley Muranganwa sets off on a run against St Andrew’s in their schools rugby clash in Makhanda.

As a young boy, his first love back home in Zimbabwe was soccer.

However, due to his bulk, a teacher invited him to play rugby one weekend.

Muranganwa had little interest in going, but after his mother found a note from the teacher in his laundry hours before his first match, she forced him to go.

“And the rest is history, I guess.

“I immediately fell in love with rugby and now I have the opportunity to make a career out of it,” Muranganwa said.

Noticed by Talent Scouts

He was playing at a school rugby festival in Zimbabwe in grade 7 when talent scouts from Kingswood noticed him, and shortly thereafter he came to Makhanda.

Teammate and outside centre Chikutiro said he had wanted to give up rugby in junior school to pursue soccer, but thanks to his coach and mother insisting he stick with it, he developed a deep love for the sport.

“I was 14 years old when our school team toured SA and I got to see how the game is played here.

“I guess I drew attention because not long after that Kingswood brought me on board.

“I played one game at flyhalf before the coach moved me to outside centre, and I really feel like I shine in this position.”

Hearing about the contract with Aurillac was a “surreal moment” for Chikutiro, and one he is happy to be sharing with his friend.

“Stanley and I have really become close in recent months.

“We both come from Zim, we stay near each other and we gym together.

“Knowing that I’m going abroad with a friend really makes it easier and an even more special experience.”

Aurillac has a rich history spanning more than 100 years.

The professional side competes in Pro Rugby D2, France’s second professional division.

However, the club’s academy is rated among the best development programmes in the country, and young players coming through their ranks are immediately on the radar of top-tier first-division French sides.

Their coach at Kingswood, James Winstanley, was delighted to see his charges get the call to further their rugby careers.

“These two boys are exceptional players.

“Since they came here in grade 8, you could see they had talent right from the word go, and I always knew they had the potential to make it big.

“I want to see them excel and make a career out of rugby, so I am absolutely delighted for them to get this huge opportunity,” Winstanley said.

The boys are set to write their final exams in December and will be on a plane to France as soon as they finish.