

ZW\$20 BILLION WORTH OF GOLD COINS SOLD TO DATE PAGE 2

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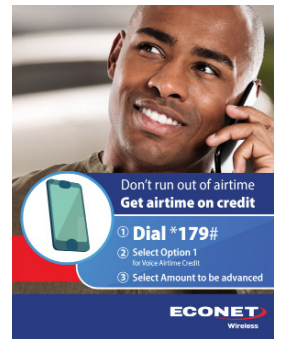


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John Mazvidza

Wheeling self to the field, leg amputee (55) etches footprints in urban farming to survive after hit and run accident

By Darlington Gatsi

A 55-YEAR old wheelchair bound Harare man, John Mazvidza, defies odds as he tills a maize field which has become his source of livelihood since 2008 when he was involved in a car accident.

Mazvidza was a victim of a hit and run accident in 2008 while working for a local security company which led to his legs being amputated.

The amputation condemned Mazvidza to

a wheelchair and in the process he lost his job as a security guard.

Sitting on his wheelchair facing a green maize field, evidence of his tremendous success, Mandizvidza narrates a

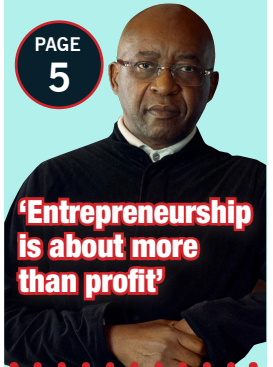
night that changed his life.

"I was working as a security guard on a night shift. A car came off speeding as it was involved in a chase with police and hit me before the suspect run away.

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He wants to develop rugby in Nigeria

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Wheeling self to the field...

from page 1

"After that accident that is when I ventured into farming because I already had a passion," said Mazvidza.

Mazvidza is among many urban farmers who take advantage of idle land to farm maize for their small families.

This urban subsistence farming hedges many from high prices of mealie meal in most supermarkets.

Despite many - elderly people and disabled - being beneficiaries of a stipend from the Ministry of social welfare through mobile money transfer farming augments few thousands.

"I throw maize seeds randomly into holes. With the availability of fertilizer I can harvest more from this field.

"I sell the produce to some members of the community so that I can buy some necessities," he said.

Current incessant rains in the capital city

have come as sweet news to many farmers including Mazvidza who depend on subsistence farming.

Challenges and split marriages

Maizvidza's makeshift house is a real definition of dilapidation with walls appearing to be giving in to external pressures.

A roof hangs precariously with pretentious support from two poles, mice playing hide and seek with smoke tainting walls in a house that doubles as a storage for his maize.

He has witnessed three marriages falling apart as a result of his lack of a stable income.

Mazvidza has resigned himself to a life as a loner in a rugged house in Kuwadzana.

"Some family members chip in now and there. Most of the time I depend on myself to put food on the table. Since I live alone I do house chores.

"This house I live in is a temporary structure. When rain descends there are leakages which lead to some of my grains to rot and there is nothing I can do about it," he said.

Fears however linger for Mandizvidza that the house might be demolished to pave way for small-scale industry.

Living up to old adage, disability does not mean inability, Mazvidza has a roadside vending market which he eke a living from after farming season.

A local supporting group Zambuko Trust - which works with vulnerable people - has provided a shoulder to Mazvidza through provision of a wheelchair.

"I started knowing John Mazvidza nine years ago. We have helped him by providing linkages with social welfare. We sourced a wheelchair which he uses for mobility," said Zambuko Trust founder only identified as Chanda.



John Mazvidza

ZW\$20 billion worth of gold coins sold to date



John Mangudya

By Alois Vinga

GOLD coins worth ZW\$20 billion have been sold to date with the bulk being snapped up by corporates contributing towards mopping up of excess liquidity, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) latest Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) has revealed.

The gold coins were introduced as both an alternative retail investment product for value preservation in the dual currency system and a liquidity mopping instrument over and above the foreign exchange auction system.

Presenting the first MPS for 2023, RBZ governor John Mangudya said the quantum of gold coins sold to date has increased.

"The gold coins have been well received with 25 188 coins valued at ZW\$20 billion having been sold as at 13 January 2023. The bulk of gold coins, 84% were bought by corporates while purchases by individuals accounted for 16%.

"The gold coins have a vesting period of 180 days after which the Bank can buy them back from the investors," he said.

He said the use of gold coins as an open market instrument for managing liquidity will continue

as part of the bank's sterilisation interventions to achieve a stable exchange rate and maintained that the bank has no plans to withdraw the gold coins in the short and medium term.

Withdrawal of the instrument will only be considered when stability starts to create a high appetite for business and consumers to hold domestic currency denominated assets.

As such, the issuance of both higher and smaller denominations of gold coins will continue as an open-market operation (OMO) instrument and investment instrument for value preservation.

"The maximum amount of foreign currency cash and gold coins that may be taken out of Zimbabwe on person or in the baggage of a person who is leaving Zimbabwe has been reviewed from US\$5,000 or its equivalent in any other currency or combination of currencies, to US\$10,000 or its equivalent in any other currency or combination of currencies," said Mangudya.

To cater for those with lower savings, the Bank introduced smaller denominations in November 2022. As at 13 January 2023, the smaller denominations accounted for 38% of all sales

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SA Court battle over Zim permits set for April 2023

By Tariro Washinyira

THE MINISTER of Home Affairs failed to consider the Constitutional rights of children born and raised in South Africa in the decision to scrap the Zimbabwean Exemption Permits (ZEP). This is according to the advocate representing ZEP holders in the case challenging the government's decision. The advocate highlighted that for many of these children, "South Africa is the only country they know."

He was speaking at an event in Cape Town on Wednesday with other lobby organisations and ZEP holders. The event was organised by the UCT Refugee Rights Unit and the Centre for European Policy Studies.

In 2009, the South African government introduced a Dispensation of Zimbabwean Permit (DZP) to legalise the many Zimbabwean nationals already living and working in the country because of the political and socio-economic situation in Zimbabwe. Zimbabweans who had applied for asylum were encouraged to apply for a DZP. When applying, their

asylum documents were retained by the Department of Home Affairs.

About 295,000 Zimbabweans had applied for the DZP and about 245,000 permits were issued. The DZP was valid for four years. In 2014, the DZP was renamed the Zimbabwe Special Permit (ZSP), and again in 2017 to the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP).

In November 2021, Cabinet announced that it will no longer extend the validity of the ZEP. Initially the permit was to expire in December 2021, leaving almost all of the 180,000 permit holders undocumented. But advocacy groups intervened and government granted a 12-month grace until December 2022, which was again extended to June 2023. This was to give more time for people to apply to remain in South Africa on a critical skills permit, though very few ZEP holders meet the stringent critical skills criteria.

The Zimbabwean Exemption Permit Holders Association (ZEPHA) first

lodged court action against Home Affairs. Advocate Simba Chitando, filed the papers in the Gauteng High Court in October, requesting the government grant ZEP holders permanent residency.

Then the Helen Suzman Foundation (HSF) and the Zimbabwe Immigration Federation initiated court action against Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, in a bid to overturn the decision. Other groups giving their backing in the litigation include the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CORMSA), Scalabrini Centre and the UNHCR.

On Wednesday, one of the advocates for the applicants in the HSF court bid told GroundUp that the case is set to be heard at the High Court in Pretoria from 11 to 14 April. "The core relief is to get the decision to terminate the ZEP set aside and that some form of interim measures be in place to protect ZEP holders until the minister can take a proper decision," he said.

The advocate added that the Allied Strikers Forum of

South Africa and Operation Dudula are trying to join the state as respondents in the case.

ZEP holders tell their stories

During the event, several ZEP holders also spoke about how the government's decision has drained their families emotionally. Some people could not hold back their tears while sharing their stories.

"How can I be in a country, where I came as a minor and be expected to pack my bags to go to Zimbabwe?" asked Portia* who has a PhD in Law at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Portia moved to South Africa when she was 16-years-old and is currently doing a post-doc at UCT.

"My attachment to Zimbabwe is not as strong as it is with South Africa. My whole education was in South Africa... I obtained my Bachelor's degree, Masters and completed PhD using ZEP. ... I can't explain how much this fiasco is affecting me mentally and my career," she said.

Tendai* has been

teaching science at a high school for 13 years. He worries about his family's quality of life and safety if they are forced to return to Zimbabwe.

"We were considered supporters of the opposition party MDC and so I ran away and to South Africa. My youngest child was two and my son was in grade 2," he said.

Tendai said that his son is doing his second year at university and his daughter is in matric this year.

"I have contributed a lot to South African society and been a loyal taxpayer. This is where my life is centred. I have built my whole life around Cape Town. Going back to Zimbabwe at this time - I don't know where I would start.

"How's my daughter going to finish her school? I will fail to provide for my child. Am I going to terminate my children's education so that she doesn't have a future anymore? The emotional stress we have to go through [is too much]," he said.

*** Names changed to protect their identities.**



Spear's Award winner Strive Masiyiwa: entrepreneurship is about more than profit

Spear's Entrepreneur of the Year 2022 winner Strive Masiyiwa discusses driving Africa's telecoms revolution and why successful entrepreneurs need to give back

By Spears

STRIVE Masiyiwa might have been dubbed 'Britain's first black billionaire' by The Sunday Times, but the telecoms entrepreneur prefers not to focus on labels.

Born in a township near Zimbabwe's capital Harare (then known as Salisbury, when the country was still called Rhodesia), as a young man he trained to be an engineer in the UK, studying at the University of Wales in Cardiff.

Today many of his business interests are based in London and he has a home in Surrey, but his career is a pan-African success story.

Upon his acceptance of the award for Entrepreneur of the Year, sponsored by the Royal Mint, Masiyiwa explained that it was only after his studies in the UK, when he returned to Africa and began working in the telecoms industry, that he

knew he wanted to become an entrepreneur.

'I was truly blessed that the revolution in telecommunications [...] happened on my watch, as they might say.

'I threw myself into ensuring that Africans got access to telecommunications, so I was very much part of that revolution that took place in Africa, where today we have more than 800 million people that have mobile phones.

'This was an entrepreneurial revolution, led by entrepreneurs, and I was really humbled to be part of that.'

Masiyiwa is founder and executive chairman of telecoms giant Econet and of Cassava Technologies, a pan-African tech company that aims to 'transform the lives of individuals and businesses across the continent by enabling social mobility and economic prosperity'.

The latter has recently been in receipt of significant investment and, through its business Liquid Intelligent Technologies, is now the largest data centre provider across Africa.

Masiyiwa was recognised as Spear's Entrepreneur of the Year not just for his success in business, but for the wider impact he has made through Higherlife Foundation, the charity he founded with his wife Tsitsi in 1996, and by signing the Giving Pledge, through which the world's wealthiest people commit to give the majority of their wealth away.

He is also involved in various action groups. During the pandemic he served as a special envoy of the African Union, coordinating the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team. More recently he has begun to contribute to a task force tackling threats to food

security.

'At a very early stage in my entrepreneurial journey,' Masiyiwa said, 'I realised that as an entrepreneur you must always be part of providing solutions within your community, which go beyond your profit motive.'

This is exactly what he has done.

Strive Masiyiwa photographed at the Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square by Sebastian Nevols

RBZ reduces interest rates to 150%, bullish on sustained stability

By Alois Vinga

RESERVE Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) first Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) for the year 2023 reduced interest rates to 150% per annum while maintaining a tight grip on inflation containment measures amid surging foreign currency receipts which hit US\$11.6 billion in 2022.

Delivered by RBZ governor John Mangudya Thursday under the theme, "Sustaining Price Stability and Economic Resilience", the MPS effectively answered the outcry by industry over high interest rates by approving a climb down from the current 200% to 150% in line with inflation projections.

The MPS is anchored

on the continued use of interest rates to regulate the cost of money and aggregate demand conditions to achieve the inflation objective, the use of gold coins and the auction system as part of open market operations to stabilise the exchange rate in order to minimise its pass through to domestic prices.

It is also premised on regular interventions in the foreign exchange market through forex sales to banks through auction on a wholesale basis from the surrender portion of foreign exchange receipts to smoothen exchange rate shocks.

The lending rate on the Medium-term Bank

Accommodation (MBA) Facility for the productive sectors was reduced from 100% per annum to 75% per annum in a bid to promote productivity.

He revealed that foreign currency receipts had reached an all-time high in the just ended year, testifying the positive impact of reforms.

"Total foreign currency receipts for the period January to 31 December 2022 amounted to US\$11.6 billion million compared to US\$9.9 billion received during the same period in 2021, representing a 17.3% increase.

"This speaks to the strong and encouraging growth in the level of receipts

during the year, which under normal circumstances should be supportive of stability of the exchange rate," said Mangudya.

The document projected end-period blended annual inflation for 2023 of 10-30%.

Export retentions were increased and standardised at 75% across all sectors, including firms listed on the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) with foreign currency retention on domestic sales in foreign currency increased to 85%.

The Willing-Buyer Willing-Seller (WBWS) and the auction system will continue to complement each other.

The auction system continues to act as a foreign

currency re-distribution mechanism to gauge foreign currency demand in the economy.

The limit for the WBWS will remain at US\$100,000 per entity in line with the Foreign Exchange Auction System limits for secondary users.

"Monetary policy remains restrictive to sustain the current stability with interest rates aligned to inflation developments in order to sustain and strengthen economic resilience. Inflation has moderated but remains under close watch by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank," added Mangudya.



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'I knew my baby was safe': The surprising link between solar power and vaccines



Primrose Saungweme holding her baby at Chikanga Polyclinic in Mutare. - Copyright Farai Shawn Matiashe

By Farai Shawn Matiashe

PRIMROSE Saungweme still recalls the great sense of relief she felt when her baby was vaccinated at Chikanga Polyclinic in Zimbabwe last year.

"I felt so happy after he was vaccinated against polio," says the 30-year-old mother of two who lives in Mountain Rise, a high-density suburb in the city of Mutare.

"I was worried because I heard stories of other children dying from polio and measles. After vaccination, I knew my baby was safe."

Today she has returned with her bouncing baby boy Akundwe Mutiche, now 18 months old, for a routine check-up at the clinic.

Vaccines require continual power for storage

Chikanga Polyclinic uses power from solar energy stored in lithium batteries as a backup when there is load shedding or a power outage from the national grid.

With Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries in the grip of an energy crisis, these scheduled blackouts - where the power supply

can't keep up with demand - have become regular and prolonged.

But the batteries are helping to keep vaccines cool in the clinic's cold storage.

Late last year, southern African nations had an outbreak of wild polio, threatening the lives of millions of children.

In late October, Zimbabwe embarked on a programme to vaccinate more than 2.5 million children under five years of age across the country to mitigate the deadly disease.

The country was already struggling to contain a measles outbreak since the first case reported in April 2022 in Manicaland Province. The disease went on to claim the lives of more than 750 people by early October 2022 and the government stopped publishing death figures so as not to "cause panic" among the citizens.

It rolled out a vaccination programme, and by October last year, around 85 percent of all children under five were fully vaccinated against measles nationwide.

Keeping vaccines at the required cold

temperatures at some of Zimbabwe's clinics can be a menace for health workers.

The vast majority of vaccines should be stored at between 2°C to 8°C while the ideal temperature for a vaccine fridge is 5°C, according to the UK's NHS.

With load shedding being experienced in Zimbabwe, keeping vaccines at the required cold temperatures at some of Zimbabwe's clinics can be a menace for health workers.

How are solar stations helping?

Chikanga Polyclinic is one of the health facilities where solar stations were installed by the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Health Ministry.

Statistics from UNDP show that the 'Solar for Health' initiative has seen 1,044 health facilities powered by solar energy since its launch in 2016.

The 'Solar for Health' initiative has seen 1,044 health facilities powered by solar energy.

"The solar systems are 5 kilowatts (kW), 7kW, 10kW or 40kW, depending on the size of the facility and energy requirements to power specific functions like general lighting, laboratory, pharmaceutical cold chain, and pharmacy," says UNDP spokesperson Anesu Freddy.

An official from the City of Mutare, the local authority in charge of Chikanga Polyclinic, tells Euronews Green that the solar system at the health facility is critical in providing uninterrupted power during load shedding.

"The system helps in vaccine storage and maintaining the cold chain," he says, which covers everything from cold rooms to fridges and carrier boxes.

"It is also vital in Electronic Patient Management Systems and Electronic Health Records. Electronic data capturing is made easier and there is continued lighting even during load shedding, especially during the rainy season."



Primrose Saungweme holding her baby at Chikanga PolyA solar station powering Chikanga Polyclinic in Mutare. Farai Shawn Matiashe



Innocent Mwenewazvo, busy stacking empty plastic containers into a heap before he can start packing them into bags. Photo: Bernard Chiguvare.

By Bernard Chiguvare

THE SAYING goes that one man's trash is another man's treasure. This is very literally the case at the waste dumps near Musina, where trash collectors try to eke out a living by recycling plastic and glass. Not much "treasure" to be found, but it keeps them alive.

On the morning of Monday, 23 January, Innocent Mwenewazvo was busy stacking empty plastic bottles into a heap, while his wife collected some more plastic products and empty soda cans for recycling from

the spot where they usually find these items.

Mwenewazvo and his wife are among the many Zimbabweans who make a living through recycling. Some of them have been doing recycling at the Beitbridge Border Post (on the Zimbabwean side) since 2017, but eventually decided to relocate to South Africa instead as they claim business is more viable here than in Zimbabwe. In the past, after they had collected their empty containers, they had to carry everything to the South African side to

sell it to the waste buyers. Now they do not have to go to the trouble anymore.

Most of these waste pickers sleep under makeshift shelters made from cardboard boxes and plastic materials. They take almost two weeks to collect a mere 50kg of empty cans or plastic bottles, which are then sold to South African buyers. To anyone else, this may seem like a lot of trouble for little reward, but to them, this has been their way of living for years. It gives them a purpose - staying alive.

"There is more waste to collect on the South African side at Beitbridge than on the Zimbabwean side," said Mwenewazvo. The waste-picking business, he says, is normally at its peak on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, when Zimbabweans travel to South Africa in large numbers to do their shopping. "We are not usually busy on a Sunday. This is the day when we crush empty cans and heap them all in one place, so that we are ready whenever buyers come," said

Mwenewazvo.

Collen Marimo (43) is a father of three. He told Limpopo Mirror that he used to work as a garden boy back in Harare, Zimbabwe, but he lost his job two years ago. "After losing my job, I decided to start collecting waste materials at Beitbridge (on the Zimbabwean side). This is the only means of putting food on the table for my family back home."

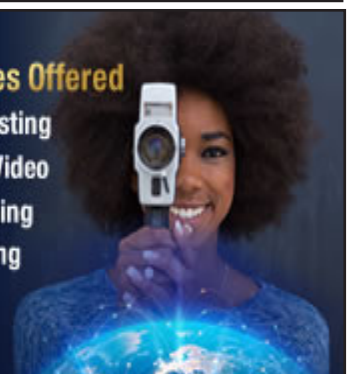
Marimo says he is praying to be formally employed again in Zimbabwe one day.

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The world at a turning point. Will philanthropy rise to the task of the moment?

The world today stands on the edge of a precipice – faced with a confluence of severe crises including deepening poverty and inequality, a looming ecological disaster, heightened risk of nuclear warfare, recurring natural disasters and a sharp deterioration of civic and democratic rights.

Briggs Bomba
Alliance Magazine

AT ITS 2023 global gathering, the World Economic Forum framed it as 'a critical inflection point', lamenting the 'sheer number of ongoing crises'.

In a recent statement, the IMF announced that one-third of the world economy is expected to be in recession in 2023, further adding that 'it would feel like recession for hundreds of millions of people', even for countries not in recession.

Equally, the latest Global Report on Food Crisis highlights that the world is 'facing hunger at an unprecedented scale', and points to a worsening global food security situation driven by conflict, economic shocks, the covid-19 pandemic, and climate change-related events such as the recurring droughts and floods. This

admission of crisis by the lords of the current global is stunning and ironically underscores the concerns that progressive voices have always voiced.

Nowhere is the impact of these severe multidimensional global crises greater than in Africa.

Following years of misplaced structural adjustment policies, and an exploitative global economic order that results in illicit financial flows and net outflow of wealth from the continent as well as endemic corruption and sheer mismanagement of national resources, most African economies are facing very difficult conditions including fast-rising cost of living and widespread unemployment, especially among youth. The situation is made worse by a crippling new debt crisis – UNCTAD reports

that more than 60 per cent of African countries are facing debt distress. With practically no social protection mechanisms in place, the conditions are dire for the most vulnerable and poor in society and create growing risks of social fragmentation and instability.

Amidst great uncertainty and deep crisis of the global socio-economic and political order, hope lies in the undying fighting spirit of progressive constituencies and activists who have continued to insist that alternative futures are possible, and relentlessly work to steer humanity towards a more just and sustainable society.

History teaches us that moments of deep crisis as acute as the current global political moment are also moments that tear into pieces the existing global order and shatter long-

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When Zimbabwe stops pretending to be a democracy...

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held norms, and open up a contestation over the future of society – paving way for new thinking about vision, values, principles, systems, institutions and structures.

However, we know from Martin Luther King that 'change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability – it comes from continuous struggle'. We also know from history that moments of deep crisis are also moments of great danger because crisis also gives room for reactionary organising.

There are enough examples of reactionary forces taking advantage of moments of crisis to spread fear and mobilize sections of society on divisive agendas based on 'othering' and allocating blame to false enemies – typically migrants,

poor people, specific racial groups and other minorities. The rise of fascism in Europe and the rise of the right-wing Regan/Trump anti-poor/anti-black lives agenda as well as the current rise of populism in the US and Europe, and the rise of authoritarianism in Africa and other parts of the world point to this worrying tendency.

The big question of today is whether institutional philanthropy will rise to the occasion and meet progressive organizing by movements and social change leaders at the point of need.

The moment calls for philanthropy to align with the progressive project of reimagining the future, building people power, and organizing for transformation and to

equally make an audacious commitment to act at a much deeper and higher scale than ever before in solidarity with social change leaders on the frontlines of the most important struggles of our time.

Fundamentally, this means philanthropy that is rooted in core principles of solidarity with those leading change on the ground. It means philanthropy supports the agency of these constituencies.

At a practical level, this entails an unprecedented commitment to provide increased resources and transformed models of giving to support to those organizing for progressive change.

Too often, philanthropy is divorced from the real-life

struggles and dangers faced by activists on the frontlines. What we need is philanthropy that situates its role in relation to and in solidarity with these concrete struggles – and then devise appropriate mechanisms of support suited for those conditions. It must finally dawn that it's philanthropy that needs to transform in order to be relevant to the reality of people's struggles, not the other way round.

Ultimately, it means a philanthropic sector that has the courage to boldly question systemic injustices at the heart of the current global order as well as those within our field. This is particularly important in contexts of crisis which compound already existing disparities around gender, class, race, geography as well as

economic and political power. Without this nuanced and interrogative lens, philanthropy cannot attain its transformative potential.

Being part of the Reimagining Pan African and Feminist Philanthropy Indaba happening now in Naivasha – co-organized by TrustAfrica and Urgent Action Fund-Africa – holds deep meaning for me because it provides the space to explore the above critical questions collectively and sincerely from lived experiences and work together in shaping a new narrative and transforming philanthropy and advancing a more just society!

Briggs Bomba is Programs Director at TrustAfrica. He is based in Harare, Zimbabwe

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Gemma Griffiths'

'Lessons I will carry with me into 2023'



By Gemma Griffiths

1. Home first.

Raising the Zimbabwean flag should always be at the forefront of what we do. Uplifting our country, having pride in our home. Because before we are anything else, we are Zimbabwean. 2022 I toured Zimbabwe. I saw new places, new faces, and got to share my music with you all in such an intimate and personal way.

2. Prayers do come true!!

2022 was a whirlwind of adventure! I prayed for shows, I toured the world. I prayed for guidance, I toured with Baba Shero.

This experience was a once in a life time, and I am so in awe of the wisdom I witnessed from Baba Shero. His humility, musicianship and artistry was a reminder of the grace at which one can carry themselves in this industry. I am forever grateful for that experience, as well as the opportunity to connect with Zimbabweans across the globe

3. The music is king.

Writing music was my first love. It gives me such peace, and I can both lose and find myself so easily in the process. I got to focus on this in New York in the Way Up House with Yamaha. A week in a

house, with 5 other artists, writing music. Sharing your art with someone new, introducing yourself through your writing, as we did in the house, is full of honesty and vulnerability. It means laying your cards on the table and simply saying "here I am, this is me". Working with @yamahamusic europe and the team really reminded me that I've built some of my strongest friendships through art... something I know will only grow me as a creative, as a woman and as a friend. Music really is king.

4. Laughter really is medicine.

2022 had a lot of moments with little sleep, where I was working hard, and stress and adrenaline were commonplace. Touring can be tough on the body, and on the everyday. There is a lot of adventure in music, but that also comes with less constancy, less simplicity and many ups and downs. Acknowledging our blessings is often an easy task. But I want to continually practice gratitude for the shortfalls, which are ultimately lessons that lead to growth. I am where I am because of my successes AND my failures.. and I am where I am because I realise that.

5. Rest is important.

When we pour our time into our jobs, our dreams, into day to day life and into others, we need to take the time to refill our cup. For me personally, I find so much restoration in nature.. where God is evident, and where I can reset and realign. 2022 I spent my spare moments at my home away from home @iganyanatedcamp

The sunsets, the stars, the quiet mornings, the wilderness.. All of this helped me reset, and I plan on continuing this walk with nature and the Zimbabwean bush.



Abraham Mkumba, an artist from Tshikota, is widely praised for his beautiful artwork. Photo: Thembi Siaga.

Abraham's art depicts traditional lifestyles

By Thembi Siaga

ABRAHAM Mkumba from Tshikota is widely praised for his beautiful African paintings that are not only appreciated by local art lovers but international tourists as well.

Originally from Masvingo, Zimbabwe, he relocated to South Africa in

2007 to seek a better life for himself and showcase his art, so he settled in Tshikota. Before long, people started noticing his extraordinary talent.

Mkumba has had a love of art since he was very young. When he was in Grade 4, back in 1988, an Australian tourist visited his

school and saw a drawing by the young artist. The drawing was so exceptional that the tourist offered to buy it there and then. "I was encouraged to work more on my craft, but I was already in this industry, doing sign art painting for different schools in Zimbabwe, so I never studied beyond Grade

12," he said.

Most of Mkumba's work depicts traditional African life and how the local people live. "My clients love the African style and the stories my paintings convey. Many of them can even relate to them," he said.

He hopes to encourage emerging local artists. He

said that his talent was not put to use just for his own gain, but also to teach young people who were interested in art.

"I'm already helping children and people who are keen to learn the arts. I am also eager to receive assistance from others who are willing to help me."



How Banabasi Marambire rose from an orphan in Zimbabwe to a millionaire in Botswana



By Abu Mubarik

BANABASI Marambire grew up as an orphan in Zimbabwe with eight siblings. He endured long nights of hunger and was diagnosed with kwashiorkor disease when he was 14 due to poor nutrition.

To survive and also provide for his siblings, he sold beans, sweet potatoes and other vegetables. At the age of 18, Marambire migrated to Botswana in search of greener pastures. In his first year in Botswana, he continued to sell beans, potatoes and vegetables.

"Soon I got tired of the tedious and challenging process of applying for permits to bring the agricultural produce across the border. So, I settled in Botswana and worked as a herd boy," he told CGTN Africa. As a herd boy, Marambire took home \$15 a month.

However, his ambition and aspiration were more than just selling vegetables and working as a herd boy. He wanted to be an astute businessman and from his meager salary, he saved and registered his first company in Botswana at the age of 25. His company specialized in aggregates for construction.

Today, he has several companies to his name. His website says he is the "founder of Barmlo Group

of Companies whose umbrella includes; (1). Barmlo Investments (PVT) Ltd which specializes in Building Materials supply and Brick Moulding; (2). Barmlo Construction (PVT) Ltd whose focus is on the erection of buildings, plumbing, electrification, tiling, carpentry and painting. Barmlo Construction also offers commercial transport. (3). Maineck Holdings (PVT) Ltd., which is grounded on Maize Milling and Food processing and Solar Energy supply."

He is also a co-owner of Great Dyke AB Academy, which is a private school. According to CGTN Africa, his companies record an annual turnover of 32 million U.S. dollars. In addition, he has employed hundreds across Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia.

Marambire is showing no signs of slowing down. He is now driven by the desire to help the needy and the poor in society. Considering his background and how he became a multimillionaire, Marambire launched a trust to help the less fortunate ones.

Marambire has authored a book on his journey titled 'The Herd Boy'. In 2021, he said he was looking at furthering his education.

Banabasi Marambire is seen in his native Zimbabwe. The entrepreneur's rags-to-riches story is notable in Botswana, where migrants face an uphill battle in the search for opportunity. (Barmlo / Banabasi Marambire) via CGTN

Former homeless woman thriving as a student in Bristol



Ms Kaviya was "so ill" while pregnant with her daughter, Jahvyia, she could not



Cleopatra Kaviya

By BBC

A WOMAN who became homeless with her baby daughter says finding education later in life helped her turn her life around.

Cleopatra Kaviya, 38, lost her home after splitting with her partner while pregnant in 2017.

Despite having few qualifications, she is now studying Anthropology at the University of Bristol, with hopes to become a lecturer.

"I feel whole now, university made me feel like I'm me again," she said.

The mother-of-one, who is originally from Zimbabwe, wants her journey to inspire others to take up education, regardless of their background or qualifications.

"Imposter syndrome is real, but you will look back and chuckle at how far you have come," added Ms Kaviya.

Ms Kaviya had always planned to go to university to become a teacher, but after moving to Bristol she quickly found success in management positions in retail.

However, in 2017, aged 31 and heavily pregnant, she unexpectedly separated from her partner.

She said she was so ill throughout the pregnancy she could not work.

"Then I found out I had to do it all on my own."

Ms Kaviya lost her house and was provided a single room in a mother and baby unit by Bristol City Council.

'Horror story'

After her daughter Jahvyia was born, Ms Kaviya did not have many qualifications and struggled to find work.

"My daughter was also quite ill at this point and I got depression because I felt I'd really let her down.

"It was a bit of a horror story. Life was very trying for a while and it was all quite bleak."

In 2019, Ms Kaviya saw a poster for the University of Bristol's Foundation in Arts and Social Sciences, which is aimed at adults who do not have A-Levels or equivalent.

She is now in her final and third final year of an Anthropology BA, which she said she "absolutely loves".

Professor Mhairi Gibson, head of the university's Anthropology & Archaeology Department, said: "Cleopatra is a real pleasure to teach; curious and creative.

"She brings energy and experience to the classroom."

Ms Kaviya is now planning to do a master's degree, before becoming a lecturer.

"I want to introduce people to the Africa that I know," she explained.

She added: "My daughter really helped me. She made me come out of my comfort zone and made me want to be a better person.

"I hope that by following this path I can give her the life that she deserves. And the life that I deserve as well."



New Zimbabwe SPORT



Rugby Legend, Mtawarira, Wants To Develop Game In Nigeria

Tendai Mtawarira

By Dotun Omisakin
Daily Trust

A MEMBER of South Africa's 2019 Rugby World Cup winning squad, Tendai Mtawarira, has revealed that African countries need to invest more in developing the game of rugby.

He also said he would love to help in developing the sport in Nigeria.

In this exclusive

interview, the Zimbabwe-born Rugby legend who had 117 caps during his stint with Springbok before his retirement, advised that African countries need to create a conducive atmosphere for the game to thrive, saying that South Africa gives more attention to the game.

"I was privileged to play at the highest level in South Africa for 15 years

and I got to win a World Cup title. I understand rugby plays an important role in South Africa. We are blessed to have young people coming through the pipeline," he said.

Mtawarira, the Brand Ambassador of Health Grade in Nigeria, explained that growing the sport from school and especially at the grassroots level will help in producing

star players for the country.

"If you want to grow the game, you go to the grassroots which is the school, so that is where you have to start investing and you start teaching the young people and then they will go through the level and then you get better.

"I would love to come to Nigeria and introduce rugby, especially to

schools, youths, and do some coaching. I will also bring along some of my friends who are also world champions.

"I have seen a lot of Nigerians in American football which is great but I just think that there are so many young people here that are interested in rugby. With them, Nigeria can be a star team in the future," he said.



One on One with Colorado College goalie Kaidan Mbereko

Online

COLORADO College goalie Kaidan Mbereko will play against the team he grew up rooting for, DU.

Ahead of the big game, KRDO's Sports Director Rob Namnoum sat down for a one-on-one with Mbereko.

Rob Namnoum: So you grew up in Aspen. Were you familiar with Colorado College?

Kaidan Mbereko: No, actually, I was more of a DU fan.

RN: Oh, really?

KM: Yeah, especially because we had some friends that played for DU. Yeah. I mean, now that I'm on the other side and I'm playing for CC, I can't wait to play against DU. And as a kid watching that and now being in that game, it's going to be pretty special.

RN: So you've left the dark side is what you're saying. Right?

KM: Right, right. Yeah.

RN: So you and I have a little bit of a similar thing where my last name is Namnoum and everyone butchers my last name. And I'm sure a lot of people butcher your last name, so for the record, pronounce it correctly and then let us know what the origin of your last name is.

KM: It's Mbereko. My dad's from Zimbabwe, Africa, South kind of South

Africa. I don't even think they had ice over there. When he came to America, he just wanted to try all the sports. And yeah, hockey was pretty big. He just had an influence from my brother because he was the one who got us all into hockey.

RN: Does he play college hockey?

KM: Oh, no, not he. He quit before he went to college and he actually goes to DU. Yeah. Yeah.

RN: At what age did you start playing hockey?

KM: Oh, I was- the age I took it serious was about six and one of my buddies back then showed me a pair of pads, the Brians ones, where they had the logos and you can customize them and I thought it was pretty neat and yeah, I kind of got hooked on goalie, wanted to try it again and here I am now.

RN: So you got hooked on being a goalie simply because of those pads?

KM: Yeah, that's wild.

RN: Those pads at six years old, look where it has taken you thus far!

KM: Yeah. It's crazy. Especially because people say goalies are crazy trying to get pucks and especially when you're a young age and wanted to play it. Yeah, I mean, like I said, the pads that drew me in and I never looked back.



Kaidan Mbereko