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# CAB3 UNDER SPOTLIGHT: Supporters, critics face off as Parliament debates Zim's Constitutional future



**With more than 100 MPs contributing to debate, Constitutional Amendment No. 3 has become one of the most discussed Bills in Parliament's history, drawing both passionate support and fierce criticism.**

**By Abel Karawangoro**  
Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi this week described Constitutional Amendment No. 3 (CAB3) as one of the most debated Bills in Parliament's history, a development that reflects both the significance of the proposed reforms and the vibrancy of Zimbabwe's democratic processes.

Addressing the National Assembly, Hon. Ziyambi revealed that more than 100 legislators had contributed to debate on the Bill following extensive public consultations conducted across all dis-

tricts of the country. He said the level of engagement demonstrates Parliament's commitment to inclusive law-making and democratic participation. "This Bill has benefited from extensive public consultations and robust parliamentary debate, strengthening democracy and the legislative process," Hon. Ziyambi said. His remarks came as legislators continued deliberations on CAB3, with many MPs expressing support for reforms they believe will strengthen governance, improve administrative efficiency and support the country's long-term development objectives.

Among the most compelling contributions was that of Hurungwe North MP Hon. Pax Muringazva, who drew lessons from global history. He recalled how former United States President Franklin

D. Roosevelt secured a fourth term in office during a period of national recovery, arguing that visionary leadership should be afforded sufficient time to complete transformative programmes that benefit citizens.

Zvimba East legislator Hon. Kudakwashe Mananzva reminded Parliament that constitutional amendments are not new in Zimbabwe's governance journey. He argued that constitutional reform is a normal feature of democratic societies and becomes necessary as nations evolve and confront new realities.

Hon. Mananzva further maintained that legislators, as elected representatives of the people, can be entrusted with important national responsibilities. He noted that political parties themselves elect presidential candidates through congresses where

delegates make leadership decisions on behalf of broader memberships. Bikita West MP Hon. Daniel Nhatiso Makusha declared his constituency's support for CAB3, highlighting what he described as the benefits of placing the voters' roll under the Registrar General. According to Hon. Makusha, the proposal would create a more streamlined and efficient system capable of automatically updating voter information while improving administrative coordination.

He also endorsed provisions intended to ensure continuity in leadership and governance.

The debate, however, also featured dissenting voices from opposition benches. Budiriro South MP Hon. Darlington Chigumbu emerged as one of the most vocal critics of the Bill, rejecting proposals linked to extending the

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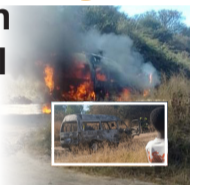
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Hurumende News Hub

# Compliance, accountability, and safety could have saved three lives in Budiriro

The tragic deaths of three residents in Budiriro were not merely an unfortunate accident. They were the result of preventable safety failures, weak compliance, and poor risk management.

As the nation mourns, one painful reality stands out: basic safety measures could have saved three lives.

A simple barricade tape costs less than US\$2.

A warning sign costs very little.

Yet these basic controls, standard in any safety-conscious working environment, were absent.

That failure exposed residents to a deadly hazard and ultimately cost lives.

From a safety and health perspective, the Budiriro disaster reflects more than negligence at the scene it exposes systemic failures within the safety management structures of the council.

Any excavation associated with sewage maintenance is a high-risk operation. Before work begins, there should be proper hazard identification, risk assessment, and control measures to protect both workers and the public.

Workers must understand the dangers posed not only by the excavation itself, but also by sewage contamination, unstable ground, and possible toxic gas exposure.

In Budiriro, the immediate cause of the fatalities was clear: three people were exposed to an unsecured hazardous pit.

But safety investigations do not



stop at identifying the immediate cause, they examine why the hazard was allowed to exist in the first place.

Why was the pit left open?

Why was there no barricade?

Why were there no warning signs?

Why was public access not restricted?

These questions point to serious failures in procedure, supervision, and accountability.

Council workers should have implemented a remedial action plan before attending to the sewage burst.

Such a plan would outline how to manage hazards during repairs, how to secure the area if work is interrupted, and what emergency controls must remain in place be-

fore leaving the site.

This is basic operational discipline. The disaster also highlights critical gaps in environmental safety management.

A sewage burst is not just an infrastructure problem it is a public health hazard. Raw sewage exposes communities to harmful pathogens, contamination, and physical dangers.

The affected area should have been treated as a restricted environmental hazard zone until declared safe.

What happened in Budiriro suggests safety was treated as an afterthought rather than a non-negotiable priority.

This tragedy must also be examined through the lens of gover-

nance and leadership. Safety failures rarely begin only with workers on the ground.

They often stem from weak systems, poor planning, inadequate training, limited resources, and a culture where compliance is not enforced.

Management within the council must answer difficult but necessary questions.

Were workers adequately trained?

Were safety materials available?

Were supervisors monitoring compliance?

Were standard operating procedures being followed?

If a fatal hazard can remain unprotected because no one considered a US\$2 barricade tape necessary, then the problem goes beyond individual error, it points to institutional complacency.

The Budiriro disaster must serve as a wake-up call for all local authorities.

Councils must urgently strengthen safety training, enforce standard procedures, and establish robust environmental safety frameworks. Three lives were lost.

Three families were shattered.

And three deaths that may have been entirely preventable now stand as a painful reminder of what happens when safety systems fail. Budiriro must not become just another tragic headline.

It must become a turning point.

Because in safety management, prevention is always cheaper than tragedy, and compliance is not just paperwork it is protection.

## CAB3 UNDER SPOTLIGHT: Supporters, critics face off as Parliament debates Zim's Constitutional future

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electoral cycle. He argued that elections themselves are not responsible for political violence and cautioned against making constitutional changes based on that premise.

Other opposition legislators raised concerns about preserving constitutional safeguards and maintaining direct public participation in democratic processes.

Their contributions reflected the reservations held by those who believe constitutional amendments should be approached with utmost caution.

Yet supporters of CAB3 argue that such concerns must be weighed against the practical realities of governance and the need to build institutions capable of delivering sustained development. They point to the unprecedented con-

sultations undertaken across the country and the extensive parliamentary debate as evidence that the reform process has been transparent and inclusive.

Significantly, the debate has not strictly followed party lines. Several legislators from the opposition benches, including Hon. Samantha Mureyani, Hon. Otilia Sibanda, Hon. Vusumuzi Moyo and Hon. Juliana Makuvire, expressed support for aspects of CAB3, arguing that some of the proposed reforms could enhance stability, improve administrative efficiency and reduce the costs associated with frequent electoral processes. Their support underscored a growing recognition that constitutional reform should be assessed on its merits rather than through partisan lenses.

At its core, the debate around



CAB3 is not merely about legal amendments. It is about how Zimbabwe positions itself to meet future governance challenges while preserving stability and accelerating national development.

The extensive consultations, vigorous parliamentary exchanges and diversity of opinions expressed demonstrate that democratic institutions are functioning as intend-

ed.

As Parliament prepares to resume debate next week, legislators will continue weighing the competing arguments. However, the contributions made thus far suggest that a strong case has been advanced for constitutional evolution as a means of strengthening governance, enhancing policy continuity and supporting Zimbabwe's developmental aspirations.

Ultimately, constitutions are designed not only to preserve democratic values but also to provide nations with the flexibility required to adapt to changing circumstances. Judging from the arguments advanced in Parliament, supporters believe CAB3 represents a measured and necessary step in that direction.

# Tragedy on the School Run

By Talkmore F. Mapfumo

**The arrest of a kombi driver and conductor following a devastating fire that claimed the lives of seven schoolchildren has renewed calls for stricter enforcement of public transport safety regulations across Zimbabwe.**

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) confirmed the arrest of driver Malcolm Elvis Cook (22) and conductor Trinity Mudhenge (18), who are facing culpable homicide charges in connection with the tragedy.

According to police investigations, the conductor allegedly boarded the commuter omnibus carrying a jerry can containing approximately nine litres of petrol, which was placed behind the driver's seat. While the vehicle was travelling along its route, flames reportedly erupted from the area where the fuel container had been stored, triggering a fire that rapidly engulfed the vehicle.

The tragedy occurred on June 8, 2026, near Chirandu Business Centre in Senga, Gweru, about 100 metres from Matongo Primary School. The commuter omnibus, which was transporting schoolchildren, was soon consumed



by flames, leaving several pupils trapped inside.

The incident sent shockwaves across Zimbabwe, with grieving families and communities demanding answers over how flammable fuel came to be transported alongside passengers, particularly schoolchildren.

National Police Spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi said investigations had established that the fuel container was allegedly brought into the vehicle by the conductor before the fire broke out.

"The Zimbabwe Republic Police has arrested the driver and conductor in connection with the incident. Investigations indicate that

a container with petrol had been placed behind the driver's seat before the fire erupted," he said.

The tragedy has also reignited debate on passenger safety and compliance with road traffic regulations.

Traffic Safety Council of Zimbabwe (TSCZ) Managing Director Mr Munesu Munodawafa recently warned that carrying dangerous and flammable substances in passenger vehicles poses a serious threat to human life.

"Public service vehicle operators have a responsibility to ensure the safety of every passenger on board. Transporting fuel and other hazardous substances together with passengers creates avoidable

risks that can lead to devastating consequences," he said.

Mr Munodawafa said the Gweru tragedy should serve as a wake-up call for transport operators to strictly observe safety regulations. "We continue to urge drivers and operators to prioritise safety at all times. No journey is worth risking lives through negligence or failure to follow established safety procedures," he said.

The deaths of the seven pupils have intensified calls for stricter monitoring of commuter omnibus operators and tougher penalties for those who disregard passenger safety.

Police said the identities of the deceased children will only be released after DNA examinations and formal identification procedures have been completed.

As investigations continue, the tragedy serves as a painful reminder of the potentially deadly consequences of negligence in public transport operations. For the affected families and the Gweru community, the disaster has left wounds that will take years to heal while the nation mourns the loss of seven young lives whose futures were tragically cut short.

## Harare robbers, cables thief jailed as police intensify fight against crime

By Hurumende Crime Desk

**The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) has hailed continued cooperation between communities and law enforcement agencies following the conviction and sentencing of several offenders involved in armed robbery and infrastructure-related crimes in Harare.**

The convictions, announced in the police's weekly crime update for the week ending June 11, 2026, saw offenders receiving prison sentences ranging from 10 to 12 years.

In one of the major cases, five men from Harare and Ruwa were each sentenced to 12 years imprisonment after being convicted of armed robbery.

The convicted offenders, Washington Mangwanda of Hatcliffe, Brighton Chikukwa of Ushewokunze, Silence Matambo of Adbernie, Liberty Mukwanganise of Glen Norah and Luke Zinyengere of Ruwa, were arrested following investigations into an armed robbery

committed in Harare on February 12 this year.

The Harare Magistrates' Court found the accused guilty and imposed lengthy custodial sentences, underscoring the judiciary's commitment to dealing firmly with violent crimes that continue to threaten peace and security in residential suburbs.

Residents in several Harare communities have repeatedly expressed concern over robbery cases targeting homes, businesses and commuters, making the successful prosecution of offenders a welcome development.

In another case, four men linked to a robbery in Waterfalls were each sentenced to 10 years imprisonment after being convicted by the Harare Magistrates' Court.

Edward Betserai, Peter Chinese, Gasper Blessing and Goodnows Chinese were arrested following investigations into a robbery committed in the suburb.

Waterfalls remains one of Harare's busiest residential and commer-

cial areas, and community leaders have welcomed the conviction of offenders who undermine safety and economic activity.

The courts also dealt decisively with crimes affecting critical national infrastructure after Justin Katopola of Hurungwe was convicted for unlawful possession of copper cables and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Copper cable theft has become a major concern across Zimbabwe, affecting electricity supply, telecommunications services and railway infrastructure.

The crime often leaves communities without essential services while forcing utility companies to incur substantial repair costs.

National Police Spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi said the convictions demonstrate the effectiveness of information supplied by members of the public and the importance of continued cooperation in the fight against crime.

He urged communities to remain

vigilant and continue reporting criminal activities to the police, saying public participation remains one of the strongest weapons against criminals.

The ZRP commended citizens whose information assisted investigators in making arrests that ultimately led to successful prosecutions.

As Zimbabwe continues to pursue the vision of safe and secure communities, law enforcement agencies say the latest convictions should serve as a warning to would-be offenders that crime does not pay and that offenders will be tracked down and brought before the courts.

For many residents in Harare and surrounding areas, the convictions are a reminder that community policing, public vigilance and effective law enforcement remain critical in safeguarding lives, property and national infrastructure.

# Drowned by neglect

## Three lives lost, the questions haunting Budiriro 3

By Abel Karowangoro and Kelvin Matore recently in Budiriro

The pain that hangs over Budiriro 3 cannot be measured in statistics, police statements or engineering reports.

It can only be understood through the silence that now fills homes where loved ones will never return, through the tears of families trying to make sense of an unimaginable loss, and through the frustration of residents who believe the tragedy that claimed three lives should never have happened.

As investigations continue into the deaths of Saul Karakadzai (19), Talita Munda (17), and Vimbanashe Shalom Chihota (34), Budiriro 3 has become a symbol of a larger national question: what happens when warnings are ignored until tragedy forces authorities to listen?

The suburb, long troubled by infrastructure failures, overflowing sewage and drainage problems, is now at the centre of a growing debate about accountability, governance and the value placed on ordinary lives.

For residents, however, this debate is not political.

It is deeply personal.

The names of the deceased are not entries in a police report.

They are sons, daughters, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Their deaths have left a wound across an entire community.

A Tragedy Years in the Making

Residents say the conditions that contributed to the disaster did not emerge overnight.

For years, community members have complained about sewer bursts, unsafe excavations, blocked drainage systems and deteriorating public infrastructure.

Many residents describe a feeling of abandonment, arguing that concerns repeatedly raised through community structures often failed to produce meaningful action.

Following the tragedy, several residents who spoke to local media expressed anger that it took loss of life for authorities to acknowledge the seriousness of the situation.

According to reports carried by Hurumende News Hub, residents questioned why dangerous conditions had been allowed to persist and called on both local and central government to take responsibility.

Some argued that what happened in Budiriro should serve as a wake-up call to authorities responsible



for maintaining public infrastructure.

Their message was simple: government and council officials must see what communities are living with every day instead of reacting only after tragedy occurs.

The comments reflected a frustration shared by many urban residents across Zimbabwe, where infrastructure challenges have become part of daily life.

The Human Cost Behind Infrastructure Failure

Infrastructure is often discussed through budgets, technical reports and policy documents.

Yet in Budiriro, the consequences have names and faces.

Families who lost loved ones now face a future shaped by grief.

Neighbours recall ordinary interactions that have suddenly become precious memories.

Community members speak of young lives interrupted and futures that will never be realised.

In many communities, tragedies become news headlines for a few days before public attention shifts elsewhere.

For families, however, there is no moving on so quickly.

The grief remains long after the cameras leave.

The empty chair remains at the dinner table.

The unanswered questions remain.

The pain remains.

Police Investigations and Arrests

The Zimbabwe Republic Police identified the three victims and later announced the arrest of four Harare City Council officials.

Police stated that Engineer Tapiwa Richard Kunyadini, Moses Dicko, Thomas Rwakatiwana and Tineyi Chihwai had been arrested in connection with allegations that acts of omission and commission negligently caused the deaths.

The matter is now before the jus-

tice system, where evidence will be examined and legal responsibility determined.

The arrests represent a significant development because they suggest investigators are examining whether the tragedy resulted solely from unfortunate circumstances or whether human decisions and institutional failures played a role. For many residents, the arrests have reinforced a belief that accountability must extend beyond expressions of sympathy.

Authorities Respond

The tragedy prompted a swift response from both local and national authorities.

Harare Mayor Jacob Mafume ordered an immediate investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths and pledged cooperation with ongoing inquiries.

At national level, Local Government and Public Works Minister Daniel Garwe described the incident as preventable and attributed the tragedy to negligence.

The Minister's comments struck a chord with many residents who have long argued that dangerous conditions had been visible long before lives were lost.

His statement also raised difficult questions.

If the tragedy was preventable, what measures were not taken?

If warning signs existed, why were they not acted upon?

If risks were known, who bears responsibility?

These are questions that continue to echo throughout Budiriro 3.

Voices Demanding More Than Sympathy

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the public reaction has been the insistence that this tragedy must lead to meaningful change.

Residents have repeatedly argued that condolences alone are not enough.

Many believe that the real tribute

to the victims would be ensuring that no other family experiences a similar loss.

Community members have called for improved maintenance of public infrastructure, better monitoring of dangerous sites, stronger safety measures and faster responses to complaints from residents.

Others have raised broader concerns about governance and service delivery.

They argue that citizens should not have to wait for deaths before action is taken.

Nor should communities be forced to become experts in infrastructure simply to survive conditions that authorities are meant to address.

Among the most thought-provoking questions emerging from the tragedy is whether society has become too accustomed to preventable suffering.

Have communities normalised infrastructure failure because it has existed for so long?

Have authorities become more responsive to disasters than to warnings?

And how many complaints must be ignored before they become a national emergency?

These questions extend far beyond Budiriro 3.

They speak to the relationship between citizens and public institutions throughout the country.

A Community Waiting for Answers  
The people of Budiriro 3 are not merely waiting for the outcome of court proceedings.

They are waiting for evidence that lessons have been learned.

They are waiting for proof that the deaths of Saul Karakadzai, Talita Munda and Vimbanashe Shalom Chihota will not be forgotten once public attention fades.

Most importantly, they are waiting to see whether this tragedy becomes another chapter in a long history of neglected warnings, or the moment when authorities finally recognised that infrastructure is not simply about pipes, drains and engineering plans.

It is about people.

It is about safety.

It is about dignity.

And ultimately, it is about whether every life matters enough for action to be taken before tragedy strikes rather than after it.

That is the question Budiriro 3 is asking.

It is also the question the nation must answer.

# How a desperate message can turn anyone into a scam victim

**By Abel Karowangoro**

**By reflecting on the experience shared by Hopewell Chin'ono Two days ago, veteran journalist Hopewell Chin'ono became the victim of a scam that can happen to almost anyone.**

Not because he was careless. Not because he was uninformed. But because the scam exploited one of the strongest forces in human relationships: trust.

According to Chin'ono, he received a WhatsApp message from what appeared to be the number of a journalist from Newzroom Afrika. The message was simple and believable. The sender asked to borrow R1,500 and promised to repay it the following afternoon.

The amount was small enough not to raise immediate suspicion. The request appeared to come from a trusted colleague. The story was plausible. Like many people would do when asked to help someone they know, Chin'ono agreed.

Initially, the sender requested a cash send transaction. When Chin'ono explained that his non-resident bank account could not perform that type of transfer, he was given a Capitec bank account number. He then transferred the money.

Only later, when he called the journalist to confirm that she had received the funds, did he discover the truth. Her WhatsApp account had been compromised.

She had never sent the message. The money had gone directly to criminals. The Power of Familiarity

What makes this case particularly important is that it demonstrates how modern scams no longer rely primarily on greed. They rely on trust.

Traditional scams often promised unrealistic rewards. Victims were tempted by lottery winnings, investment schemes, or opportunities that seemed too good to be true.

Today's criminals have become far more sophisticated. Instead of appealing to greed, they appeal to kindness. Instead of offering money, they ask for help.

Instead of pretending to be strangers, they impersonate people we already know. The victim is no longer making a financial decision. They are responding to a relation-



ship.

**Why Small Amounts Work**

One of the most revealing observations made by Chin'ono is that scammers often ask for relatively small amounts. R1,500 is significant money, but it is not so large that it automatically triggers suspicion.

Criminals understand psychology. A request for R50,000 would likely prompt immediate verification. A request for R1,500 feels different.

Many people can imagine a friend needing that amount urgently. The smaller amount reduces resistance and increases the likelihood of immediate action.

The scammer understands that speed is more valuable than ambition.

It is better to steal R1,500 from ten people than fail to convince one person to send R15,000.

Could the Account Have Been Hacked?

An important question raised by Chin'ono concerns how the criminals gained access to the journalist's account.

He noted that the number was registered on MTN and questioned how criminals were able to take control despite existing security measures.

The answer remains unclear. Several possibilities exist:

- \* A WhatsApp account takeover through stolen verification codes.
- \* SIM swap fraud.
- \* Social engineering attacks.
- \* Malware on a mobile device.
- \* Credential theft from previous data breaches.

Without a formal investigation, it is impossible to know exactly what happened. However, the lesson remains the same regardless of the method used.

A familiar phone number is no longer proof that you are speaking

to the person you think you are speaking to.

The Disappearing Messages Trap

Another disturbing aspect of the scam was the use of WhatsApp's disappearing messages feature. According to Chin'ono, the scammers had configured messages to disappear after 24 hours.

This was not accidental. Criminals increasingly use disappearing messages because they understand the value of evidence.

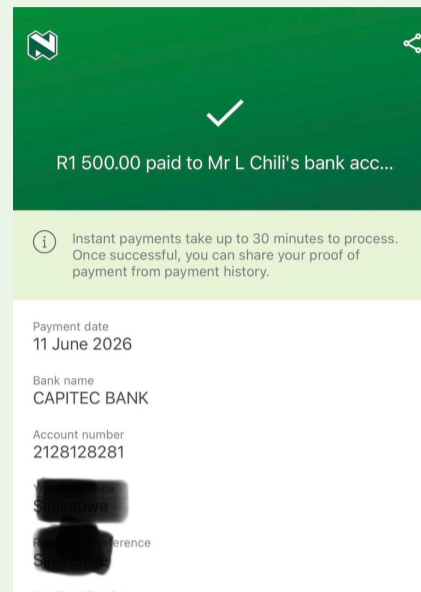
When messages automatically vanish, victims have less information to provide banks, telecommunications companies, and law enforcement agencies.

The criminals are not only trying to steal money. They are trying to erase the trail behind them.

Fortunately, Chin'ono had the foresight to take screenshots before the messages disappeared. Those screenshots may prove important if investigators pursue the matter.

Why Even Experienced People Get Scammed

Perhaps the most important lesson is that scams do not target intelligence. They target human nature.



to the person you think you are speaking to.

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Why Even Experienced People Get Scammed

Perhaps the most important lesson is that scams do not target intelligence. They target human nature.

The criminals succeeded because they understood something simple: People want to help.

Most of us would assist a colleague, friend, or family member facing a temporary problem.

The scammers exploit this instinct. The moment we stop verifying and start assuming, they gain an advantage.

That is why anyone can become a victim.

Journalists.

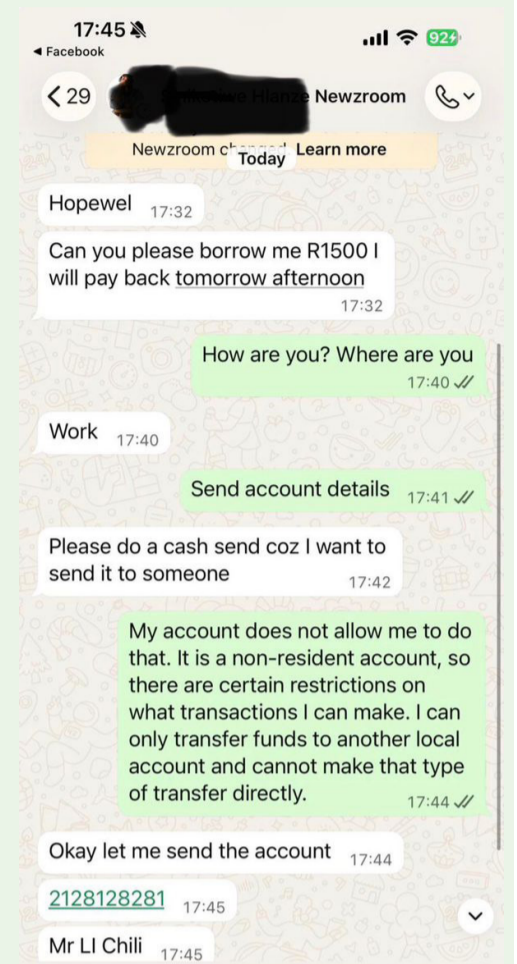
Business executives.

Professionals.

Government officials.

Ordinary citizens.

No one is immune from manipula-



tion.

**The New Rule of Digital Trust**

The old rule was simple:

"If the message comes from someone you know, it is probably genuine."

That rule no longer applies.

The new rule must be:

"If money is involved, verify first."

Make a phone call.

Request a voice note.

Use another communication channel.

Confirm before sending.

The verification process takes less than a minute.

Recovering stolen money can take months, and sometimes it never happens at all.

**A Warning for Everyone**

Hopewell Chin'ono shared his experience not because of the amount lost, but because of the lesson it carries.

In his own words, it could easily have been a much larger amount. The criminals were counting on trust.

They were counting on familiarity. Most importantly, they were counting on the victim not making one simple phone call.

In an age where identities can be stolen, accounts can be compromised, and messages can be manipulated, trust alone is no longer enough.

Trust must be accompanied by verification.

A desperate message may appear to come from a friend.

Before sending money, make sure it actually does.

# Victoria Falls gains ground as a top Global Tourism Events Hub

By Takudzwa Karwangoro

Zimbabwe has reinforced its commitment to advancing tourism interests on the international stage after joining global tourism leaders at the 126th Session of the United Nations Tourism Executive Council in Toledo, Spain, where member states deliberated on the future of one of the world's most important economic sectors.

The high-level meeting brought together tourism ministers, policymakers and industry leaders from across the globe to discuss strategies for promoting sustainable growth, resilience and inclusivity in the tourism sector at a time when destinations are seeking new ways to attract visitors and stimulate economic development.

For Zimbabwe, the gathering represented more than just another international conference.

It was an opportunity to strengthen the country's influence within global tourism structures while contributing to discussions on issues affecting destinations worldwide.

As one of the 35 countries serving on the UN Tourism Executive Council, Zimbabwe joined fellow member states in shaping policy discussions and contributing perspectives on the future direction of global tourism.

The engagement reflects a growing recognition that international cooperation is essential to ensuring tourism remains a driver of economic opportunity, cultural exchange and sustainable development across regions.

Representing Zimbabwe at the meeting, Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry Dr Barbara Rwodzi stressed the importance of closer cooperation among countries to unlock the sector's full potential.

"There is a need for deeper collaboration among countries through harmonised tourism policies, improved regional and international connectivity, and the advancement of inclusive tourism development," said Dr Rwodzi.

Her remarks come at a time when countries around the world are increasingly seeking to leverage tourism as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation and stronger international connections.

While destinations offer diverse natural attractions, cultural heritage sites and tourism experiences, many continue to explore ways of increasing visitor numbers and



Minister Rwodzi

strengthening competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global market.

Analysts argue that improved air connectivity, simplified travel arrangements and coordinated marketing strategies could significantly boost tourism flows and enhance the competitiveness of destinations worldwide.

Zimbabwe has been positioning itself as an active contributor to these efforts.

In recent years, the country has intensified efforts to market its tourism products while strengthening its role in international tourism platforms.

Dr Rwodzi highlighted Zimbabwe's successful hosting of the 23rd UN Tourism Committee on Tourism and Sustainability Meeting and the 2nd UN Tourism Regional Congress on Women Empowerment in Tourism in Africa, both held in Victoria Falls.

According to the minister, these events have helped elevate Zimbabwe's profile within international tourism circles while showcasing the country's capacity to host major global gatherings.

"The successful hosting of these

important events has further elevated Victoria Falls as a preferred venue for high-level international tourism engagements," she said.

The recognition of Victoria Falls as a conference and events destination is seen as a significant milestone for Zimbabwe's tourism industry.

Beyond attracting leisure travellers, the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) market has become an increasingly important source of tourism revenue worldwide.

Industry experts believe Zimbabwe's growing involvement in international tourism forums presents opportunities to attract investment, strengthen destination branding and create employment across the tourism value chain.

Tourism remains one of Zimbabwe's strategic economic sectors, contributing to foreign currency generation, community development and cultural preservation. The Government has consistently identified the industry as a key pillar for achieving sustainable economic growth and promoting Zimbabwe's image on the global

stage.

The Toledo meeting also highlighted broader efforts to ensure tourism serves as a vehicle for inclusive development, environmental sustainability and women's empowerment.

These themes resonate strongly with Zimbabwe's own tourism development agenda, which seeks to ensure local communities benefit from the sector's growth.

As global tourism continues to evolve in response to changing traveller preferences, climate challenges and technological advancements, Zimbabwe's participation in international decision-making platforms positions the country to influence policies while learning from global best practices.

For Zimbabwe and the wider international community, the message from Toledo was clear: stronger cooperation, shared priorities and a unified commitment will be critical in ensuring tourism remains a powerful driver of economic growth, cultural exchange and sustainable development in the years ahead.

# Mutapa's Big Pay Day

Mangudya says "This is a good start" as Mutapa Gold Resources declares maiden dividend

State-owned mining group rewards shareholders after restructuring drive

Historic payout underscores value creation strategy under Mutapa Investment Fund

CEO Patrick Shayawabaya credits strong production and disciplined management for record performance



**By Itai Mazire**

Zimbabwe's sovereign wealth fund, the Mutapa Investment Fund, has reached a significant milestone following the declaration of a US\$35 million maiden dividend by Mutapa Gold Resources, a development that signals the growing success of efforts to transform state-owned assets into commercially viable enterprises.

The dividend, representing 50 percent of the company's US\$70 million profit after tax for the nine months ending December 31, 2025, is the first major shareholder return since the restructuring of the former Kuvimba Mining House into commodity-focused entities under the Mutapa Investment Fund.

During the official handover of the dividend, Mutapa Investment Fund Group Chief Executive Officer Dr. John Panonetsa Mangudya described the achievement as an encouraging beginning in the Fund's value-creation journey.

Speaking to Hurumende News Hub, Dr. Mangudya said: "This is a good start. The declaration and payment of this dividend demonstrates that the restructuring and transformation initiatives we have undertaken are beginning to bear fruit."

He said the dividend was evi-

dence that the Fund's strategic reforms were delivering measurable results and reaffirmed Mutapa's commitment to building commercially sustainable businesses capable of generating long-term returns for shareholders and the nation.

"Declaring a dividend of US\$35 million is very commendable. We are very happy with the board and management. These are some of the fruits being realised after the restructuring of the former Kuvimba Group of Companies," said Dr. Mangudya.

He noted that the creation of specialised mining entities focusing on gold, base metals and energy resources was intended to improve operational efficiency, strengthen accountability and unlock greater value from Zimbabwe's natural resources.

The Mutapa Investment Fund is expected to receive approximately US\$22 million from the dividend distribution, reinforcing its mandate to generate wealth and support national economic development through prudent stewardship of strategic state assets.

For Mutapa Gold Resources, the dividend declaration reflects a period of strong operational performance and financial discipline.

Chief Executive Officer Patrick Shayawabaya attributed the achievement to solid production levels, effective cost management and favourable international gold prices.

"This dividend reflects our strong cash-generating capacity. Production was solid, gold prices remained favourable, and costs were well controlled," said Shayawabaya.

He added that the dividend was not only a reward for shareholders but also a demonstration of the company's ability to create sustainable value while pursuing an ambitious growth agenda.

"Our objective is to continue building a world-class gold mining business that consistently delivers value to shareholders, employees, communities and the country. This dividend is a reflection of that commitment and a sign of greater things to come," he said.

The declaration comes as Mutapa Gold Resources advances a US\$152 million investment programme, including the flagship Shamva Hill Project, aimed at expanding production and extending the life of key mining assets.

The company projects gold production of 3,400 kilograms in 2026, with revenues expected to approach US\$500 million under

current market conditions.

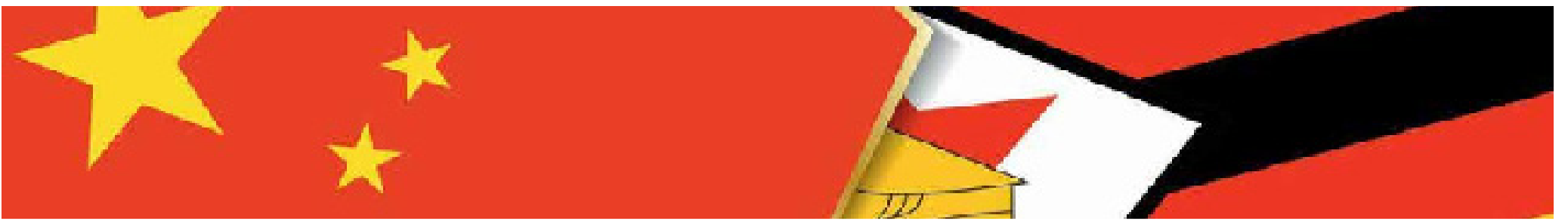
Beyond the numbers, the dividend represents a broader shift in the management of Zimbabwe's state-owned enterprises. It highlights the growing emphasis on commercial discipline, corporate governance and value creation under the Mutapa Investment Fund's stewardship.

For Dr. Mangudya, the milestone is a validation of the Fund's strategic direction.

"This is only the beginning," he said. "Our goal is to ensure that all entities within the Mutapa portfolio operate efficiently, generate sustainable profits and contribute meaningfully to Zimbabwe's economic growth and prosperity."

As Mutapa Investment Fund continues to drive reforms across its portfolio, the success of Mutapa Gold Resources provides a powerful example of how strategic restructuring, focused leadership and operational excellence can transform national assets into engines of economic growth and shareholder value.

The US\$35 million dividend is therefore more than a financial payout, it is a statement of confidence in Zimbabwe's capacity to build globally competitive enterprises that create lasting wealth for future generations.



## How the China-Zimbabwe Partnership Is Transforming Rural Communities

By Kelvin Matore

**For generations, access to clean water has remained one of the biggest challenges facing many rural communities in Zimbabwe.**

Women and children have often walked long distances carrying buckets, while droughts and natural disasters have repeatedly threatened livelihoods, food security and public health.

Today, however, a new chapter is being written for thousands of families across Manicaland, Masvingo, Midlands and Mashonaland East provinces.

The official handover of 300 boreholes drilled under the China-Aid Post-Disaster Recovery Borehole Drilling Project has brought more than water to rural communities. It has delivered hope, dignity and opportunity to at least 75,000 Zimbabweans whose lives are expected to improve through reliable access to clean and safe water.

Speaking at the handover ceremony held at Runyararo Housing Scheme in Chimanimani on Friday, Minister of Local Government and Public Works Daniel Garwe described the project as a symbol of resilience and international co-operation.

“This occasion is not merely a ceremonial event, but a celebration of partnership, resilience and a shared commitment to improving the livelihoods of our people,” said Garwe.

His remarks reflected the significance of a project that emerged from one of Zimbabwe’s darkest moments. Tropical Cyclone Idai, which struck eastern Zimbabwe in 2019, left a trail of destruction, destroying homes, roads, schools and water infrastructure while displacing thousands of families.

Recognising the urgent need to restore water access in affected communities, the Government of Zimbabwe appealed for international support. The People’s Republic of China responded by funding the drilling of 300 boreholes as part of a broader disaster recovery programme.

Although implementation was temporarily delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project resumed following the signing of an implementation agreement in April 2024 and was officially launched three months later in Mahusekwa, Mashonaland East Province.



For Garwe, the completion of the project demonstrates Government’s commitment to ensuring that no community is left behind in Zimbabwe’s development journey. “The boreholes are more than water points. They represent life, dignity and hope for our people. They contribute significantly towards improving sanitation, strengthening public health, supporting livestock survival and increasing agricultural productivity,” he said.

The Minister noted that the project also became a critical intervention during the 2024/25 El Niño-induced drought, which severely affected water supplies and agricultural production across much of the country.

In many rural communities, access to reliable water determines whether families can grow crops, raise livestock, send children to school regularly and maintain healthy living conditions. By reducing dependence on unsafe water sources, the boreholes are expected to lower the prevalence of waterborne diseases while improving overall community well-being.

According to Government figures, Manicaland Province received the largest allocation of 100 boreholes, while Masvingo received 68 and Mashonaland East and Midlands provinces received 66 each. Additional boreholes were drilled in selected districts around the country, with some equipped with solar-powered pumping systems to improve sustainability.

The positive impact has already earned the facilities a special nickname among beneficiaries — “Wells of Happiness.”

For Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe Zhou Ding, the project represents another milestone in the enduring friendship between Ha-

re and Beijing.

Addressing guests at the ceremony, Ambassador Zhou said China moved swiftly to assist Zimbabwe after the El Niño-induced drought prompted President Emmerson Mnangagwa to declare a national state of disaster.

He revealed that the 300 boreholes now provide clean water to more than 75,000 people living in 300 villages across 21 districts. The project, he said, is helping communities improve agricultural production, reduce waterborne diseases and strengthen resilience against future droughts.

Importantly, Zhou paid tribute to both Zimbabwean and Chinese workers who laboured under difficult conditions to ensure the project’s completion.

“Working side by side as one united team, Chinese and Zimbabwean staff drove the project to final completion,” he said, highlighting the spirit of cooperation that defined the initiative.

The Ambassador noted that the borehole programme is part of a much broader development partnership between Zimbabwe and China.

Over the past decade, China has drilled more than 1,300 boreholes across Zimbabwe, benefiting nearly half a million people through improved access to water and agricultural irrigation.

Beyond water infrastructure, China has provided food assistance during periods of drought, supported agricultural training programmes, introduced the Juncao agricultural technology project and committed funding towards the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes. The growing economic relationship between the two countries is also creating opportunities for

Zimbabwean farmers and exporters.

Ambassador Zhou highlighted China’s recent decision to grant zero-tariff access to products from Zimbabwe and other African countries, a move expected to increase exports and create new economic opportunities.

China remains Zimbabwe’s largest buyer of tobacco and one of the leading importers of macadamia nuts, while additional agricultural products such as citrus fruits, blueberries and dried chillies have also gained entry into the Chinese market.

For communities in Chimanimani and beyond, however, the immediate benefit remains access to clean water.

Water security is increasingly becoming one of Zimbabwe’s most important development priorities as climate change continues to intensify droughts, alter rainfall patterns and place pressure on rural livelihoods.

Projects such as the China-Aid Borehole Programme are therefore not simply infrastructure investments. They are investments in health, education, food security and economic empowerment.

As Government pursues the goals outlined under National Development Strategy 2 and Vision 2030, officials believe reliable water access will be fundamental to building resilient communities capable of withstanding future environmental and economic shocks.

The ceremony also highlighted ongoing recovery efforts for families affected by Cyclone Idai. Garwe toured the Runyararo Housing Scheme where Government, through the Department of Public Works, is constructing homes for displaced households. Officials reported that 125 houses have already been completed while construction of the remaining units is underway.

For many residents, the handover of the boreholes signals more than the completion of a project. It represents the restoration of normal life after years of hardship.

In communities where water scarcity once defined daily existence, the sound of water flowing from newly drilled boreholes is becoming a symbol of resilience, recovery and renewed hope for the future.

# ZSE Pushes to Unlock SME Capital Through ZEEEX as Invoice Discount Exchange Gains Momentum



By Talkmore F Mapfumo

**The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange is accelerating efforts to unlock financing for Zimbabwe's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the Zimbabwe Entrepreneurship Exchange (ZEEEX), a newly approved digital capital market platform designed to bridge the long-standing funding gap facing emerging businesses.**

The move comes as ZSE deepens strategic partnerships with institutional players, including CBZ's subsidiary RedSphere Finance and INVESCI, in what market analysts say could reshape SME financing in Zimbabwe.

At the center of the strategy is an Invoice Discount Exchange model, a financing mechanism that has gained significant traction in countries such as India, where SMEs use approved invoices to secure immediate working capital instead of waiting weeks or months for payment from buyers.

Through ZEEEX, Zimbabwe is seeking to replicate that success. Under the platform, suppliers and buyers can onboard through a dedicated digital portal and discount invoices for faster liquidity. Approved 30-day and 60-day invoices are expected to attract funding within 48 hours, significantly reducing cash flow pressures that have historically constrained SME operations.

For many Zimbabwean SMEs, delayed payments remain one of the biggest threats to business continuity. Limited access to bank loans, high borrowing costs, and stringent collateral requirements

have left thousands of businesses operating with inadequate working capital.

ZSE believes ZEEEX could change that.

Justin Bgoni, Group Chief Executive Officer of ZSE Holdings, said the exchange is moving beyond traditional securities trading to build practical financing solutions for the broader economy.

"By directing our depository capabilities toward trade receivables discounting, we are creating a tangible solution to the liquidity constraints that hold back Zimbabwean SMEs."

Bgoni said the initiative represents a strategic expansion of ZSE's infrastructure and positions capital markets as a direct enabler of enterprise growth.

The partnership with RedSphere Finance, a microfinance institution wholly owned by CBZ Holdings, is expected to provide crucial financing capacity for the invoice discounting arm of ZEEEX.

CBZ will serve as an anchor financing partner, supporting rapid decision-making and disbursement for approved receivables.

According to Desmond Ali, the partnership is aimed at reducing payment delays and supporting uninterrupted business operations.

"This platform will reduce payment delays and help businesses keep operations running without interruption."

Ali said RedSphere will also contribute risk assessment and credit evaluation capabilities to ensure sustainable lending and prudent

capital allocation.

The development comes shortly after ZSE announced another strategic milestone a Memorandum of Understanding with INVESCI Asset Management to support ZEEEX's institutional capital market development.

The partnership signals growing confidence from institutional investors in ZEEEX's long-term viability. Under the agreement, INVESCI will help evaluate investment opportunities on the ZEEEX platform, contribute to listing standards, and participate in advisory and market development initiatives.

This institutional backing is widely viewed as critical for the success of any invoice discount exchange model.

Without strong financiers, investors, and credible risk assessment frameworks, receivables-based financing platforms often struggle to scale.

Zimbabwe's SME sector accounts for a significant share of economic activity and employment, yet remains structurally underfunded. Industry estimates suggest SMEs contribute more than half of economic activity in the informal and formal sectors combined, but many remain excluded from mainstream financial systems.

ZEEEX aims to formalize part of that ecosystem by providing a regulated marketplace where businesses can raise capital, tokenize assets, and participate in structured financing opportunities.

The platform recently secured regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Zimbabwe, paving the way for its

rollout.

Market watchers say ZEEEX could become one of the most significant innovations in Zimbabwe's capital markets if implementation matches ambition.

The success of India's invoice discount exchange platforms provides a compelling blueprint. There, invoice discounting has helped SMEs unlock billions in working capital while simultaneously creating attractive alternative investment opportunities for institutional and private investors. Zimbabwe's challenge, however, lies in adoption, trust, and execution.

Questions remain around onboarding efficiency, digital literacy among SMEs, counterparty risk management, and whether enough institutional liquidity exists to sustain large-scale invoice trading.

Still, ZSE's aggressive partnership strategy suggests the exchange is laying the foundation carefully.

By combining capital market infrastructure, institutional investors, and financing partners under one platform, ZEEEX is positioning itself as more than a trading venue — it is emerging as a financial infrastructure project aimed at transforming how Zimbabwean businesses access capital.

If successful, the platform could redefine SME financing in Zimbabwe, reduce dependence on conventional bank lending, and open a new chapter in the country's capital markets evolution.

# NSSA, Shelter Zimbabwe Join Government Offensive Against Land Barons

By Talkmore F. Mapfumo

HARARE – The National Social Security Authority (NSSA) and Shelter Zimbabwe have joined the Government's intensifying campaign against land barons and illegal settlements, issuing public warnings and assurances as authorities move to restore order in Harare's increasingly contested housing sector.

The developments come amid growing concern among home seekers and property owners following recent pronouncements by the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works and the City of Harare that illegal structures and settlements established without proper authorization could face demolition.

Government has adopted a hardline stance against land barons, accusing them of illegally parcelling out land, invading properties earmarked for public infrastructure and misleading unsuspecting home seekers into purchasing stands without the necessary approvals.

In a public notice, NSSA warned prospective



buyers against purchasing stands from unauthorized agents operating in Glaudina. The authority said it owns land in Glaudina Phases 1 and 2 and that the National Building Society (NBS) is the only authorized seller of NSSA stands in the area.

NSSA said legal action has already been instituted against some individuals accused of illegally selling stands and cautioned that buyers dealing with unauthorized sellers risk significant financial losses.

“The public is strongly warned against purchasing or engaging with any individuals or entities claiming to sell stands in the Glaudina area without proper authorization,” the authority said.

At the same time, Shelter Zimbabwe moved to reassure legitimate stand owners within its developments following fears sparked

by ongoing demolition exercises and Government warnings.

In a statement, the property developer said homeowners and stand holders who legally acquired land through Shelter Zimbabwe, particularly within the Chizhanje Development in Mabvuku, should not panic as the demolitions are targeting illegal settlers who invaded land belonging to the company.

Shelter Zimbabwe emphasized that the enforcement actions currently underway are directed at unauthorized occupants and do not affect legitimate clients who followed proper acquisition procedures and possess valid documentation.

The twin statements reflect increasing collaboration between Government institutions, local authorities and private developers in tackling illegal settlements, land invasions and fraudulent land sales that have plagued Harare and other urban centres for years.

The City of Harare has indicated that structures erected on land reserved for schools, clinics, roads, wetlands and other public ame-

nities may be subject to demolition as part of efforts to regularize urban development and enforce planning regulations.

For thousands of aspiring homeowners, the latest warnings serve as a stark reminder of the risks associated with purchasing land from unverified sources. Authorities are urging prospective buyers to conduct thorough due diligence, verify ownership documents and ensure that all transactions are conducted through authorized sellers.

As the crackdown gathers momentum, the message from Government, landowners and developers is becoming increasingly clear: the era of unchecked land invasions and fraudulent land sales is coming under unprecedented scrutiny, with land barons firmly in the crosshairs of authorities.

With demolitions already underway in some areas and investigations continuing in others, stakeholders say vigilance and proper verification remain the best protection for home seekers navigating Zimbabwe's complex property market.



# Geo Pomona Revolutionizing Zimbabwe's Sports Infrastructure

By Kelvin Matore

In a noteworthy boost to Zimbabwe's sporting aspirations, private sector involvement is increasingly playing a pivotal role in transforming the nation's sports infrastructure. Leading this charge is Geo Pomona Waste Management (Pvt) Ltd, whose recent ventures into sports development have garnered international recognition and set a new benchmark for facilities in the country.

Just recently, a high-powered delegation from FIFA and COSAFA visited Geo Pomona's state-of-the-art sports complex. The delegation, which included the ZIFA President, Mr. Nqobile Magwizi, was reportedly impressed by the facilities, which boast a FIFA-certified soccer field, two basketball courts, and two tennis courts. This certification is a testament to the quality and adherence to international standards achieved by Geo Pomona, providing a much-needed upgrade to the nation's sporting venues. The development by Geo Pomona is more



than just building facilities; it represents a strategic investment in the future of Zimbabwean sports. By providing world-class infrastructure, the company is not only fostering local talent but also positioning Zimbabwe as a potential host for regional and international sporting events. This initiative aligns with the broader national agenda of promoting sports development and leveraging its potential for economic growth and social cohesion. Such collaborations between the private sector and sports bodies are crucial for the advancement of sports in Zimbabwe. They alleviate the burden on public resources and introduce innovative approaches to facility management and athlete development. The success of Geo Pomona's project serves as a powerful example of how strategic partner-

ships can lead to tangible improvements and inspire a new generation of athletes.

In...Cricket and Rugby In cricket, the Chevrons are gearing up for an important home series. The national team is scheduled to play a one-off Test match against Bangladesh in Harare, commencing on June 28, 2026. This Test will be a crucial encounter for Zimbabwe as they look to assert their dominance in the longer format of the game. Beyond this, the focus remains

on preparations for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be co-hosted by Sri Lanka and India, with Zimbabwe having participated in qualifiers. On the rugby front, the Zimbabwe Sables have recently demonstrated their prowess, securing a convincing 2-0 test series victory over Zambia. This triumph underscores the progress being made in Zimbabwean rugby and highlights the talent within the squad. Furthermore, the future of Zimbabwean rugby looks bright, with the Lady Sables and Junior Sables currently engaged in exciting fixtures in South Africa from June 16-19, 2026. These developmental tours are vital for nurturing emerging talent and ensuring a strong pipeline for the national teams.



# ZPSL Mid-Season Thrills - Hardrock FC Shines as Title Race Heats Up



By Kelvin Matore

**The 2026 Zimbabwe Premier Soccer League (ZPSL) season continues to deliver exhilarating football, with surprising contenders and established giants battling it out for supremacy as we approach the mid-season mark.**

The narrative is rich with tactical battles, individual brilliance, and the relentless pursuit of glory, keeping fans on the edge of their seats.

Leading the charge and arguably the season's biggest revelation is Hardrock FC. Under

the astute guidance of Zambian coach Kelvin Kaindu, the “Golden Boys” have defied expectations, often finding themselves at or near the summit of the league table. Despite their impressive run, Kaindu maintains a pragmatic approach, often reiterating that the team’s primary objective remains securing their Premier League status, a testament to his grounded leadership.

Hardrock FC’s journey has been marked by important victories, including a dominant performance against Simba Bhora, and a

hard-fought goalless draw against FC Platinum at the challenging Mandava Stadium. Their strategic player acquisitions, such as the Eswatini duo Thubelihle Mavuso and Yekisizwe Khumalo, have clearly bolstered their squad, allowing them to compete effectively against more seasoned teams. Close on their heels are the defending champions, Scotland FC, who have shown resilience and determination in their quest to retain the title.

Having reinforced their squad with eleven new additions for the 2026

season, Scotland FC is a formidable force, and their upcoming clash against Hardrock FC on June 14, 2026, promises to be a pivotal encounter in the title race.

Other notable teams making their presence felt include CAPS United, who have consistently maintained a strong position in the top three, and traditional giants like Dynamos and Highlanders. Dynamos recently secured a crucial 1-0 victory over CAPS United at Rufaro Stadium, while Highlanders battled to a 1-1 draw against Kariba.

# World Cup Fever Grips Zimbabwe, Even Without the Warriors

By Kelvin Matore

As the FIFA World Cup 2026 kicks off, a familiar buzz permeates the air across Zimbabwe. Despite the national team, the Warriors, not gracing the pitches of North America this time around, the passion for the beautiful game remains undimmed. From bustling urban centers to remote rural outposts, Zimbabweans are glued to their screens, following every pass, tackle, and goal of the global spectacle.

The tournament, which commenced on June 11, 2026, promises a month of exhilarating football action, culminating in the final on July 19.

While the absence of the Warriors in the qualifiers was a bitter pill to swallow for many fans, the opening matches have already delivered their share of drama and excitement. The initial fixtures, including today's highly anticipated clash between Brazil and Morocco, are setting the stage for what is expected to be a memorable World Cup.

Zimbabwe's journey in the CAF World Cup Qualifiers for 2026



ended in disappointment, with the team finishing at the bottom of Group C.

This outcome, which saw South Africa emerge as the group winners and secure a direct qualification spot, has prompted introspection within the local football fraternity. However, the current

focus is on celebrating the global game and drawing inspiration from the world's best.

For many Zimbabweans, the World Cup is more than just a football tournament; it's a unifying force, a shared experience that transcends social and economic divides.

It's an opportunity to

witness sporting excellence, to dream alongside the giants of football, and to momentarily forget the daily struggles. The hope is that one day, the Warriors will once again be part of this grand narrative, carrying the hopes and dreams of a nation onto the world stage.