



**H Hurumende**

162 Herbert Chitepo Avenue  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

**ADVERTISING**  
Hurumende News Hub  
Melinda +263773979117

**HAVE FEEDBACK ON THIS ARTICLE?**  
We'd love to hear from you. Please email the editor at editor@hurumende.com

# MUGUTI PUSHES FOR PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT



## Minister Ncube Promises Policy Reforms as Investment Conference Ends on High Note

By **Abel Karowangoro** and **Fani Mapfumo** in Mazowe

**Secretary for Presidential Affairs and Devolution, Engineer Tafadzwa Muguti, has called for traditional leaders to be fully integrated into Zimbabwe's development and investment agenda, arguing that sustainable economic growth cannot be achieved without the active participation of communities through their traditional leadership structures.**

Speaking during the final day of the 2026 Mashonaland Central Provincial Investment Conference in Bindura, Muguti challenged policymakers, investors and development stakeholders to place chiefs and traditional leaders at the centre of local development initiatives. He said traditional leaders remain

key custodians of community interests and play a critical role in ensuring that development projects benefit local populations.

Responding to the concerns, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, Professor Mthuli Ncube, said Government was already working on policy frameworks designed to ensure inclusive development and broader participation in economic activities.

"We are developing policies that seek to address these issues and ensure that communities fully participate in the country's development agenda. Devolution is meant to empower local communities and create opportunities for all Zimbabweans," said Ncube.

The exchange became one of the defining moments of the conference,

which brought together Government officials, investors, business leaders, development partners and academics to discuss opportunities for industrialisation and economic transformation in Mashonaland Central Province.

Minister of State for Mashonaland Central Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Christopher Magomo, described the conference as a major success and a clear indication that the province is ready to attract investment.

"The response from investors and stakeholders has been encouraging. Mashonaland Central has immense potential in mining, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

This conference has provided a platform to showcase those opportunities and build partnerships for

**Inside page**

## INSIDE ISSUE

### Business

Industrialisation takes shape through mining



### Honoured

President Mhangagwa Catapults Retired Chief Justice Malaba into Farming



### Exports

Avocado Exports Signal Strong



### Entertainment

Seven Queens Set to Fly Zim's Flag High



### Sports

Scotland's dominance continues while Bosso stumbles



Join our WhatsApp Channel

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaX77yH5fM5bBLKuyp10>

FOLLOW • SHARE • STAY INFORMED

*Hurumende News Hub*

# Traditional leaders must be central to Zimbabwe's development agenda

The call by Secretary for Presidential Affairs and Devolution, Engineer Tafadzwa Muguti, for the full integration of traditional leaders into Zimbabwe's development and investment framework comes at a critical moment in the country's economic transformation journey.

For generations, traditional leaders have been custodians of land, culture, community values and social cohesion. They remain the closest form of governance to the people, particularly in rural areas where the majority of Zimbabweans reside. Any meaningful development strategy that overlooks their role risks leaving behind the very communities it seeks to uplift. Zimbabwe's decentralisation and devolution agenda is founded on the principle that development must start from the grassroots. Traditional leaders are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between Government programmes and local communities. Their involvement in investment promotion, land management, conflict resolution and community mobilisation can significantly improve the implementation of development projects.

Investors, both local and foreign, often require stability, transparency and community support before



Eng Muguti

committing resources to a particular area. Traditional leaders can play a vital role in fostering these conditions. By facilitating dialogue between communities, investors and Government authorities, they can help ensure that development projects proceed smoothly while protecting the interests of local people.

The recently concluded investment conference in Mazowe highlighted

the growing recognition that economic growth cannot be achieved through Government efforts alone. Partnerships involving communities, traditional leaders, the private sector and development agencies are essential for sustainable progress.

However, integrating traditional leaders into development initiatives must go beyond symbolic participation. They should be equipped

with the necessary knowledge, resources and platforms to effectively contribute to economic planning and implementation. Capacity-building programmes, regular engagement with policymakers and inclusion in local development committees are important steps towards achieving this goal.

At the same time, traditional leaders must continue to uphold principles of accountability, fairness and inclusivity.

Their influence should be exercised in a manner that promotes national development, social harmony and equitable access to opportunities.

As Zimbabwe pursues Vision 2030, the importance of community-driven development cannot be overstated.

Engineer Muguti's call serves as a timely reminder that sustainable development is most successful when it is rooted in local realities and supported by trusted community institutions.

The path towards an upper-middle-income economy will not be built solely in boardrooms and conference halls.

It will also be built in villages, growth points and rural communities where traditional leaders continue to play an indispensable role in shaping the future of the nation.

## ZIMPOST

DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES

Shop or sell from the comfort of your home with **Zimbabwemall**, your **Online Shopping Hub!**



Discover a world of shopping: [zimbabwemall.post](https://zimbabwemall.post)



# Government warns public against illegal land deals

By Takudzwa Karowangoro

The Government has warned Zimbabweans against purchasing land and residential stands through illegal channels, saying home seekers risk fraud, financial losses, legal disputes and possible eviction.

In a statement, Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities, Prof. Paul Mavima, urged prospective homeowners and investors to ensure all land transactions are conducted through lawful and government-approved processes.

"I wish to remind all citizens that the acquisition of land and residential stands must be conducted through lawful, transparent, and government-approved processes," said Prof. Mavima.

He advised members of the public to acquire land only from authorised local authorities, Government institutions, registered housing cooperatives and licensed land developers operating within the law.

The Minister also urged buyers to verify ownership documents, subdivision permits, development approvals and servicing status with relevant authorities before making any payments.

"The Ministry strongly discourages the purchase of land through informal channels, land barons, or any individuals and entities that cannot provide valid legal documentation," he said.

Prof. Mavima warned that illegal land transactions often expose buyers to fraud, court disputes, financial losses and eviction from illegally occupied land.

The warning comes amid growing demand for residential land in Zimbabwe, particularly in Harare and surrounding dormitory towns, where thousands of home seekers have fallen victim to unscrupulous land barons



Professor Paul Mavima

selling illegally occupied land. It also comes as the City of Harare intensifies enforcement against illegal settlements and structures built on wetlands, road reserves, school sites and land reserved for public amenities.

According to a recent report presented to council, Harare has assessed 101 settlements under Government's housing regularisation programme, with 93 settlements comprising 16,424 stands approved for regularisation.

However, authorities have made it clear that developments on environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands, school sites, recreational spaces and heritage land, will not qualify for regularisation.

The city has identified land barons as key drivers of illegal settlements, accusing them of orchestrating land invasions and selling illegally occupied land to unsuspecting residents using suspected forged documents.

Council has already carried out demolitions in some suburbs and is pursuing enforcement action in several others, including Greendale, Belvedere, Budiriro,

Kuwadzana, Glen View, Mabvuku, Crowborough, Hopley and Mainway Meadows.

Recently, the City of Harare warned that more than 20,000 houses constructed on wetlands, road reserves and land designated for social amenities could face demolition or eviction as authorities move to restore order in urban development.

Prof. Mavima said Government remains committed to providing safe, orderly and affordable housing while protecting citizens from illegal land dealings. He urged citizens to ensure all agreements are properly documented, receipts are issued for every payment and title deeds or legally recognised tenure documents are processed through official channels.

The Minister said responsible land administration and compliance with planning regulations are critical to achieving sustainable urban development and secure human settlements under the Second Republic's development agenda.

This version gives readers a clear "why now" angle by connecting Mavima's warning to the Harare demolitions and the on-

## Over 2 000 foreign nationals leave SA amid xenophobic attacks

JOHANNESBURG — At least 2 025 foreign nationals have left or registered to leave South Africa following xenophobic attacks, official and media reports show.

A total of 933 Mozambicans have returned home. Another 1 092 Nigerians have registered for voluntary repatriation, according to figures released by their respective missions.

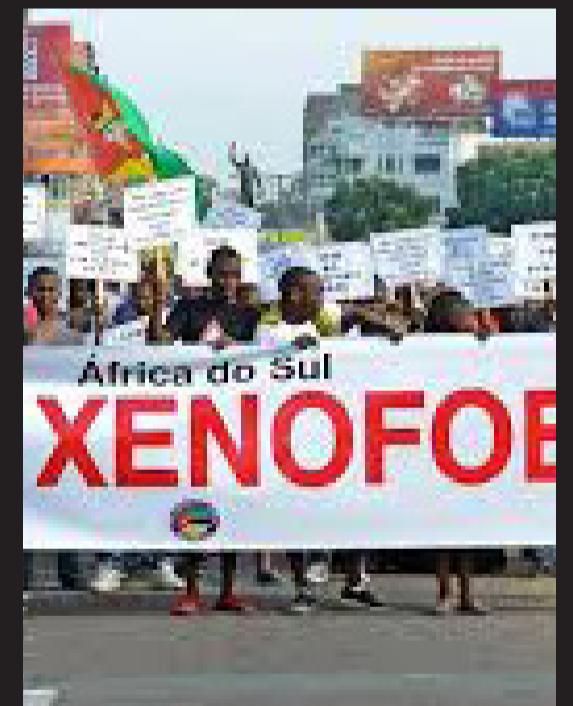
Zimbabweans are also among those volunteering to leave although the embassy is yet to release figures.

Beitbridge border post has been a hive of activity with voluntary returnees.

Hundreds of Ghanaians are reported to have left South Africa in recent weeks amid growing fears of anti-immigrant violence.

The departures have drawn attention from regional governments. Several African governments are monitoring the situation and have advised their citizens in South Africa to take precautionary measures.

Official figures for the number of Zimbabweans and Ghanaians who have left were not immediately available.



# Muguti pushes for people centred development

From page 1

growth," said Magomo.

The conference also highlighted the importance of innovation and local industrialisation.

Among the notable moments was a tour of exhibition stands by senior Government officials, including Professor Ncube, Minister Magomo and Engineer Muguti. The delegation visited the Bindura University of Science Educa-

tion (BUSE) stand, where locally developed technologies, including mobile phones, were showcased.

Professor Ncube later purchased a locally assembled PALP100 mobile phone, an act viewed by exhibitors as a vote of confidence in Zimbabwean innovation and local manufacturing.

Throughout the conference, delegates stressed the need to accelerate value addition, infrastructure

development, technological innovation and investment promotion to drive economic growth and job creation.

The event, organised by the Office of the President and Cabinet in partnership with the National Economic Consultative Forum (NECF), concluded with renewed commitments to use devolution as a catalyst for balanced provincial development and economic em-

powerment.

As Zimbabwe intensifies efforts to achieve Vision 2030, discussions at the conference underscored the growing consensus that economic transformation will require stronger collaboration among Government, investors, traditional leaders, academic institutions and local communities.

# ZRP Busts Illicit Alcohol Operation, Arrests Two Company Directors

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) has arrested two directors of Teku Teku Company in Mutare for allegedly manufacturing illicit alcoholic beverages under unhygienic conditions and in violation of public health regulations.

According to police, the arrests followed investigations that uncovered an illegal brewing operation where authorities recovered equipment believed to have been used in the production of the illicit substances.

The discovery has raised serious concerns about public health and consumer safety, as the products were allegedly being manufactured in conditions that failed to meet the required health and safety standards.

Confirming the arrests, police said the operation forms part of ongoing efforts to crack down on the production and distribution of dangerous illicit substances across the country.

"Police in Mutare arrested two directors of Teku Teku Company for manufacturing illicit brew under unhygienic conditions and in violation of health regulations. Equipment used in the illegal operation was recovered," said the police.

The ZRP warned that individuals and companies involved in the illegal manufacture and sale of harmful substances would face the full force of the law.

"The ZRP urges companies to comply with all legal and health requirements and warns that decisive action will be taken without

fear or favour against individuals and companies engaged in peddling dangerous drugs or involved in the manufacturing of illicit substances," said the police.

Authorities have intensified operations targeting illegal alcohol producers and drug syndicates, citing growing concerns over the dangers such products pose to consumers and communities.

Police reiterated that businesses must operate within the confines of the law and adhere to health regulations designed to protect the public.

Investigations into the matter are continuing, with authorities expected to determine the full scale of the operation and whether additional arrests may be made.



## Judge relocates trial after cat invades courtroom

A murder trial at the Bulawayo High Court took an unusual turn when a stray cat invaded the courtroom and brought proceedings to a temporary halt, according to the National Prosecuting Authority of Zimbabwe (NPA).

The bizarre incident occurred during a special sitting of the High Court on 3 June 2026, while the court was hearing a murder case involving 19-year-old Bright Tshuma of Nkulumane, Bulawayo.

According to the NPA, the drama began when a brown stray cat slowly entered the courtroom and began making loud, mournful cries that disrupted proceedings.

"The judge had to take a brief adjournment, instructing that the police attend to the cat that was continuously crying," said the NPA.

What followed was an unexpected spectacle as police officers, prison guards and a caretaker attempted to remove the animal from the courtroom.

"A comical scene unfolded in the courtroom as four police officers, four prison guards and the caretaker tried to force the cat out," the NPA said.

The unusual disturbance quickly attracted the attention of members of the public, who gathered at the courtroom entrance to wit-



ness the unfolding events.

"The commotion acted like an irresistible magnet as amused members of the public gathered by the courtroom door. Unfortunately, the growing audience only worsened the cat's stage fright, causing it to dash from behind the accused person's dock to the judge's table," said the NPA.

The feline eventually sought refuge beneath the judge's bench and resisted all further attempts to remove it.

"The cat neatly tucked itself under the judge's bench and responded in a hostile manner to

further attempts made to remove it. It was successful in its hostile takeover of the courtroom, which was then abandoned and the matter continued to be heard in a different courtroom," the NPA added.

Despite the unusual interruption, the trial proceeded in another courtroom. Tshuma, who had been facing a murder charge for fatally stabbing a man with a Colombia CCCP AK47 knife, was ultimately convicted after a full trial.

The court found him guilty of murder and sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

## Mayor fumes over shoddy work

Itai Mazire

Harare Mayor Jacob Mafume has launched a blistering attack on council workers, warning them they risk losing their jobs for continuously embarrassing him through shoddy workmanship and poor gravel road patching across the capital.

In a tense full council meeting, Mayor Mafume said it was humiliating for a mayor to be invited to commission poorly executed projects such as badly done zebra crossings.

"If you think you are embarrassing me, then you will lose your job.

Mayor Mafume has repeatedly raised the alarm over the city's failing services, often pointing to systemic weaknesses within council.

In June 2025, he announced plans for a comprehensive skills audit to address the "mismatch" between workers' qualifications and their roles.

"The issue is that some of the skills and the performance of council, there is definitely a mismatch in certain areas". More recently, in January 2026, he blamed declining service delivery on unpaid bills, revealing that over ZiG 8.4 billion is owed to the council, with residents alone accounting for 80 percent of the arrears.



Harare Mayor Jacob Mafume

# Muguti calls for single local authorities act to drive development

Talkmore F Mapfumo

**MAZOWE** – Permanent Secretary for Presidential Affairs and Devolution, Tafadzwa Muguti, has called for the harmonisation of Zimbabwe's urban and rural local government laws, arguing that a single local authorities framework is necessary to accelerate development and improve service delivery across the country.

Speaking at the 2026 Mashonaland Central Investment Dialogue held at Baradzanwa Cultural Centre in Mazowe, Muguti said the separation of urban and rural councils under different pieces of legislation was creating disparities in planning, infrastructure development and service delivery.

"We need to reconsider the distinctions in our Constitution between rural local authorities and urban local authorities and instead embrace the concept of local authorities as a single tier of local governance. This would enable councils, regardless of whether they are in rural or urban areas, to exercise similar developmental responsibilities and decision-making powers," said Muguti.

He said harmonising local gover-



Engineer Tafadzwa Muguti

nance structures would promote coordinated and inclusive development throughout the country. Muguti noted that under the current system, urban councils often plan for higher-standard infrastructure such as tarred roads while rural local authorities with similar budgets prioritise gravel roads, creating

development gaps between communities.

He argued that a consolidated Local Authorities Act would encourage uniform development standards and allow councils to attract and employ similar professional expertise regardless of location.

The Permanent Secretary also

challenged local authorities to review their master plans and align them with economic development objectives.

"The issue of planning should never be overlooked. In many of our local authorities, we have more bottle stores than supermarkets, factories or productive industries. That is a reflection of our development priorities, and it is something we must change," he said.

Muguti urged councils to plan communities that attract investment, support industrialisation and create employment opportunities, saying proper planning was critical to the success of the devolution agenda.

He added that increased economic opportunities at local level could also help address social challenges, including drug and substance abuse, by providing productive avenues for young people and communities.

The call comes as Government continues to advance devolution and decentralisation reforms aimed at empowering local authorities and accelerating balanced development across Zimbabwe.

## President Mnangagwa catapults Retired Chief Justice Malaba into farming with mechanisation package



**President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa has launched retired former Chief Justice Luke Malaba into agriculture after presenting him with a comprehensive farm mechanisation package to support his post-retirement farming activities.**

The package, which includes a tractor, Nissan UD truck, boom sprayer and planter, was handed over at State House in recognition of Malaba's decades of distinguished service and leadership

within Zimbabwe's judiciary.

Welcoming the former Chief Justice, President Mnangagwa commended his unwavering commitment to national service and his contribution to the development of the country's legal system.

"In recognition of his outstanding service spanning decades, unwavering commitment, and exemplary legal leadership within the Zimbabwean judiciary, I presented him with an agricultural mechanisation package to facilitate his transition

into post-retirement life," said the President.

President Mnangagwa said retirement from public office should not mark the end of productivity, encouraging Malaba to channel his expertise and energy into agricultural production.

"As he retires from the judiciary, I encourage him to leverage his vast expertise in the agricultural sector. Our land is a vital asset, and productivity must persist at all levels," he said.

The President noted that agri-

culture remains a cornerstone of Zimbabwe's economy and national development agenda, with increased productivity essential for sustaining economic growth and food security.

Malaba recently retired from the bench after a judicial career spanning several decades, culminating in his tenure as Chief Justice. President Mnangagwa said the Government remains grateful for his dedication to the nation and wished him success in his new chapter as a farmer.

# Avocado exports signal strong

By Hurumende News Hub

**HARARE – Zimbabwe's avocado export sector has recorded its strongest start in six years, with fresh avocado exports reaching US\$847,129 in April 2026, raising expectations of a record-breaking harvest season and renewed growth in horticultural exports.**

According to the latest trade data, the April figure represents the highest opening-month export value since records covering the period from 2021 to 2026 began and marks a significant recovery from the drought-affected 2025 season. Export earnings were 168 percent higher than the US\$315,706 recorded in April 2025 and nearly double the US\$430,339 achieved in April 2024.

Industry analysts attribute the rebound to improved rainfall during the 2025/26 agricultural season, which helped restore production levels in the Eastern Highlands, Zimbabwe's principal avocado-growing region. The sector had been severely affected by the El Niño-induced drought that reduced export earnings to approximately US\$1.06 million in 2025.



The bulk of Zimbabwe's avocado production comes from Manicaland Province, particularly the districts of Honde Valley, Chipinge and Chimanimani, where climatic conditions favour the cultivation of export-grade varieties such as Hass avocados.

Experts say the strong April performance could see total avocado exports surpass previous

records if export momentum continues through the peak harvesting months of May, June and July. Zimbabwe's best full-season performance remains the US\$2.75 million recorded in 2022.

Growing international demand is also creating opportunities for local producers. Global avocado consumption continues to rise in European, Middle Eastern

and Asian markets, driven by increasing demand for healthy food products and processed avocado derivatives such as avocado oil. (Equity Axis)

The development comes as Zimbabwe seeks to diversify its export base beyond traditional commodities such as gold and tobacco. Agriculture experts have identified avocados as one of the country's most promising non-traditional export crops due to favourable growing conditions and expanding global markets.

Analysts have also urged greater investment in irrigation infrastructure, certification systems, cold-chain logistics and value-addition facilities to unlock the sector's full potential. Processing avocados into oil and other products could significantly increase export earnings while creating jobs in agro-processing industries.

With international demand remaining strong and production recovering from recent drought conditions, the avocado industry is increasingly emerging as one of Zimbabwe's fastest-growing horticultural export sectors and a key contributor to agricultural diversification.

## ZSE Secures Regulatory Approval for SME-Focused Entrepreneurship Exchange

By Talkmore F Mapfumo

**HARARE – The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) has received regulatory approval to launch the Zimbabwe Entrepreneurship Exchange (ZEEX), a new platform designed to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) raise capital and access formal financial markets.**

The approval was granted by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Zimbabwe (SECZim), paving the way for the operationalisation of the SME-focused exchange under the ZEEX brand.

According to the ZSE, the exchange is intended to broaden access to capital markets for emerging businesses and strengthen financial inclusion by providing en-



trepreneurs with alternative funding mechanisms.

ZEEX will operate through two market segments. The Private Markets platform will facilitate capital raising through structured

private placements for businesses seeking pre-public investment, while the Public Markets platform will allow companies to raise capital, list securities and access secondary market trading.

ZSE Holdings Group Chief Executive Officer Justin Bgoni said the initiative was a response to the challenges faced by many viable SMEs that remain excluded from formal capital markets.

"Against the backdrop of Zimbabwe's significant and expanding informal sector, a large number of viable small and medium enterprises remain excluded from formal capital markets due to structural barriers, prohibitive costs and constrained access to traditional financing," said Bgoni.

He said ZEEX would help formalise capital-raising activities, introduce structured funding alternatives and improve transparency and investor protection while supporting innovation-driven enterprises.

The exchange operator said it is now finalising compliance frameworks required for the operationalisation of ZEEX, with a formal launch date expected to be announced once the process is complete.

The development marks one of the most significant changes to Zimbabwe's capital markets in recent years and is expected to create new financing opportunities for SMEs, which contribute substantially to economic activity and employment.

# Meikles Considers Disposal of Remaining Hospitality Interest

By Talkmore F Mapfumo

**HARARE – Meikles Limited is considering the disposal of its remaining interest in hospitality operations, a move that could see the diversified group complete its exit from Zimbabwe's tourism sector.**

**In a cautionary statement issued to shareholders and the investing public, the company said it is engaged in discussions relating to the potential transaction.**

"The Company is currently engaged in discussions relating to the potential disposal of its remaining interest in hospitality operations," Meikles said.

The company said the proposed transaction may constitute a Category 1 transaction in terms of Section 253 of Statutory Instrument 134 of 2019, requiring shareholder approval.

Accordingly, Meikles said it will seek shareholder approval for the proposed disposal at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be convened in due course.

The company did not disclose the value of the transaction, the as-



sets involved or the identity of any prospective buyer.

The announcement comes less than three years after Meikles disposed of the iconic Meikles Hotel in Harare, which was subsequently rebranded as Hyatt Regency Harare, marking a significant shift for a company long associated with

Zimbabwe's hospitality industry.

Founded in 1937 and listed on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange in 1996, Meikles has historically maintained interests across retail, hospitality, agriculture, banking and property.

According to information published by the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange,

the group's strongest presence is now in retail through TM Pick n Pay, which has become its flagship operation. The business continues to benefit from a strategic partnership with South Africa's Pick n Pay and ongoing investment in store refurbishment and expansion.

The proposed disposal is likely to intensify debate over the future direction of the group, which has steadily streamlined its portfolio over the past two decades through a series of divestments and restructuring initiatives.

Market analysts say hospitality assets require substantial capital expenditure to maintain competitiveness, particularly in an environment characterised by high operating costs and economic volatility. Should the transaction proceed, Meikles would effectively complete its withdrawal from a sector in which it was once one of Zimbabwe's most prominent players.

Further details are expected once discussions are concluded and formal proposals are presented to shareholders.

## Industrialisation Takes Shape Through Mining

By Abel Karowangoro

**Zimbabwe's latest trade statistics are revealing a story that extends far beyond import and export figures. Beneath the headline numbers lies compelling evidence that the country is undergoing one of its most significant mining and industrial investment cycles in recent years.**

Recent trade data shows a dramatic surge in imports of mining and earth-moving machinery, highlighting growing investor confidence in Zimbabwe's extractive sector and signalling a broader industrial buildout that could reshape the economy over the coming years.

The most striking development was the importation of underground tunnelling and rock-cutting machinery valued at approximately US\$23.2 million in April 2026, a record level that far exceeds historical averages. Imports of bulldozers and excavators also reached unprecedented levels, reflecting extensive activity across major mining projects.

These investments are not occurring in isolation.

They coincide with expansion projects at major mining operations,

particularly in the gold, platinum and lithium sectors. The developments suggest that mining companies are moving from planning stages into active production and infrastructure development phases.

Perhaps most encouraging is the emergence of value addition within Zimbabwe's mining sector. April recorded the country's first significant export of lithium sulphate, valued at approximately US\$12.6 million.

This represents an important step away from the traditional export of raw minerals towards processed mineral products that generate greater value and foreign currency earnings.

Government policies promoting beneficiation and local processing appear to be influencing investment decisions.

The emphasis on critical minerals, particularly lithium, is encouraging investors to establish processing facilities within Zimbabwe rather than exporting raw materials.

The rise in diesel imports, while contributing to the import bill, also reflects increased industrial and mining activity.

Fuel consumption by heavy ma-

chinery, processing plants and logistics operations often serves as an indicator of expanding economic production.

Diesel imports increased significantly during the period under review, suggesting intensified operations across several productive sectors.

However, challenges remain. Zimbabwe continues to experience a trade deficit, while much of its export earnings remain concentrated in commodities.

Analysts argue that true industrialisation will require moving beyond intermediate products such as lithium sulphate towards the production of battery-grade materials and other higher-value manufactured products.

The current investment cycle nevertheless presents a significant opportunity. If properly managed, the mining boom could stimulate growth in manufacturing, engineering services, transport, energy and skills development.

The benefits would extend beyond mining communities and contribute to broader economic transformation.

There are also lessons from public discussions surrounding Zimba-

bwe's economic prospects. While some observers continue to express concerns regarding policy consistency and investment security, others point to increasing construction activity, mining expansion and infrastructure development as signs of emerging economic momentum.

What is becoming increasingly clear is that Zimbabwe's mining sector is entering a new phase characterised not merely by extraction but by industrial investment.

The arrival of large-scale machinery, the commissioning of processing facilities and the growth of mineral beneficiation all point towards a future where mining serves as a catalyst for wider industrial development.

For policymakers, investors and ordinary citizens alike, the challenge now is to ensure that the current capital expenditure boom translates into sustainable jobs, technology transfer, increased exports and long-term economic growth.

The machinery entering Zimbabwe today may well be laying the foundation for the country's industrial economy of tomorrow.

# A Clear-Out, Not a Crack-Up: Mutapa's Leadership Changes Are Signs of Discipline, Not Dysfunction

**Itai Mazire**

**There has been hand-wringing over recent CEO exits at the National Railways of Zimbabwe and Mutapa Gold Resources.**

Pundits and governance watchers have been quick to pounce, dusting off the usual scripts about instability, opaque shareholder influence, and a "shadowy fund." But in the rush to generate heat, they have completely missed the light. The reality is the complete opposite of the innuendo. These changes are not the signs of a fund in chaos; they are the clearest signals yet that the Mutapa Investment Fund (MIF) is finally doing what its predecessors failed to do for decades: enforcing rigorous accountability and professionalising the management of our national assets.

The narrative questioning the "operating environment" within Mutapa-linked entities fundamentally misunderstands the Fund's mandate. Since taking the helm, MIF CEO Dr. John Mangudya has been explicit: underperforming boards and executives will be held to account. The Mutapa Investment Fund's entire FIRE strategy—Fix, Invigorate, Revive, Strengthen—is built on the premise of extracting value and ensuring commercial viability. In such a high-stakes transformation, the departure of executives who fail to align with this vision is not a failure of governance; it is a testament to it.

Under Mutapa's watch, the "corporate graveyard" is being disturbed. For the first time, we are seeing a performance-driven culture take root in entities that had become accustomed to perpetual Treasury bailouts. The Fund has reconstituted at least five boards and appointed six new CEOs, with a clear mandate: declare dividends or show a credible pathway to profitability. The swift appointment of experienced deputies like Ainah Dube-Kaguru at NRZ and Patrick Maseva-Shayawabaya at Mutapa Gold demonstrates meticulous succession planning and an unwavering focus on strategic continuity. This is not a fund in disarray; it is a disciplined investor acting decisively.

To judge the merit of Mutapa's strategy by headline-grabbing exits is to ignore the overwhelming evidence of its impact. The Fund's portfolio, now valued at over US\$20 billion across more than 20 SOEs, has been systemically restructured to unlock long-dormant value. The results are undeniable.



Dr John Mangudya

Over US\$100 million has been injected into portfolio entities, and in a seismic shift, over 53% of these enterprises are now profitable, a statistic that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. The table below starkly illustrates the transformation under MIF's stewardship.

Metric Pre-Mutapa Era Under MIF Stewardship

Asset Base Fragmented, unvalued US\$20 billion portfolio  
Capital Deployed Reliance on fiscus US\$100 million injected  
Performance Chronic losses 53% of SOEs now profitable  
Strategy Reactive, ad-hoc Proactive FIRE strategy for reform

The most tiresome charge leveled by critics is that Mutapa is somehow "shadowy" or unaccountable. This is a lazy falsehood. The Fund has published its first audited financials, reporting total comprehensive income of US\$1.4 billion and assets under management of US\$16.5 billion. Its governance structures have been bolstered

with the help of the World Bank, and it has taken the unprecedented step of joining the African Sovereign Investors Forum to enhance transparency and attract foreign investment. These are not the actions of a secretive cabal. They are the building blocks of a world-class institution.

Furthermore, this narrative of crisis is completely at odds with Mutapa's undeniable growth as one of Africa's premier sovereign wealth funds. With a US\$16 billion asset base, MIF is now ranked as the fourth-largest publicly-owned asset manager on the continent that openly declares its holdings. Its portfolio dwarfs established regional peers like Botswana's Pula Fund and Angola's FSDEA, and projections indicate it is on track to more than double its value to over US\$30 billion by 2030. This ascent is a source of national pride, not a pretext for alarmist editorials.

The proof of confidence in Muta-

pa's stewardship is in its staggering deal pipeline. The Fund has already secured over US\$1 billion in financing for 2026, with a further US\$1 billion in deals lined up for execution. This includes a US\$115 million facility for NRZ to rehabilitate its infrastructure and a US\$250 million initiative to expand gold production to an ambitious 570kg per month. These are the numbers of a strategic player, not a struggling one.

In conclusion, the recent leadership changes should be lauded as a sign of a maturing and resolute sovereign wealth fund. The era of untouchable executives and moribund state enterprises is ending. Mutapa is not just raising questions; it is raising standards. While analysts search for shadows, the rest of us can see the light: a disciplined, accountable, and high-performing Mutapa Investment Fund is finally delivering on its mandate to secure and grow Zimbabwe's wealth for future generations.



# Mount Nyangani's Shadow: Where Ancient Legends Meet Modern Mystery

**By Shyline Majaji and Fanuel Mapfumo**

**Zimbabwe's highest peak rises to 2,592 metres above sea level, but for many who live around it, Mount Nyangani is measured less in altitude than in stories.**

For decades, the Eastern Highlands landmark has drawn hikers, researchers and storytellers into the same enduring question: why does this mountain keep giving rise to accounts of people disappearing into its mist?

Recent claims by former CIA remote viewer Lyn Buchanan have reignited global curiosity. Buchanan, linked to the United States military's Cold War-era remote viewing experiments, has previously suggested that declassified "Stargate Project" material identified Nyangani as a site of unusual activity—at times described in popular retellings as a possible "alien base."

Scientists widely dismiss remote viewing as unproven, but the claims have added a modern layer to an already dense web of folklore. On the ground in Nyanga, however, the explanations begin and end with something more immediate: weather, terrain, and memory.

A mountain of sudden silence  
Mount Nyangani's reputation for mystery is rooted in both legend and lived experience. One of the most frequently cited historical incidents dates back to 1981, when the daughters of Zimbabwe's then-Finance Minister Enos Nkala reportedly disappeared while

hiking on the mountain. Despite extensive searches, no trace was found. The case became part of national memory and reinforced long-standing local beliefs that the mountain is not easily understood—or easily survived.

Over time, such events have blended into Shona oral traditions that describe the mountain as spiritually guarded. In some communities, it is said to be watched over by njuzu—water spirits believed to inhabit rivers, pools, and sacred landscapes. According to folklore, those who encounter or are taken by these beings may vanish or return transformed.

Local guides still pass on cautionary rules that blur the line between cultural practice and survival strategy: avoid whistling, do not wander alone, and never underestimate however quickly fog can close in.

Science beneath the myth  
To researchers and park officials, Nyangani's reputation is less supernatural than environmental.

The mountain is known for rapidly changing weather systems. Clear skies can shift into dense whiteouts within minutes. Slippery granite slopes, sudden drops, and thick mist can disorient even experienced hikers.

Search-and-rescue accounts frequently point to separation from groups and loss of visibility as key factors in accidents.

A ranger in the Nyanga area, reflecting on years of guiding visitors, summarized the dual reality of the mountain:

"The stories were here long before the headlines. Tourists come asking about mysteries. We tell them about weather, about preparation, about respecting the mountain. That's what keeps people safe."

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) maintains that summit hikes require registered guides, citing safety concerns rather than any paranormal explanation. Still, officials acknowledge that the mountain's mythology often plays an unexpected role in survival—keeping hikers cautious in an environment where caution is essential.

Between folklore and modern speculation.

The recent extraterrestrial framing has found traction online, where UFO theories and indigenous spiritual narratives often merge into a single narrative of the unexplained.

Some researchers suggest that what earlier generations interpreted as spiritual encounters might today be described through the language of extraterrestrials or unknown phenomena.

At the same time, cultural historians and scientists caution against conflating folklore with evidence. No credible scientific investigation has confirmed any anomalous or extraterrestrial presence on Mount Nyangani. Yet even as experts urge restraint, interest continues to grow.

Brenda Mamvura has previously emphasised that Zimbabwe's oral histories and landscapes such as Nyangani deserve careful docu-

mentation and study, noting that such sites carry layers of cultural memory that should not be dismissed outright. Her remarks reflect a broader view among heritage scholars: that mystery and meaning can coexist with scientific inquiry, without requiring one to cancel out the other.

A mountain that holds its own narrative.

Modern records point to multiple incidents of hikers going missing or becoming disoriented on Nyangani over the decades, most commonly attributed to environmental conditions rather than unexplained forces. Yet each case adds weight to an already powerful mythology.

Today, Mount Nyangani exists in several realities at once: a sacred landscape in Shona tradition, a challenging and sometimes dangerous hiking destination, a site of unresolved historical cases, and—more recently—a footnote in Cold War-era claims about psychic espionage.

The mountain itself does not resolve these interpretations. It simply endures—often wrapped in cloud, often shaped by silence, and always open to interpretation. For visitors, the advice remains simple.

Go with guides, prepare for fast-changing weather, and respect the terrain. The rest—spirits, stories, or speculation—belongs to the mist.

And in Nyangani's case, the mist is never far away.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## PEDALLING FOR CHANGE

Four Cyclists Take Edith's Fight for Inclusion Across Africa

By Abel Karowangoro

In July 2026, four cyclists will embark on an extraordinary journey across Southern Africa, pedalling thousands of kilometres from Harare, Zimbabwe, through Lusaka, Zambia, and finally to Lilongwe, Malawi. But this is not simply a test of endurance.

It is a movement.

It is a statement.

It is a call for Africa to rethink disability, inclusion, and human dignity.

Dubbed Cycling for Edith, the Pan-African fundraising and advocacy campaign seeks to transform highways into platforms for storytelling, awareness, and social change while raising funds for Muchazondida, a groundbreaking theatre production led by visually impaired actress Edith Masango.

At its heart, Cycling for Edith is about challenging barriers that many persons with disabilities continue to face across the continent. Beyond the Bicycle

Across Africa, conversations around disability rights and inclusion have gained momentum in recent years. Yet for millions of people living with disabilities, exclusion remains an everyday reality.

Many continue to encounter barriers in education, employment, leadership, and cultural participation. Their stories often remain absent from mainstream narratives, while opportunities to showcase their talents are limited.

For Edith Masango, the stage has become a platform to challenge those realities.

Through Muchazondida, she tells a deeply personal and universal story about resilience, self-worth, hope, and the determination to rise above prejudice and limitation.

The production confronts stereotypes surrounding disability while reminding audiences that human potential cannot be measured by physical ability.

Now, the message is preparing to travel beyond theatre halls and onto African roads.

The Woman Behind the Movement Masango's journey itself embodies the themes explored in the production.

As a visually impaired performer,

she has broken through barriers that often prevent persons with disabilities from accessing artistic spaces. Her work challenges society's assumptions and demonstrates that disability is not inability.

Through her performances, audiences are invited to reflect on how they perceive difference, how they treat others, and how they contribute to building a more inclusive society.

The production, directed by Eunice Tava and written and produced by Major (Retired) Special Matarirano, has become more than a theatrical experience.

It has evolved into an advocacy platform.

### Three Countries, One Message

The cycling campaign carries powerful symbolism.

Each country along the route represents a chapter in a larger African story.

Zimbabwe marks the beginning — the birthplace of Edith's story and the launchpad of a movement seeking to amplify voices that are too often overlooked.

Zambia serves as the bridge — a symbol of connection, transition, and Pan-African solidarity. It represents the idea that social change requires collaboration across borders, cultures, and communities.

Malawi becomes the destination — the continental stage where Muchazondida will be presented at the Theatre Renaissance Cabaret Festival before regional and international audiences.

Together, the route forms what organisers describe as "a road through Africa for inclusion, dignity, and change."

Where Sport Meets Social Change While endurance cycling is often associated with athletic achievement, Cycling for Edith introduces a different dimension.

Every kilometre covered becomes a message.

Every border crossed becomes a statement against exclusion.

Every challenge encountered on the road mirrors the daily obstacles faced by persons with disabilities.

The campaign demonstrates how sport can become a powerful tool for advocacy, drawing public attention to issues that might otherwise

remain invisible.

Along the route, cyclists will engage communities, participate in media interviews, share stories through digital platforms, and encourage conversations about disability rights and social inclusion.

The journey will also be documented through photography, film, and social media storytelling, creating a lasting record of a campaign designed to inspire action far beyond the finish line.

### The Power of Theatre

At the centre of the initiative remains Muchazondida.

Organisers describe the production as an emotional and thought-provoking experience that encourages audiences to move beyond sympathy and embrace empowerment.

The play explores themes of disability inclusion, identity, resilience, love, acceptance, social justice, and human dignity.

Its central message is simple yet profound: every person deserves to be seen, heard, valued, and given the opportunity to thrive.

In a continent where storytelling has always been central to community life, theatre remains one of the most powerful tools for shifting perceptions and influencing social attitudes.

Through Edith's performance, audiences are challenged to reconsider long-held stereotypes and recognise the immense potential that exists within every individual. Building a Continental Conversation

Cycling for Edith is expected to reach thousands through physical engagements and hundreds of thousands more through media coverage and digital platforms.

Beyond fundraising, organisers hope the campaign will stimulate regional conversations about disability inclusion, strengthen the



role of the arts in advocacy, and inspire future initiatives that combine culture, sport, and social impact.

Government institutions, corporate sponsors, development agencies, disability advocacy organisations, and cultural stakeholders are all being invited to participate in what organisers describe as a uniquely African movement.

The campaign arrives at a time when there is growing recognition that development cannot be meaningful unless it is inclusive.

By placing disability rights, storytelling, and human dignity at the centre of a continental journey, Cycling for Edith seeks to demonstrate that advocacy does not belong only in conference halls and policy documents.

It belongs in communities.

It belongs on stages.

And sometimes, it belongs on the open road.

### A Journey of Movement

Ultimately, Cycling for Edith is about movement in every sense of the word.

Physical movement across borders. Social movement toward inclusion.

Cultural movement toward visibility.

Human movement toward empathy and understanding.

When four cyclists leave Harare next July, they will be carrying more than fundraising ambitions.

They will be carrying a message that challenges Africa to see ability beyond disability and to recognise that every story deserves a place in the continent's future.

As the campaign's rallying call declares:

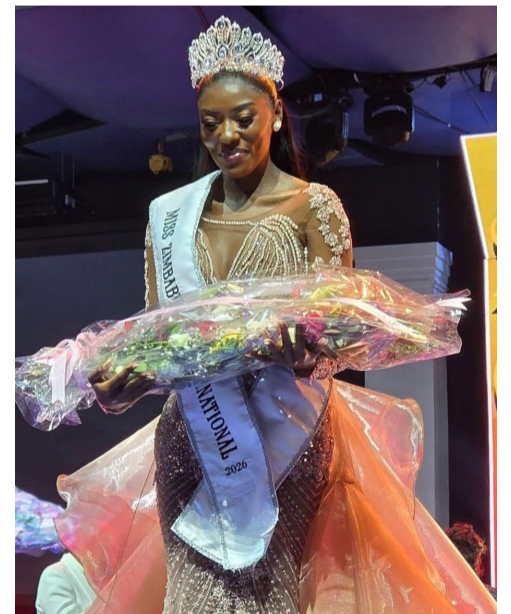
"If she can rise above limitation, we can ride beyond distance."

# Seven Queens Set to Fly Zimbabwe's Flag High



By Hurumende News Hub Zimbabwe has entered a new era of beauty, elegance and global representation after crowning an unprecedented seven beauty queens who will carry the nation's flag at some of the world's most prestigious international pageants. In a dazzling night of glamour, ambition and celebration at the Hippodrome in Harare, the Miss Universe Zimbabwe organisation unveiled a powerful new generation of queens destined for the global stage. The historic crowning ceremony marked a major milestone for Zimbabwe's pageantry industry, expanding the country's footprint across multiple international competitions and opening new opportunities for young Zimbabwean women to shine before worldwide audiences. After months of rigorous preparation, public appearances, interviews and challenges, 18 exceptional finalists battled for the coveted crowns in a grand finale that captivated pageant enthusiasts from across the country. Emerging as the star of the evening was Roseanna Hall, who was crowned Miss Universe Zimbabwe 2026. The stunning queen received the crown from outgoing titleholder Lyshanda Moyas and will represent Zimbabwe at the prestigious Miss Universe competition in Puerto Rico later this year. But the celebration did not end there. In a landmark move, six addi-

tional queens were crowned to represent Zimbabwe at some of the world's leading beauty contests, highlighting the growing influence and international recognition of Zimbabwean pageantry. Virginia Tlou Nyambe secured the Miss Intercontinental Zimbabwe title, while Jemima Mandemwa claimed the coveted Top Model crown. Ruvimbo Njomboro was crowned Miss International Zimbabwe, while Nicole Nyawera earned the right to represent the nation at Miss Supranational. The list of newly crowned ambassadors continued with Ma-laika Mushandu, who secured the Miss Cosmo Zimbabwe title, while Brunnette Makanyiso completed the historic line-up after being selected to represent the country at the world-renowned Miss World competition. The crowning of seven international representatives in a single event signals the growing strength of Zimbabwe's beauty industry and reflects a broader vision of empowering young women through leadership, advocacy, education and cultural diplomacy. As these seven queens prepare to take Zimbabwe's story to the world, they carry with them the hopes of a nation eager to showcase its beauty, talent and excellence on the international stage. For Zimbabwean pageantry, the future has never looked brighter and it now wears seven crowns.





# MIGHTY WARRIORS CLAW LESOTHO IN NDOLA OPENER

By Kelvin Matore

**NDOLA, Zambia – Zimbabwe’s senior women’s national team, the Mighty Warriors, signaled their intent at the Zambia 4 Nation Tournament with a commanding 3-1 victory over Lesotho at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium yesterday.**

The win secures Sithethelelwe “Kwinji 15” Sibanda’s side a spot in the final, where they await the winner of the Zambia versus Kenya

clash.

Captain Emmaculate Msipa led from the front, breaking the deadlock in the 30th minute with a clinical finish that rewarded Zimbabwe’s early pressure. While Lesotho briefly threatened an upset through Lerato Tsoinyana, who leveled matters in the 37th minute, the Mighty Warriors showed superior tactical discipline in the second half.

Zambia-based striker Ethel Chinyerere, fresh

from her exploits with Green Buffaloes, restored the lead in the 68th minute before veteran forward Rutendo Makore put the result beyond doubt five minutes from time. Coach Sibanda hailed the performance as a vital step in rebuilding the squad, noting that the tournament is “essential for sharpening combinations and testing our resolve under pressure.”

# TRANSFER WATCH: FC Platinum Set Steep Conditions for Nyasulu Move



The Zvishavane-based giants, FC Platinum, have reportedly outlined firm conditions for the potential transfer of defender Nickson Nyasulu to Hardrock FC. In a leaked formal statement dated June 3, the club’s general manager, Collin Nikisi, confirmed that the “Pure Platinum Play” is willing to release the player only if their specific financial and squad requirements are met.

The conditions for the deal are notably high, with FC Platinum requesting a transfer fee of US\$50,000. Beyond the cash component, the Zvishavane side is also demanding the inclusion of midfielder Junior Makunike as part of a player-plus-cash swap. This move suggests that the former champions are not just looking for a financial windfall but are also intent on weakening a rival while strengthening their own engine room.

Hardrock FC, who have been the most active players in the current transfer window, are understood to be weighing the proposal.

# Scotland's Dominance Continues While Bosso Stumble in Gweru Upset

The Zimbabwe Premier Soccer League (PSL) landscape witnessed a day of high drama and tactical intrigue on Saturday, June 6, 2026, as the race for domestic glory intensified across various venues.

In a weekend that promised to reshape the upper echelons of the table, the action was characterized by narrow margins, clinical finishing, and the frustration of unforeseen delays. The day's proceedings were anchored by a significant shift at the summit, where Scotland FC asserted their dominance with a commanding 2-0 victory over Herentals FC. This result not only showcased Scotland's attacking depth but also solidified their position as the team to beat this season, as they continue to set a blistering pace at the top of the standings.

While Scotland FC enjoyed a relatively comfortable afternoon, the story was far more attritional elsewhere. In Gweru, TelOne FC produced the upset of the day by securing a vital 1-0 win against a resilient Highlanders side. The "WiFi Boys" demonstrated remarkable defensive discipline to nullify the Bosso attack, eventually finding the breakthrough that leaves the Bulawayo giants searching for answers after a disappointing outing.

This theme of slender victories continued at Baobab Stadium, where defending champions Ngezi Platinum ground out a 1-0 win over MWOS.

The victory was a testament to Madamburo's championship ped-



agree, as they managed to secure all three points despite a spirited challenge from the league newcomers, ensuring they remain firmly in the title conversation. The competitive nature of the league was further highlighted by a goalless stalemate between Agama and Chicken Inn, a result that reflects the tactical stalemate often seen when two well-drilled

mid-table sides collide. However, the day was not without its complications, as the scheduled fixtures between Hardrock and Simba Bhora, as well as Manica Diamonds and Dynamos FC, were both postponed. These delays introduce a layer of uncertainty to the upcoming schedule, as the league authorities work to find suitable dates for these high-

stakes encounters. Despite these interruptions, the weekend's results—including Hunters' 3-1 triumph over Bulawayo Chiefs on Friday—have set the stage for a thrilling conclusion to the current matchday, leaving the Hurumende On Sunday readership with much to contemplate as the PSL season reaches its midpoint.

## In Tennis...

# TEAM ZIMBABWE GEARS UP FOR DAVIS CUP CHALLENGE

Tennis Zimbabwe has officially confirmed the five-man squad that will carry the national flag at the 2026 Davis Cup tournament in Nairobi, Kenya.

The prestigious event, set to run from June 15 to 20, will see Zimbabwe compete against the continent's elite tennis nations in a bid to improve their regional ranking. The team will be under the guid-

ance of veteran captain Gwinyai Tongoona, whose experience in international team competitions will be vital. The traveling squad features a blend of seasoned campaigners and rising stars, including Courtney Lock, Ronana Tisi, Zamani Tisi, Sean Tongoona, and Makanaka Tisi.

The inclusion of the Tisi brothers and Sean Tongoona highlights a

focus on youth development, while Courtney Lock provides the necessary top-level experience. The Davis Cup remains the pinnacle of international men's team tennis, and for this Zimbabwean squad, it represents a golden opportunity to showcase their growth on a continental stage.