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BENEFICIATE OR BE LEFT BEHIND: PRESIDENT SETS NEW MINING AGENDA

- President Mnangagwa orders lithium beneficiation by 2027, warns against corruption as mining exports race toward new record

The 2026 Mine Entra Expo...

Vice President Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, accompanied by Minister of Mines and Mining Development Hon. Dr. Eng. Polite Kambamura, presents Mine Entra Awards to outstanding exhibitors during the official opening of the 2026 Mine Entra Expo at the Zimbabwe International Exhibition Centre in Bulawayo. The awards recognise excellence in exhibition stand design, innovation, thematic alignment, staff professionalism and the effective presentation of information, celebrating outstanding contributions to Zimbabwe's mining industry.

INSIDE ISSUE

President Mnangagwa orders lithium beneficiation by 2027, warns against corruption as mining exports race toward new record

Takudzwa Karowangoro in Bulawayo

Zimbabwe has set a new course for its mining industry, with President Emmerson Mnangagwa directing that the country must accelerate mineral beneficiation, strengthen value addition and stamp out corruption as Government seeks to transform mining into the engine of industrialisation and economic growth.

The President's address, delivered on his behalf by Vice President General (Rtd) Dr Constantino Chiwenga at the official opening of the 2026 Mine Entra Conference in Bulawayo on Friday, outlined an ambitious roadmap for the sector, anchored on beneficiation, infrastructure development, responsible mining and local value creation. MINE ENTRA July 31st FINAL csd.pdf

Running under the theme "Unearth, Transform, Prosper: Anchoring Economic Transformation Through Mining Value Chains," this year's Mine Entra attracted 276 exhibitors, achieving 98 percent exhibition space uptake, making it one of the largest editions of the expo.

Mining exports on record trajectory

Minister of Mines and Mining Development Dr Polite Kambamura said Zimbabwe's mining sector continues to post strong growth, with mineral exports reaching US$5.73 billion during the first half of 2026, placing the country on course to surpass last year's US$8.6 billion export record.

Gold deliveries reached 21.7 tonnes, with small-scale miners contributing 40.9 percent of total deliveries, underlining the growing importance of artisanal and small-scale mining to the national economy.

Kambamura said Government would continue supporting the estimated 1.5 million Zimbabweans who depend directly and indirectly on the mining sector while maintaining policies that reserve the small and medium-scale gold mining sector for black Zimbabweans. Foreign investors, he said, remain welcome in capital-intensive mining, technology transfer and mineral beneficiation.

Value addition takes centre stage

In his keynote address, President Mnangagwa declared that Zimbabwe's era of exporting raw minerals is coming to an end.

He said Mine Entra had evolved beyond being a trade exhibition into a strategic platform where policy, innovation, investment and partnerships converge to drive national development.

"Under the Second Republic, the aim is to build a value-added mining economy. Through beneficiation and industrialisation, we want to guarantee maximum value from our God-given natural resources." MINE ENTRA July 31st FINAL csd.pdf

The President stressed that mining must deliver tangible benefits to ordinary Zimbabweans and not merely contribute to national economic statistics.

"The mining industry must not only aid in expanding the national wealth or economic growth, but result in tangible benefits to the ordinary citizens."

Lithium export deadline announced

In one of the conference's major policy announcements, President Mnangagwa said that beginning January 2027, Zimbabwe will only export lithium sulphate, effectively ending exports of lower-value lithium products.

He said the transition follows Zimbabwe's successful export of Africa's first locally produced lithium sulphate shipment in April this year.

"By January 2027, Zimbabwe will only export Lithium Sulphate... In April 2026, Prospect Lithium Zimbabwe dispatched the first-ever export of locally produced lithium sulphate." MINE ENTRA July 31st FINAL csd.pdf

He also instructed that construction of the country's precious minerals refinery be completed within agreed timelines, declaring there would be "no room for further extensions."

Corruption and environmental abuse targeted

The President warned mining companies that environmental degradation and corruption would not be tolerated.

He said mining must be conducted responsibly and in a manner that protects communities, natural resources and future generations.

"Responsible mining is an essential condition for operating in Zimbabwe... My administration will not broker conditions where the health, livelihoods and general wellbeing of communities are compromised for profit expediency."

He also issued a stern warning to corrupt inspectors and public officials.

"Corrupt public sector officials and inspectors who turn a blind eye to breaches of our laws, in return for sleazy bribes will be sternly dealt with, along with the entities that offer the kickbacks"

Infrastructure key to mining growth

President Mnangagwa said mining growth must be supported by improved transport and energy infrastructure.

He called for the revival of the national railway system, modernisation of roads, increased electricity generation and wider adoption of digital technologies, automation and artificial intelligence to improve productivity across the mining value chain. MINE ENTRA July 31st FINAL csd.pdf

Support for small-scale miners

The President reaffirmed Government's commitment to supporting small-scale miners through training, financial inclusion and safer mining practices.

He noted that small-scale miners remain Zimbabwe's largest contributors to gold deliveries and urged more stakeholders to participate in training programmes covering safety, environmental stewardship, financial management and responsible mining.

"My Administration will continue to foster a conducive environment for both large corporates, alongside small-scale miners... This approach has seen small-scale miners playing their part in the development of our great motherland, Zimbabwe, including being the largest contributor to gold deliveries."

Industry optimistic

Among exhibitors, Bulawayo engineering company ABJ Engineering said Mine Entra continues to provide significant business opportunities.

Company representative Mrs Kerrie Querl said the firm has exhibited at Mine Entra for 29 consecutive years, using the platform to secure new clients, strengthen partnerships and expand its footprint in Zimbabwe's mining sector

Vision 2030

Closing his address, President Mnangagwa described mining as one of the central pillars of Zimbabwe's industrialisation agenda and challenged stakeholders to ensure the country's mineral wealth translates into shared national prosperity.

"Mining, for Zimbabwe, is no longer merely a line of revenue. It is one of the central pillars through which we are building, developing, modernising and industrialising our beloved motherland."

President Emmerson Mnangagwa shakes hands with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Secretary General Jagan Chapagain during a courtesy call at State House in Harare, where the two reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in disaster preparedness, climate resilience, community health and humanitarian response.

IFRC Deepens Zimbabwe Partnership on Disaster Preparedness

By Abel Karowangoro

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Zimbabwe's disaster preparedness and humanitarian response, following high-level engagements with President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Minister of Local Government and Public Works Daniel Garwe.

IFRC Secretary General Jagan Chapagain paid a courtesy call on President Mnangagwa at State House before meeting Minister Garwe, with discussions centred on expanding cooperation in disaster risk management, climate resilience, community health and emergency response.

Speaking after the meeting with the President, Chapagain said the visit was aimed at reinforcing the long-standing partnership between the IFRC, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and Zimbabwe while building on successful collaboration during Cyclone Idai and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The purpose of this visit is to strengthen cooperation in disaster preparedness and response, community health, climate resilience, and migration and emergency response, building on our successful collaboration during Cyclone Idai and the COVID-19 pandemic," Chapagain said.

He also congratulated Zimbabwe on its election to a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, saying the country's expanded international role presents an opportunity to champion humanitarian priorities on the global stage.

"Zimbabwe's new role on the United Nations Security Council presents an opportunity to advance humanitarian priorities, including the protection of humanitarian workers, the promotion of the Global Disaster Law Treaty and stronger humanitarian action worldwide," he said.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, President Mnangagwa reaffirmed Zimbabwe's commitment to continued collaboration with the IFRC and pledged the country's support for advancing humanitarian initiatives at regional and international levels.

The Secretary General later held talks with Minister of Local Government and Public Works Daniel Garwe, where both parties agreed to deepen cooperation in disaster risk management and community resilience through the Department of Civil Protection.

Minister Garwe commended the IFRC for its sustained humanitarian support, citing its assistance to vulnerable communities during emergencies, including financial support for the repatriation of Zimbabweans affected by xenophobic attacks in South Africa, the distribution of food and hygiene kits, and interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also acknowledged the organisation's contribution to strengthening rural livelihoods, expanding early warning systems, improving water, sanitation and hygiene services, and supporting disaster preparedness programmes across the country.

"The IFRC has remained a dependable partner in supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening Zimbabwe's disaster preparedness and response systems," Garwe said.

Chapagain reaffirmed the federation's commitment to expanding its partnership with Zimbabwe, particularly as climate-related disasters become more frequent and urban centres face growing disaster risks.

"We are strengthening our collaboration with the Ministry through the Department of Civil Protection. Our focus is increasingly on urban disaster preparedness because cities face growing climate and humanitarian risks," he said.

He said the organisation would continue promoting what it terms the "three E's" of disaster management—early warning, early financing and early action—to minimise the human and economic impact of disasters.

"Early warning, early financing and early action remain critical to reducing disaster risks and protecting communities before emergencies escalate," Chapagain said.

The meetings underscored the shared commitment to strengthening disaster preparedness, improving humanitarian coordination and building more resilient communities as Zimbabwe continues to confront the growing challenges posed by climate change and extreme weather events.

The IFRC, the world's largest humanitarian network, works through national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to support disaster response, emergency health services and community resilience programmes. In Zimbabwe, it has partnered with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society on disaster response, health interventions and climate resilience initiatives for vulnerable communities.

Power interruptions and challenging orebody conditions contributed to a 5.8% decline in Mimosa's 6E concentrate production during FY2026.

Power Cuts Hit Mimosa Output

Shyline Majaji

Mimosa Mining Company, the Zimbabwean platinum joint venture, recorded a 5.8% decline in 6E concentrate production to 239,100 ounces for the year ended 30 June 2026, down from approximately 254,000 ounces in the previous financial year.

The decline of nearly 15,000 ounces was driven by lower throughput, weaker ore grades, intermittent electricity supply, and increasingly complex geological conditions.

Tonnes milled declined by 1.4% to 2.87 million tonnes from 2.91 million tonnes, while the average 6E head grade fell by 1.9% to 3.54 grams per tonne (g/t), compared with 3.61 g/t a year earlier.

These weaker mining fundamentals were compounded by processing disruptions that further constrained production.

According to Implats, which reports on the operation, processing stability was affected by intermittent power interruptions and increased volumes of oxidised ore.

Mining operations also encountered more complex geological conditions as extraction advanced toward the extremities of the orebody.

The combined impact meant that the decline in concentrate production exceeded the individual reductions in tonnes milled and ore grade.

Lower milling volumes reduced plant feed, declining grades lowered the amount of contained metal in that feed, while power interruptions and ore-quality challenges further limited the plant's ability to convert mined material into concentrate.

During the year, Mimosa processed approximately 41,000 fewer tonnes of ore. With grades also declining, each tonne yielded less metal, highlighting that restoring production will require improvements in both mining volumes and grade consistency.

Lower grades increase the amount of ore that must be mined and processed to produce the same quantity of platinum group metals (PGMs), placing additional pressure on mining capacity, equipment availability, and concentrator performance.

Power reliability remained another significant constraint. Concentrate production depends on a continuous electricity supply to support crushing, milling, flotation, pumping, and material handling. Frequent interruptions reduce operating time and disrupt the stable processing conditions required to achieve planned throughput.

Mimosa's weaker performance also weighed heavily on Implats' joint venture portfolio. Combined JV 6E concentrate production declined by 3.1% to 525,700 ounces from 542,000 ounces in the previous year.

Mimosa accounted for approximately 14,900 ounces of the portfolio's total decline of 16,300 ounces, making it the principal contributor to the reduction, even as Implats increased total group 6E production marginally to 3.50 million ounces. Group refined and saleable production rose 5.5% to 3.56 million ounces.

Higher platinum group metal prices further amplified the impact of the production loss. Implats reported broad price gains across both precious and base metals, lifting group sales revenue per 6E ounce by more than 50%.

Although this measure reflects overall group performance rather than Mimosa specifically, it underscores that every ounce lost during FY2026 carried significantly greater market value.

The production update did not disclose recovery rates, unit operating costs, capital expenditure, or Mimosa's standalone financial contribution.

As a result, attention now shifts to the mine's operational recovery during FY2027.

Four operational indicators will be critical to monitor over the coming year: increased tonnes milled, stabilised feed grades, improved processing continuity, and a recovery in 6E concentrate production from the current base of 239,100 ounces.

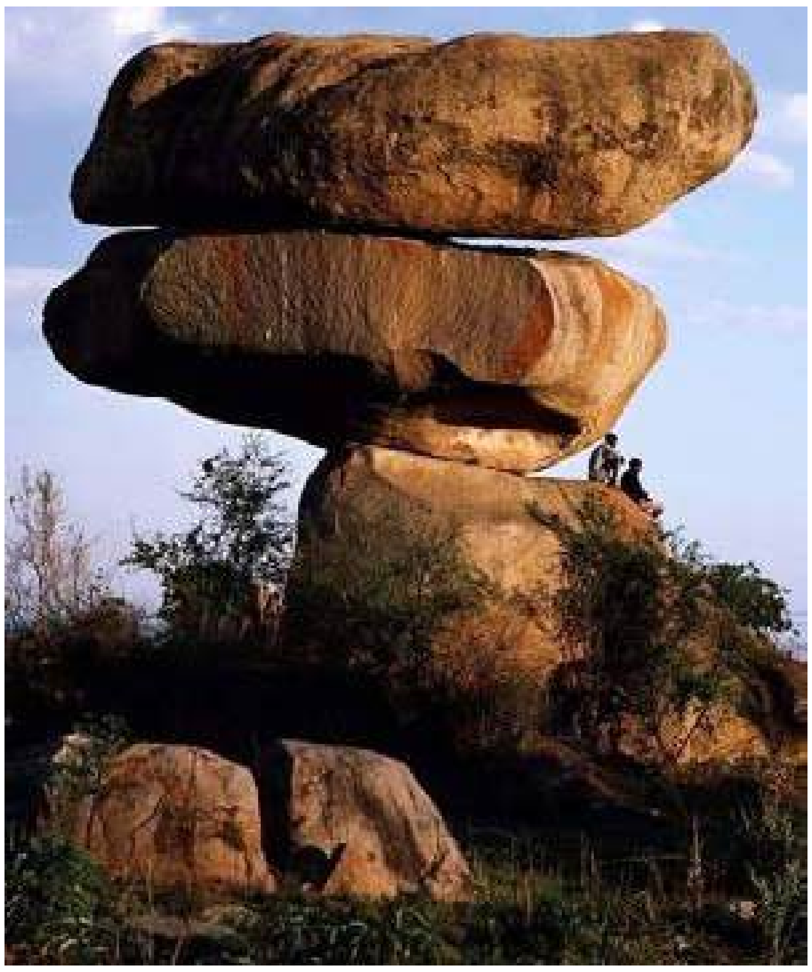
Underground performance will depend on successfully mining increasingly complex sections of the orebody, maintaining tighter grade control, and implementing effective ore blending to deliver consistent feed to the concentrator.

Equally important will be a reliable electricity supply, which will determine whether improvements in mining performance can be translated into higher concentrate production.

Mimosa enters the new financial year facing a clear operational challenge: reversing the 14,900-ounce production shortfall by combining improved geological execution with higher plant availability and greater processing stability.

Successfully restoring this balance will determine whether the mine can rebuild production and strengthen its contribution to Implats' Zimbabwean joint venture portfolio.

Epworth Residents Invited to Rate Council Services Through Citizen Score Card Survey



By Hurumende News Hub

The Epworth Town Council has launched a Citizen Score Card Survey aimed at giving residents and stakeholders an opportunity to assess the quality of public services, in a move expected to strengthen accountability, transparency and citizen participation in local governance.

The initiative is being conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works and forms part of ongoing efforts to improve service delivery through public feedback.

According to the council, the Citizen Score Card is a governance and service delivery tool designed to enable residents to evaluate the performance of their local authority while providing valuable information that can be used to improve municipal services.

Residents have been encouraged to participate in the survey by sending the word “Hi” to the dedicated WhatsApp number 0787 605 060. Participants can select their preferred language, respond to a series of guided questions and anonymously share their views on the council’s performance.

Authorities said the survey is safe, confidential and anonymous, assuring residents that their identities will be protected throughout the process.

The feedback gathered is expected to assist the council in identifying strengths and areas requiring improvement, while promoting greater responsiveness to community needs.

The programme also seeks to foster stronger collaboration between local authorities and the communities they serve, ensuring residents have a direct voice in shaping policies and improving service delivery.

The Citizen Score Card Survey forms part of broader government efforts to promote participatory governance and improve accountability across local authorities as Zimbabwe works towards enhanced public service delivery under Vision 2030.

Council officials have urged all Epworth residents and stakeholders to take part in the survey, saying meaningful public participation is critical to building efficient, transparent and responsive local government.

Min Garwe meets I F Red Cross Boss Chapagain to strengthen disaster risk collabo

Minister Daniel Garwe shakes hands with IFRC Secretary General Jagan Chapagain ahead of talks focused on disaster preparedness, climate resilience and humanitarian cooperation.

The Minister of Local Government and Public Works, Hon D. Garwe, today received the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Jagan Chapagain, to strengthen collaboration in disaster risk management, humanitarian response and community resilience.

Minister Garwe expressed gratitude for the IFRC's continued support to Zimbabwe, highlighting its assistance to vulnerable communities, including the financial aid provided for the repatriation of Zimbabwean returnees from South Africa during the xenophobic attacks, as well as the provision of food and hygiene kits among other humanitarian relief. He also acknowledged the IFRC's contribution to strengthening livelihoods, promoting rural preparedness through early warning systems, advancing water, sanitation and hygiene programmes, and providing critical support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Chapagain thanked Government for its strong partnership with the IFRC and reaffirmed his organisation's commitment to
strengthen collaboration with the Ministry through the Department of Civil Protection. He said the IFRC is expanding its focus on urban disaster preparedness, emphasised the importance of "early warning, early financing and early action" in reducing the impact of disasters on communities.

The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment by Zimbabwe and the IFRC to building resilient communities through enhanced disaster risk management and sustained humanitarian cooperation.

Treasury Rejects OPC 'Spending Spree' Claims

By Abel Karowangoro

Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube has dismissed claims that the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) exceeded its budget, saying the reported 143% budget utilisation reflects centrally managed national programmes rather than operational spending.

In a statement issued following public debate over the 2026 Mid-Term Budget and Economic Review, Prof. Ncube said the expenditure had been widely misunderstood.

"The reported budget utilisation does not constitute operational expenditure by the Office of the President and Cabinet, nor does it constitute unauthorised expenditure or a budget overrun by the Office," Prof. Ncube said.

The clarification follows scrutiny of the Mid-Term Budget Review, which showed the OPC had utilised 143% of its budget allocation by 30 June 2026, prompting speculation that the office had overspent.

Prof. Ncube said the expenditure reflected Treasury's long-standing practice of financing selected strategic national programmes through the Office of the President and Cabinet before reallocating the costs to the responsible ministries, departments and agencies.

"The reported budget utilisation reflects the deliberate approach to centrally managing selected strategic national programmes and projects through the Office of the President and Cabinet. This arrangement enables improved coordination, optimises resource allocation and ensures the timely delivery of priority national projects," he said.

The minister explained that the programmes financed under the OPC vote include hospital refurbishment, social protection initiatives, agricultural and education support programmes, digital economy projects and capacity-building across Government departments.

According to Prof. Ncube, expenditure incurred under these centrally managed programmes is initially recorded under the OPC vote before being transferred through established budgetary and accounting procedures to the beneficiary ministries and agencies.

He stressed that all public expenditure remains subject to constitutional provisions, the Public Finance Management Act, the Appropriation Act, Treasury oversight, internal controls, independent audits and parliamentary scrutiny.

"Government remains firmly committed to fiscal discipline, transparency and accountability in the management of public resources," Prof. Ncube said.

The minister also pointed to the broader fiscal picture outlined in the Mid-Term Budget Review, where revenue reached ZiG137.8 billion during the first half of 2026 against expenditure and net lending of ZiG123.6 billion, resulting in a budget surplus of ZiG14.2 billion.

He said the outcome demonstrates continued prudent fiscal management despite increased investment in priority national programmes.

Prof. Ncube urged the public and media to interpret the OPC expenditure within the wider context of budget implementation rather than attributing it solely to the operations of the Office of the President and Cabinet.

"The reported expenditure should not be construed as expenditure solely attributable to the operations of the Office of the President and Cabinet, but rather as expenditure related to centrally managed national programmes that will, in due course, be reallocated to the respective beneficiary ministries, departments and agencies," he said.

The minister also rejected media reports suggesting an OPC "spending spree."

"Reference to a 'spending spree' in some media reports is inaccurate and misleading, if not mischievous, and was never mentioned in the Minister of Finance's Statement," Prof. Ncube said.

The clarification comes as Treasury seeks to reinforce confidence in Zimbabwe's public financial management framework following the release of the Mid-Term Budget and Economic Review, which projected continued macroeconomic stability under a disciplined fiscal policy.

State of Disaster Declared...
...as Munhenzva Bus Tragedy Kills 11

By Hurumende News Hub

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has declared a State of Disaster following the devastating Munhenzva Transport Services bus accident in Trompsburg, Free State Province, South Africa, which has claimed the lives of 11 Zimbabweans and left several others injured.

The declaration, made in terms of Section 27(1) of the Civil Protection Act [Chapter 10:06], was announced on Saturday by Minister of Local Government and Public Works Daniel Garwe.

The bus, which was travelling from Cape Town to Harare, was involved in the fatal crash on July 31, 2026, in one of the worst road accidents involving Zimbabwean travellers outside the country's borders in recent years.

As of August 1, government confirmed that the victims include one adult male, five adult females and five minors, while several survivors remain hospitalised at Pelonomi and Universitas Hospitals in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The declaration of a State of Disaster allows the Government of Zimbabwe to immediately mobilise financial, logistical and human resources to coordinate emergency interventions. These include the repatriation of the deceased, medical and welfare assistance for injured survivors, and humanitarian support for grieving families.

Minister Garwe said the Civil Protection Department has been tasked with leading the national response in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Embassy of Zimbabwe in South Africa and other stakeholders.

"The declaration of a State of Disaster enables Government to mobilise the necessary resources and coordinate interventions in support of the affected families," Garwe said.

President Mnangagwa expressed profound sorrow over the tragedy, extending his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and sympathies to all those affected. He also wished those receiving treatment a swift and full recovery.

The Government commended the South African authorities, emergency response teams, healthcare workers, as well as officials from Zimbabwe's Embassy and Consulate, for their prompt action in rescuing victims and assisting survivors following the accident.

The Munhenzva Transport Services bus was carrying passengers from Cape Town, South Africa, to Harare, a route commonly used by Zimbabweans returning home from work, business and family visits in South Africa.

Cross-border buses remain a critical transport link between Zimbabwe and South Africa, with thousands of travellers using the route each month. However, the corridor has also witnessed a number of fatal road accidents over the years due to long-distance travel, driver fatigue, adverse weather conditions and heavy traffic.

The latest tragedy has once again highlighted the dangers associated with long-haul road transport and the devastating impact such accidents have on families spread across both countries.

Declaring a State of Disaster is a significant step that allows Government to fast-track emergency assistance, coordinate with South African authorities, and expedite the repatriation of the deceased while ensuring injured survivors receive the necessary support.

Authorities said investigations into the cause of the crash are continuing, while Government pledged to keep the nation informed as verified information becomes available.

The tragedy has triggered an outpouring of grief across Zimbabwe, with messages of condolence continuing to pour in for the families who lost loved ones in the accident.

Top Schools Honoured with Secretary's Merit Awards in Manicaland

By Hurumende News Hub

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education has honoured St. Killian's High School and Gatsi Community Primary School with the prestigious Secretary's Merit Award in recognition of outstanding performance in academic excellence, sports development, infrastructure growth and income-generating initiatives.

The awards were presented by the Permanent Secretary for Primary and Secondary Education, Mr. Moses Mhike, during a ceremony held in Makoni District, Manicaland Province.

The Secretary's Merit Award is one of the ministry's highest institutional honours, recognising schools that demonstrate excellence across key performance indicators while promoting sustainable and innovative education models.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Mhike commended both schools for setting high standards in the delivery of quality education and for embracing the Heritage-Based Curriculum, which seeks to equip learners with practical skills, innovation and self-reliance.

St. Killian's High School was recognised for producing exceptional academic results after recording a 90.4 percent pass rate at Ordinary Level and a 100 percent pass rate at Advanced Level. The Permanent Secretary praised the school's teachers and leadership for their dedication and commitment to achieving excellence while effectively implementing the national curriculum.

He said the achievements reflected the importance of strong leadership, committed educators and community support in improving learning outcomes.

Beyond academic performance, the two schools were also honoured for excelling in sports development, infrastructure expansion and successful income-generating projects that have strengthened their financial sustainability.

The ministry said the annual Secretary's Merit Awards are designed to encourage both public and private schools to go beyond conventional teaching by adopting innovative approaches that improve institutional resilience and educational quality.

Through investments in productive projects and infrastructure development, Gatsi Community Primary School and St. Killian's High School have demonstrated how schools can build self-sustaining learning environments while continuing to deliver quality education.

Education officials said the two institutions now stand as models for other schools across Zimbabwe seeking to combine academic excellence with innovation, community development and financial sustainability in line with the country's Heritage-Based Curriculum.

Africa Unites Behind New Drive to Cut Maternal, Newborn Deaths

By Takudzwa Karowangoro

African health leaders have taken a significant step towards tackling one of the continent's most persistent public health challenges after validating the findings of the first comprehensive assessment of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health systems across Africa.

The three-day meeting, organised by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) together with the African Union Commission, brought together senior government officials, health experts and development partners to review country data that will underpin a landmark continental report aimed at improving maternal and newborn health outcomes.

Once published, the report is expected to help African governments strengthen health policies, improve financing for maternal healthcare and hold institutions accountable for reducing preventable deaths among mothers and newborns.

Speaking on behalf of Africa CDC Director-General Dr Jean Kaseya, the organisation's Western Africa Regional Director, Dr Alinon Kokou, said African countries must take greater ownership of their health systems instead of relying heavily on externally driven solutions.

"This process is about ensuring that evidence leads to action," he said, urging governments to translate research into practical interventions that improve healthcare services for women, children and adolescents.

The workshop also forms part of the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda and supports the African Union Champion for Maternal and Child Health initiative spearheaded by Tanzanian President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Representing the Champion's Secretariat, presidential adviser Hon. Ummy Mwalimu challenged African governments to accelerate action towards three key goals: eliminating preventable maternal deaths, ending preventable newborn deaths and ensuring that every child receives life-saving vaccinations.

She said Africa already understands the causes of high maternal and child mortality and now needs sustained investment, stronger political commitment and better accountability to implement known solutions.

Financing emerged as one of the major concerns during discussions.

Africa CDC's Director for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, Dr Diana Nambatya Nsubuga, said shrinking donor funding, increasing debt burdens, climate-related disasters and dependence on imported medicines were placing growing pressure on national health systems. She said African countries would need to strengthen domestic investment if they are to build resilient health services capable of meeting future challenges.

Dr Nsubuga identified primary healthcare, sustainable financing, digital health systems, local production of medicines and vaccines, and stronger African leadership in global health as critical areas requiring urgent attention.

She also revealed that 53 of the African Union's 55 Member States had participated in the assessment, making it the largest evidence-gathering exercise of its kind ever undertaken on the continent. Efforts are continuing to bring the remaining two countries into the process.

The final report will provide governments with detailed information on how national policies, financing systems and health services influence maternal and child health outcomes, allowing countries to make better-informed decisions and monitor progress against continental commitments.

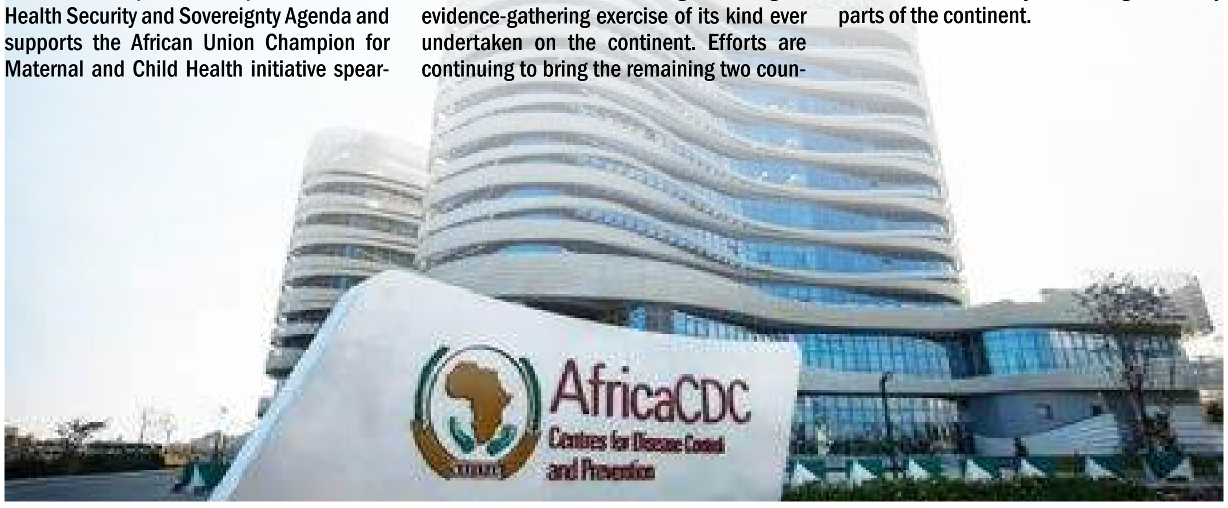
Opening the workshop, Benin's Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Health, Mr Enagnon Pétas Akogbeto, reaffirmed his country's commitment to improving maternal and child healthcare.

He acknowledged that fragmented health systems, inadequate financing and weak coordination continue to undermine progress in many African countries and called for long-term reforms capable of delivering lasting change.

Representatives from the African Union Commission, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNFPA, the West African Health Organisation and other development partners welcomed the initiative, describing it as an important milestone in strengthening evidence-based health planning across Africa.

Over three days, delegates scrutinised national findings, validated data, identified policy gaps and agreed on priority actions that will shape the final continental report.

Health experts said the assessment represents more than another technical exercise. They believe it provides African governments with the evidence needed to direct more resources towards maternal and newborn healthcare at a time when preventable deaths remain a major challenge in many parts of the continent.



No Mercy for Illegal Land Dealers, Says Minister Garwe

By Abel Karowangoro

Government has intensified its nationwide crackdown on illegal land sales, warning that land barons, traditional leaders and anyone facilitating unlawful land transactions will face arrest and prosecution as authorities move to restore order in land administration.

The latest enforcement drive is already being felt in parts of Seke, where local structures have begun implementing measures to halt suspected illegal developments following reports of unlawful land allocations.

In Mutsvairo Village, a notice titled "Mutsvairo Reinforcement Order" directed an immediate suspension of infrastructure developments amid allegations that land barons had been illegally selling land in the area.

The order requires developers and land buyers to produce documents proving the legality of their occupation, including Village Assembly minutes, signatures of village committee members, communal land permits and agreements of sale.

It further warns that failure to comply could result in the demolition of illegal developments.

The developments in Seke follow an investigation by Hurumende News Hub into alleged illegal land sales and irregular developments in the area, which highlighted concerns raised by residents over the activities of suspected land barons.

In a strongly worded statement, Minister of Local Government and Public Works Honourable Daniel Garwe said Government would no longer tolerate illegal land dealings.

"The era of lawlessness is over. The abuse of public land, fraudulent land sales and illegal settlements will no longer be tolerated. The Ministry will not condone the abuse of public office or the exploitation of citizens by criminal syndicates operating under the guise of land development."

Minister Garwe said the directive follows President Emmerson Mnangagwa's instruction that criminality and corruption in land administration must come to an end.

"Government has deployed robust enforcement measures to decisively eradicate land barons and all persons facilitating illegal land transactions. No individual, regardless of status, position, influence or political affiliation, is beyond the reach of the law."

The Minister announced that all identified land barons would be arrested and prosecuted, while headmen and village heads found facilitating or benefiting from illegal land sales would face criminal prosecution and removal from office in terms of the Constitution and the Traditional Leaders Act.

Government has also established multi-agency enforcement teams comprising law enforcement agencies, local authorities and the Chiefs Council of Zimbabwe to identify, investigate and dismantle criminal syndicates involved in illegal land allocations and settlements.

Garwe urged members of the public to exercise caution before purchasing land, warning that buyers should verify ownership, planning approval and development authority with the relevant local authorities and Government departments.

"Land purchased through illegal channels offers no legal protection, exposes buyers to financial loss and promotes unplanned settlements." He said investigations have been intensified nationwide and issued a final warning to those involved in illegal land dealings.

"Law enforcement operations have been intensified nationwide and violators will be dealt with decisively in accordance with the laws of the country. Government remains resolute in restoring order, upholding the rule of law and safeguarding Zimbabwe's land for present and future generations."

The Ministry's latest action signals a tougher stance against illegal settlements as Government seeks to protect home seekers from fraudulent land sales and ensure orderly urban and rural development across the country.

Ghana Moves to Extend Presidential Term to Five Years Under Proposed Constitutional Reforms

ACCRA, Ghana — Ghana's government has approved sweeping constitutional reform proposals that would extend the presidential term of office from four years to five, lower the minimum age for presidential candidates from 40 to 35 years, and align Parliament's tenure with the new presidential term.

The proposed changes form part of a broader review of Ghana's 1992 Constitution under President John Dramani Mahama's administration, which says the reforms are intended to provide governments with more time to implement policies and deliver long-term development programmes.

Justice Minister Dominic Ayine announced that Cabinet had endorsed key recommendations from the Constitutional Review Committee, including the extension of the presidential and parliamentary terms and reducing the minimum age requirement for presidential candidates to 35 years.

Government spokespersons say two constitutional amendment bills are expected to be introduced by October, paving the way for a national referendum in 2027. Under Ghana's constitutional requirements, the referendum will need at least 40 percent voter turnout, with a minimum of 75 percent of valid votes cast in favour for the amendments to pass.

The proposed reforms follow recommendations submitted by the Constitutional Review Committee after nationwide consultations. President Mahama has argued that while Ghana's 1992 Constitution has served the country well, it requires targeted amendments to strengthen governance and meet evolving national needs.

The proposals have already sparked public debate, with supporters arguing that a five-year term would provide governments with adequate time to implement major projects, while critics contend that longer terms could reduce electoral accountability by extending the period before voters can assess an administration's performance.

If approved through Parliament and endorsed in the referendum, the reforms would represent one of the most significant constitutional changes in Ghana since the adoption of the 1992 Constitution.

A Miracle of Nine: How One Family Rewrote Medical History

When Halima Cissé learned she was expecting a baby in 2021, she never imagined she would become part of medical history. Even after doctors told the young Malian mother she was carrying seven babies, no one anticipated what would happen next. It was only after she was transferred from Mali to a specialist hospital in Casablanca, Morocco, that advanced scans revealed an astonishing reality: she was carrying nine babies.

On 4 May 2021, Cissé delivered five girls and four boys by Caesarean section at just 30 weeks of pregnancy. Each baby weighed between 500 grams and one kilogram, making them extremely premature and medically fragile. Yet against overwhelming odds, every one of the nine infants survived, becoming the first documented nonuplets in history to live beyond birth.

The birth was hailed as a landmark achievement because nonuplet pregnancies are extraordinarily rare and among the most dangerous in obstetric medicine. The human uterus is not designed to carry nine fetuses to full term, and such pregnancies place enormous strain on both the mother and the developing babies. Extreme prematurity, very low birth weight, breathing complications, infections and organ immaturity are common risks, while mothers face increased chances of severe bleeding, pregnancy-induced hypertension and other life-threatening complications. These dangers mean that pregnancies involving such a high number of babies require intensive monitoring by teams of obstetricians, neonatologists and other specialists.

Medical history offers sobering reminders of how difficult such pregnancies have been. In 1971, a woman in Sydney, Australia, gave birth to nine babies, but none survived. Another reported case in Malaysia in 1999 ended similarly, with all the infants dying shortly after delivery. Those tragedies reinforced the belief that the survival of nonuplets was medically unattainable. The Cissé family's experience changed that perception forever.

After delivery, the babies remained in neonatal intensive care for many months. The family stayed in Morocco for nearly 19 months while doctors closely monitored the children's growth and development before they were eventually cleared to return home to Mali. Throughout that period, their remarkable progress drew worldwide attention and highlighted the advances made in neonatal intensive care, maternal medicine and the treatment of premature infants.

For Halima's husband, Abdelkader Arby, faith remained central throughout the ordeal. Shortly after the birth, he said, "We started with seven, and Allah blessed us with nine," reflecting the family's belief that the children were a gift despite the enormous challenges that lay ahead.

Today, the Cissé nonuplets continue to thrive. They celebrated their fifth birthday in May 2026, remaining healthy and reaching developmental milestones while growing up together in Mali. Their achievement remains unmatched, and they continue to hold the Guinness World Record as the most children delivered at a single birth to survive.

Beyond setting a world record, the Cissé family's story represents a milestone in modern medicine. It demonstrates how advances in specialist obstetric care, neonatal intensive care and coordinated medical support can dramatically improve outcomes once thought impossible. What began as one of the world's highest-risk pregnancies has become a powerful symbol of resilience, medical innovation and hope—showing that, with expert care and determination, even the rarest of births can have a remarkable ending.

Delta Posts 23% Revenue Jump

By Hurumende Business Reporter

Delta Corporation recorded a strong first-quarter performance for the period ended June 30, 2026, with revenue rising 23 percent to US$294.6 million as strong consumer demand, a stable ZiG currency and improved economic activity boosted sales across its beverage portfolio.

The country's largest beverages manufacturer said total Group beverage volumes increased by 14 percent to approximately 3.4 million hectolitres, while its Zimbabwe operations recorded an 18 percent growth in volumes compared to the same period last year.

The company attributed the performance to low inflation, firm mineral prices, improved agricultural production, increased mining activity and strong liquidity from the tobacco marketing season, which supported household spending.

"The trading environment during the first quarter ended 30 June 2026 was largely steady, anchored by the stability of the ZiG currency, low inflation and firm economic activity," Delta said.

Zimbabwe operations drive growth

Delta said the Zimbabwean market remained the key driver of growth, with demand remaining firm across both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

The company noted that more than 90 percent of domestic sales continued to be conducted in foreign currency, reflecting the continued dollarisation of the economy.

However, it said the weaker United States dollar against the rand and euro increased the cost of imported raw materials, while the informal sector continued to dominate parts of the market despite signs of recovery in formal retail channels.

Lager beer maintains momentum

Lager beer volumes grew 17 percent, supported by strong demand for mainstream brands and improved availability of premium local brands, including Zambezi Lager.

Despite the growth, Delta said production capacity remained under pressure, resulting in supply gaps for some brands and packaging formats.

The company said capacity expansion projects at the Southerton and Belmont breweries remain on schedule and are expected to ease supply shortages later this year.

"The phased capacity-expansion programme remains on track, with upgrades at Southerton Brewery expected to begin releasing additional throughput from the third quarter," the company said.

Chibuku, soft drinks post strong gains

Traditional sorghum beer volumes in Zimbabwe rose 20 percent, with flagship brand Chibuku Super recording 30 percent growth.

Delta said the newly introduced Leopard Extra brand continued gaining acceptance as distribution expanded across the country.

The non-alcoholic beverages business also performed strongly, with overall volumes increasing 14 percent.

Sparkling beverages registered 7 percent growth despite higher taxes and packaging costs, while Schweppes recorded a 37 percent increase following improvements in production and product availability.

African Distillers delivered one of the strongest performances in the Group, with volumes increasing 43 percent.

Ready-to-Drink products grew 48 percent, affordable wines increased 80 percent, while spirits rose 32 percent, driven largely by Star Brandy.

Rising costs weigh on margins

Despite the strong trading performance, Delta said higher fuel prices, freight costs, PET packaging, imported raw materials and the sugar tax continued to pressure profitability.

During the quarter, the Group accrued US$7.3 million in sugar tax and said it remains engaged with authorities over a review of the tax regime affecting locally manufactured beverages.

The company also contributed US$88.5 million in taxes to the Zimbabwean fiscus during the three-month period, maintaining its position as one of the country's largest taxpayers.

Expansion projects to support future demand

Delta said investments in brewing, packaging, logistics and returnable glass remain a priority as the company seeks to eliminate supply gaps and meet growing demand.

Management expects the phased completion of the expansion programme to improve production capacity and support growth across its beverage categories during the remainder of the financial year.

ZIMRA tax dispute unresolved

The company also provided an update on its ongoing tax dispute with the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA).

Delta said the tax authority is claiming approximately US$97 million in additional foreign currency-denominated taxes, interest and penalties relating to the period between 2019 and 2024.

The Group said it had paid US$20.8 million under the "pay now, argue later" principle while continuing to challenge aspects of the assessments through the courts and ongoing engagement with the tax authorities.

Outlook

Delta said it enters the second quarter with strong momentum supported by currency stability, firm consumer spending, higher mineral prices and an improved agricultural outlook
.
However, the company cautioned that geopolitical tensions, rising fuel and logistics costs, raw material shortages and currency movements remain key risks to business performance.

NetOne Urges Finance Leaders to Drive Digital Transformation for Sustainable Growth

By Hurumende News Hub

NetOne Cellular (Private) Limited has challenged Zimbabwe's accounting and finance professionals to take a leading role in driving digital transformation, arguing that resilience and sustainable economic growth will increasingly depend on the strategic use of technology, innovation and sound corporate governance.

Addressing delegates at the 2026 Institute of Chartered Accountants of Zimbabwe (ICAZ) Winter School, NetOne said finance professionals must expand their traditional role beyond financial management to become strategic advisers capable of steering organisations through an increasingly digital global economy.

Speaking under the conference theme, "Charting New Frontiers: Resilience, Innovation and Sustainable Value," the company said businesses that successfully integrate digital technologies into their operations will be better positioned to withstand economic shocks and remain competitive.

NetOne noted that digital tools such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, automation, cybersecurity and real-time data analytics are transforming the accounting profession by improving risk management, compliance and strategic decision-making. However, it said these innovations require secure, reliable and scalable digital infrastructure.

The telecommunications operator said it is investing heavily in expanding network coverage, modernising infrastructure and providing enterprise-grade connectivity to support businesses navigating an increasingly technology-driven environment.

The company also highlighted its broader role in Zimbabwe's digital transformation, noting that as it marks its 30th anniversary it has evolved from a mobile telecommunications provider into a digital solutions company supporting commerce, financial inclusion and innovation. Connectivity, it said, has become critical national infrastructure underpinning economic development.

NetOne said its digital expansion strategy aligns with Zimbabwe's Vision

2030 and National Development Strategy 2, with initiatives focused on widening digital participation, strengthening financial inclusion and supporting innovation ecosystems across the economy.

The company stressed that sustainable value creation must combine financial performance, ethical governance and positive social impact. It pointed to programmes aimed at connecting underserved communities, promoting digital education and empowering young people as part of its commitment to ensuring that no Zimbabwean is left behind in the country's digital transformation.

NetOne further called for stronger collaboration between government, regulators, financial institutions, professional bodies and technology providers, arguing that digital transformation cannot be achieved in isolation.

The company said partnerships across sectors will be essential to building smarter enterprises, improving governance through technology and creating long-term value for Zimbabwe's economy. It also commended ICAZ for providing a platform that promotes professional development, knowledge sharing and strategic dialogue on the future of business.

Junior Explorers Can Drive Investment, Jobs and Mining Growth in Zimbabwe

Duration Gold Mine Director Allan Brent Dolan has called for stronger support for junior exploration companies, saying they are critical to discovering new mines and unlocking Zimbabwe's mineral wealth for the benefit of the country.

Speaking at the 29th Mine Entra Conference and Exhibition, Dolan said supporting exploration could help Zimbabwe discover new minerals, attract investment, create employment and increase Government revenues through taxes and royalties.

He said new mineral discoveries could also play a major role in helping Zimbabwe achieve its National Development Strategy 2026–2030 and GDP growth targets.

"The discovery of new mines, and the harnessing of their economic power, is a Government imperative. The challenge has been laid down," he said.

Dolan, has 30 years of international exploration experience focused on Africa, said junior explorers account for the majority of new mineral discoveries globally and on the continent.

"The lion's share of new discoveries globally and in Africa, have been made by junior explorers, a figure that has constantly increased over the past 40 years, most recently approaching 90%," he said.

"Junior exploration companies ARE, BY AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE, the most successful funding structure for exploration."

He explained that junior explorers are generally led by geologists and promoters and focus on discovering major mineral deposits, unlike larger mining companies that are mainly focused on production, operations and cash flow.

For Zimbabwe, Dolan said, successful exploration could create a pipeline of new mines, bringing fresh capital into the country while creating jobs and opportunities for local suppliers and communities.

He said increased mining activity would also benefit Government through taxes, royalties, export earnings and wider economic activity.

However, Dolan said exploration remained highly risky, with only one in 1,000 greenfields exploration targets estimated to become a profitable mine.

He stressed that investors therefore require a clear pathway to recover their investment.

"It's all about the EXIT," he said, noting that this could come through a takeover, trade sale or joint venture.

Dolan said Zimbabwe currently has no active TSXV-listed junior explorers, while three are listed on the ASX and three on the LSE/AIM.

He called for a stable, predictable and competitive mining and fiscal policy framework, as well as a clear route for successful explorers to sell projects to larger producers.

Such a framework, he said, would make Zimbabwe more attractive to international exploration capital and increase the chances of discovering deposits that could eventually be developed into productive mines.

Dolan proposed an independent study benchmarking Zimbabwe's mining, exploration and fiscal policies against competing African and international jurisdictions.

"Government should investigate why there are no Senior or Intermediate Western Miners operating in Zimbabwe," he added.

The call comes as Zimbabwe seeks to expand mineral production, attract investment and increase value from its natural resources as part of efforts to drive economic growth and achieve its development targets.

Sugar Sector Bets on Value Addition

Alijones Masanjala

Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Obert Jiri hands a certificate to a sugarcane out-grower during a graduation ceremony highlighting skills development and the launch of Zimbabwe's 10-year sugar industry development roadmap.

Zimbabwe's sugar industry is set for a major overhaul following the approval of a 10-year development plan aimed at boosting competitiveness, expanding value addition and strengthening resilience to climate change.
The Zimbabwe Sugarcane Industry Development Plan (2026–2035) charts a long-term course for modernising one of the country's largest agro-industrial sectors through improved irrigation, climate-smart farming, industrial diversification and investment in higher-value products.
Speaking at the graduation ceremony for sugarcane out-growers at the Zimbabwe Sugar Association Experiment Station, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture,Mechanisation and Water Resources Development Zimbabwe , Prof. Dr. Obert Jiri, said the strategy provides a framework for repositioning the industry over the next decade.
"The Zimbabwe Sugarcane Industry Development Plan (2026–2035) provides a roadmap for building a globally competitive, climate-resilient and innovation-driven sugar industry," said Prof. Jiri.
The blueprint was developed jointly by the ministries responsible for agriculture and industry and is aligned with Vision 2030, the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) and the Agriculture, Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy II.
A key focus of the plan is expanding the use of modern irrigation systems, including centre-pivot and drip technologies, to improve water efficiency and reduce the sector's exposure to increasingly erratic weather patterns.
Attention is also shifting beyond raw sugar production. The strategy identifies ethanol, bio-plastics, speciality chemicals and renewable energy as priority investment areas expected to broaden the industry's revenue base and increase export earnings.
"Expanding value addition will create employment opportunities, strengthen exports and contribute to economic growth," Prof. Jiri said.
The sugar industry remains one of Zimbabwe's most important agricultural value chains, supporting thousands of jobs and generating significant export revenue. However, its growth has been constrained by ageing infrastructure, rising production costs, limited access to affordable finance and growing competition from imported sugar.
Prof. Jiri said ongoing policy reforms and infrastructure upgrades are expected to improve productivity and attract fresh investment into the sector.
"Addressing these constraints will unlock the industry's full potential and position it for sustainable long-term growth," he said.
If successfully implemented, the strategy could shift the industry from its traditional dependence on raw sugar towards a more diversified value chain built around industrial processing, renewable energy and specialised sugar-based products.
The next phase will be measured by how quickly investment flows into irrigation infrastructure, downstream manufacturing and processing capacity, as the industry seeks to strengthen its position in regional and international markets over the coming decade

Zimbabwe Bets on Small Grains

By Shyline Majaji

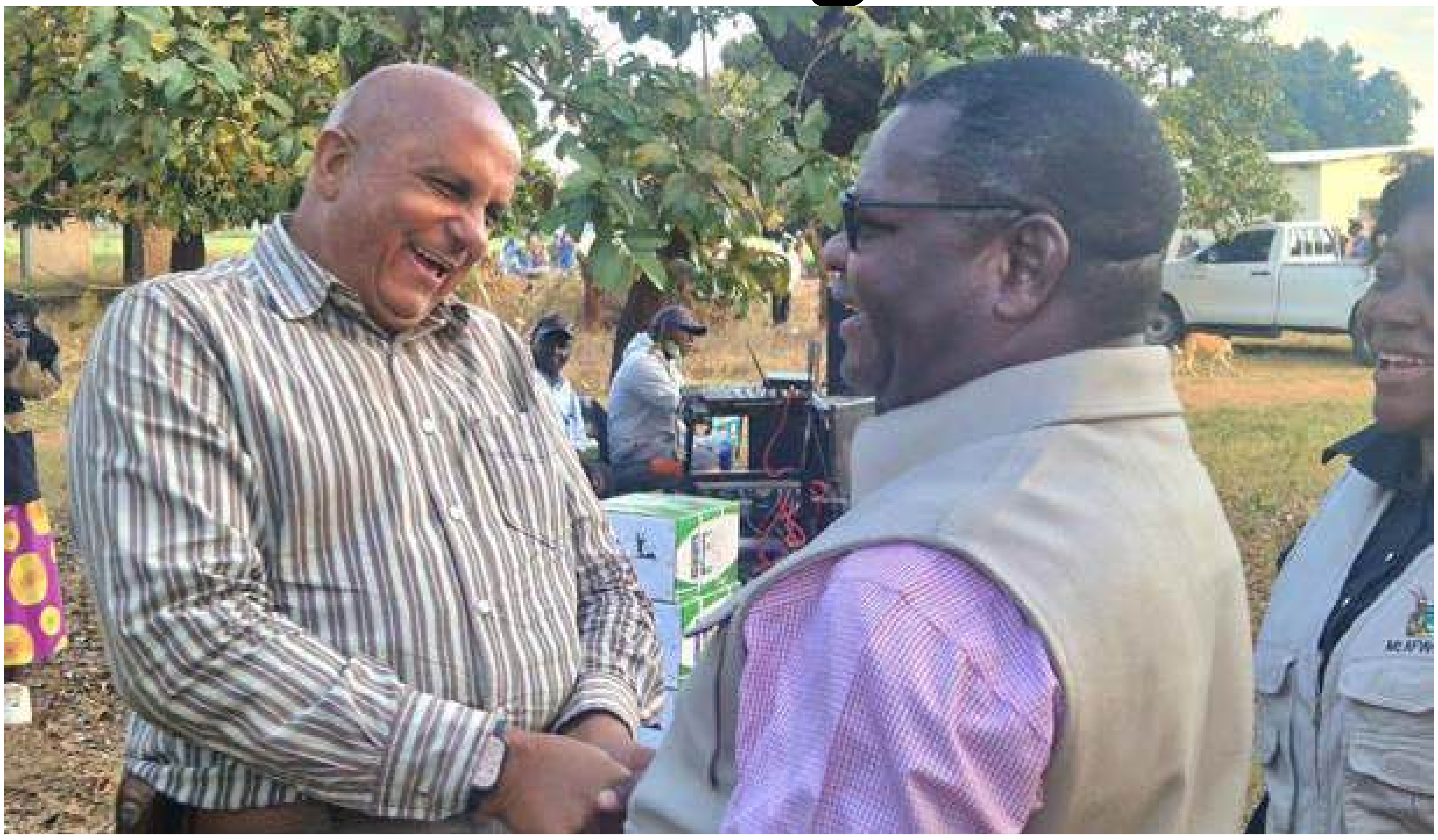
Sorghum deliveries reached 31,951 tonnes between 1 April and 24 July 2026, up 15% from 27,804 tonnes a year earlier, according to Agricultural Marketing Authority data. The rise trails maize's 106% surge and soya's 58% gain, making traditional grains the slowest of the season's improving crops, even as their strategic value climbs fastest.
Small grains— sorghum, pearl millet and finger millet— are built for the dry years. They need less water than maize and tolerate the shortened, erratic rains that climate change is delivering across Zimbabwe.
Every major forecasting centre now points to a strong El Niño for the 2026/27 season, bringing heightened drought risk to southern Africa. Cabinet climate guidance already urges farmers toward Pfumvudza and Intwasa methods and small grains suited to their agro-ecological zones precisely because these crops can carry risk that maize cannot.
Yet a 15% increase in a strong maize year remains modest for the crop the coming season most needs.
Price is not the brake. The Grain Marketing Board pays US$364.75 a tonne for traditional grains— the same floor price as maize.
The 2025/26 producer-price structure deliberately eliminated the historic penalty that low and variable prices once imposed on sorghum growers.
With parity achieved, the constraint has shifted firmly to demand.
That constraint is cultural before it is commercial. Zimbabwean consumers still strongly prefer maize as the staple.
A persistent perception, especially among younger and urban buyers, links sorghum and millet to poverty and rural diets.
Researchers note that the shift toward traditional grains is more a demand problem than a supply one: the crop can be grown, but the market willing to absorb it as everyday food remains thin.
A gradual uptake among health-conscious urban middle-class consumers is under way, but it is slow. The crop agronomy favours is the one the dinner table still resists.
Industrial buyers provide the real floor.
Delta Corporation uses locally grown maize and sorghum to brew Chibuku, the country's leading traditional opaque beer, creating consistent offtake.
The stockfeed sector also takes sorghum as a feed grain. Together these channels anchor demand independent of any rapid change in household eating habits.
Delta's purchases in particular tie a major listed consumer company directly to the small-grains crop, so marketed volumes track opaque-beer demand as much as food policy.
The export route remains the underused opportunity. ZimTrade has urged producers to add value to sorghum, millet, rapoko and pearl millet as global demand for gluten-free and health foods rises, positioning traditional grains as potential export earners rather than domestic fallbacks.
This reframes the crops from poverty-associated staples into premium categories— and offers the clearest path to faster volume growth. The sector has barely begun to capture it.
Promotion efforts have been substantial. Government input support, extension services, price parity, nutrition advocacy and high-level campaigns have helped push traditional-grain plantings past 322,000 hectares.
The fact that marketed volumes rose only 15% underscores the gap between planting more of the crop and selling it into a market that still clears maize first. Production support has delivered. Demand pull— industrial and especially export— has not kept pace.
The result is a strategically vital crop advancing too slowly for the moment it faces. The 15% rise is real, the price disadvantage is gone and hectarage is up.


Sorghum deliveries rose 15% in 2026 as Government continues promoting climate-resilient traditional grains through conservation agriculture and price support measures.

None of that has yet produced the demand surge a drought-exposed country should want in its most resilient grains. Industrial buyers supply a floor, export markets offer a ceiling worth reaching, and the domestic staple market remains the stubborn middle.
Over the next 30 to 90 days, key indicators will include small-grain deliveries versus the maize marketing rate, Delta's Chibuku sorghum offtake, any expansion of gluten-free traditional-grain exports through ZimTrade channels, and 2026/27 planting intentions for small grains against maize. Those numbers will show whether the drought forecast is finally shifting the crop mix toward the grains best able to withstand it.
[11:19, 8/1/2026] Karowaz: Sorghum deliveries rose 15% in 2026 as Government continues promoting climate-resilient traditional grains through conservation agriculture and price support measures.

Banga Sets Pace for Irrigation Drive

Abel Karowangoro



Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Obert Jiri and ARDA Board Chairperson Ivan Craig share a laugh during a tour of Banga Irrigation Scheme, a project being championed as a model for commercial irrigation and climate-resilient agriculture.

Government has hailed Banga Irrigation Scheme in Masvingo Province as a model for Zimbabwe's irrigation-led agricultural transformation, citing its commercial production model as evidence that irrigation development is strengthening national food security and rural economic growth.

Speaking during a visit to the scheme in Ward 31, Chivi District on Friday, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Professor Dr. Obert Jiri, said Banga exemplifies the success of Government's drive to modernise communal irrigation schemes through commercially oriented production.

He said the country has already exceeded its target of planting 120,000 hectares of winter wheat and is now focused on protecting the crop to realise an expected harvest of around 600,000 metric tonnes in October.

"Zimbabwe has surpassed its 120,000-hectare winter wheat target. Our priority now is to safeguard the crop through sound agronomic practices, efficient irrigation management and effective quelea bird control so that we achieve the anticipated harvest of about 600,000 metric tonnes," said Prof. Jiri.

He described Banga as one of the leading examples of Government's irrigation transformation programme, where irrigation schemes are being reorganised into commercially managed Irrigation Scheme Business Units under the block farming model.

"Banga Irrigation Scheme is setting the pace in implementing Government's block system. This approach is transforming irrigation schemes into commercially driven business units that improve productivity, strengthen farmer incomes and contribute to national food security," he said.

The irrigation scheme has planted 21 hectares each of wheat, maize and groundnuts, demonstrating crop diversification aimed at improving household incomes while supporting national grain production.

Prof. Jiri also encouraged farmers to complement irrigated production by adopting Pfumvudzа/Intwasa conservation agriculture, expanding the cultivation of traditional small grains and using certified seed varieties recommended by Agricultural and Biosecurity Advisory Officers (ABAOs).

"Climate-smart agriculture remains central to building resilience. Farmers should embrace Pfumvudza/Intwasa, increase small grain production where appropriate and plant certified seed to maximise productivity," he said.

The visit formed part of Government's ongoing monitoring of strategic agricultural programmes as Zimbabwe intensifies efforts to boost production under the Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy.

Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA) Board Chairperson Ivan Craig urged young Zimbabweans to view agriculture as a viable commercial enterprise capable of creating employment and wealth.

"Agriculture is no longer just about subsistence. It is a business with enormous opportunities for young people. We encourage the next generation to take advantage of Government programmes and invest in farming as a profitable enterprise," said Craig.

Government continues to expand irrigation development as part of its strategy to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture, improve climate resilience and sustain year-round food production.

Officials say successful schemes such as Banga demonstrate how modern irrigation, commercial management and improved farming practices can help drive Zimbabwe towards lasting food security and agricultural growth.

Teen Killed in Nyamapanda Hit-and-Run Accident

By Hurumende Crime Desk

Police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run road traffic accident that claimed the life of an 18-year-old pedestrian along the Harare–Nyamapanda Road early Thursday morning.

National police spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi confirmed that the incident occurred on July 31, 2026, at around 5:30 a.m. at the 36-kilometre peg along the Harare–Nyamapanda Road.

According to police, the teenager died on the spot after being struck by an unidentified motor vehicle. The driver allegedly failed to stop after the collision and fled the scene.

“The Zimbabwe Republic Police confirms that investigations are underway into a fatal hit-and-run road traffic accident which occurred at around 0530 hours on July 31, 2026, at the 36-kilometre peg along the Harare–Nyamapanda Road. An 18-year-old pedestrian died on the spot after being hit by an unknown motorist who did not stop after the accident,” said Assistant Commissioner Nyathi.

Police have launched investigations to establish the identity of both the vehicle and its driver.

Assistant Commissioner Nyathi appealed to members of the public who may have witnessed the accident or have information that could assist investigators to report to their nearest police station.

The Zimbabwe Republic Police has also urged motorists to exercise caution on the country’s roads and reminded drivers of their legal obligation to stop and render assistance after being involved in a road traffic accident. Failure to do so constitutes a criminal offence under Zimbabwean law.

Investigations into the incident are continuing.

Police Nab Chipinge Dagga Grower

By Hurumende Crime Desk

A routine police investigation into the alleged theft of irrigation pipes in Chipinge has led to the arrest of a 27-year-old man after officers allegedly discovered a field of dagga at his garden.

Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) national spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi confirmed the arrest of Cephas Chirume (27), who is now facing charges of unlawful cultivation of dagga.

Assistant Commissioner Nyathi said the suspect was arrested on July 30, 2026, at Farm 9 Compound in Middle Sabi, Chipinge, following a police response to a reported theft.

“The Zimbabwe Republic Police confirms the arrest of Cephas Chirume (27) for unlawful cultivation of dagga at Farm 9 Compound, Middle Sabi, Chipinge. The arrest followed a report of theft in which irrigation pipes were suspected to have been stolen at the farm. Police attended the scene, and during a search of the suspect’s garden, a field of dagga was discovered,” said Assistant Commissioner Nyathi.

Police have since seized the illicit crop as investigations continue into both the unlawful cultivation of dagga and the reported theft of irrigation equipment.

Assistant Commissioner Nyathi said the case highlights the importance of thorough police investigations, which can uncover additional criminal activities beyond the initial offence under investigation.

He also urged members of the public to desist from cultivating, possessing or trafficking dangerous drugs, warning that the Zimbabwe Republic Police will continue to intensify operations targeting drug-related offences across the country.

Investigations into the matter are ongoing.

BEYOND THE FALLEN HAT:
Why Humanity Will Always Outrank Protocol

By Abel Karowangoro

The first instinct for many people watching the ceremony was not admiration, it was anticipation.

In military culture, discipline is everything. The moment a soldier's hat falls to the ground, many expect an immediate correction. Eyes naturally turn to senior officers, anticipating a command to restore order and uphold military standards.

Instead, something entirely unexpected happened.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who is not only Zimbabwe's Head of State but also the Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, quietly bent down and picked up the soldier's fallen hat.

In my view, that single act transformed what could have been remembered as a minor lapse into a lesson about leadership.

The discussion should no longer be about the hat.

It should be about humanity.

A military hat is not just another piece of clothing. It represents honour, discipline, sacrifice and a soldier's commitment to serve the nation. Those values deserve respect. But perhaps what deserved even greater recognition on that day was the dignity shown to the soldier.

The Commander-in-Chief could have ignored the incident. He could have allowed someone else to retrieve the hat. He could have let protocol take its course.

Instead, he chose humility.

History often remembers leaders for moments like these.

Former South African President Nelson Mandela became a global symbol of reconciliation not simply because of the laws he supported, but because he consistently demonstrated respect for people who had once regarded him as an enemy.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world witnessed presidents, prime ministers, healthcare workers and volunteers rolling up their sleeves to help frightened communities. Those images became powerful not because they displayed authority, but because they displayed compassion.

Following devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, floods in Pakistan and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, some of the world's most enduring photographs have shown soldiers carrying children, rescue workers embracing survivors and ordinary citizens helping complete strangers. Those moments remind us that the greatest strength is often found in acts of service.

That is why I believe the image of President Mnangagwa picking up a soldier's hat resonates with so many people.

It reminds us that leadership is not diminished by humility. On the contrary, humility often strengthens leadership.

Being Commander-in-Chief does not only mean commanding troops or presiding over military ceremonies. It also means setting an example. Sometimes that example is delivered not through a speech, an order or a decree, but through a simple action witnessed by thousands.

We live in a world where public discourse is increasingly shaped by anger, division and confrontation. Genuine acts of kindness are often overlooked because they do not fit the daily cycle of controversy. Yet history has shown that the quietest moments sometimes carry the loudest message.

Some may see only a President picking up a hat.

I see a Commander-in-Chief reminding a nation that no position is too high to perform a simple act of respect.

Power commands obedience.

Humanity earns respect.

And in the end, people rarely remember titles alone, they remember how leaders treated those around them.

UZ Innovation Hubs Open

By Hurumende News Hub

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has challenged Zimbabwe's universities to lead the country's industrialisation drive, declaring that innovation, research and local production, not imports must power the nation's journey towards Vision 2030.

Officially commissioning the University of Zimbabwe Industrial Incubation Centre and Specialist Medical Centre on 27 July, the President described the two facilities as landmark achievements of the Heritage-Based Education 5.0 Model, saying they demonstrate how universities are becoming engines of economic transformation.

The President said the Industrial Incubation Centre must move beyond being a workspace for innovators and become a production hub that transforms student ideas into commercial products capable of reducing Zimbabwe's dependence on imports.

He noted that Zimbabwe spends about US$2.5 billion annually importing manufactured goods that could be produced locally, urging Government, industry and financial institutions to scale up support for university start-ups.

President Mnangagwa revealed that the University of Zimbabwe is already nurturing 11 student-led start-up companies, describing them as proof that the country's industrialisation agenda is irreversible. He said Government would continue supporting promising innovations and entrepreneurs emerging from higher and tertiary institutions.

The President also commissioned the University of Zimbabwe Specialist Medical Centre, which will offer specialist services including oral health, eye care, trauma treatment and in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), making services previously available mainly in the private sector more accessible to Zimbabweans.

In a stern warning, President Mnangagwa ordered authorities to dismantle "cartels and syndicates" in the health sector, saying his Government would not tolerate practices that deny citizens affordable, quality healthcare.

Turning to mining and innovation, the President directed universities to accelerate research into mineral beneficiation, calling for the urgent establishment of a National Minerals Research Centre to unlock value from lithium, rare earth elements, uranium and other strategic minerals.

He concluded by reaffirming Government's commitment to creating an environment that supports innovation, industrialisation and sustainable development, saying Zimbabwe's future lies in harnessing local talent, science and technology to build a modern economy.

Shingai Dance Crew Dances to National Glory at Chibuku Neshamwari Finals

By Tsitsi Ndabambi

Harare erupted in celebration on Saturday as Shingai Dance Crew claimed the 2026 Chibuku Neshamwari National Dance Festival title, captivating thousands of spectators with a breathtaking Mbakumba performance that earned the group the coveted championship and a US$15,000 winner's prize.

In a spectacular showcase of Zimbabwe's rich cultural heritage at a packed Harare Gardens, the Harare Province representatives outshone the country's finest traditional dance ensembles, delivering a polished, energetic and culturally authentic performance that won over both judges and the enthusiastic crowd.

The national finals drew dance groups from across Zimbabwe in a fiercely contested competition that celebrated the country's diverse traditional dances while reaffirming the enduring importance of preserving indigenous culture through the arts.

Ezimnyama Dance Group secured second place and walked away with US$10,000 after an outstanding presentation of the Tsutsule dance, impressing judges with their precision, synchronisation and vibrant stage presence.

Manicaland's Dapurahunanzva Dance Troupe completed the podium, earning US$7,500 for an energetic and authentic rendition of the Mbakumba dance that received warm applause from the appreciative audience.

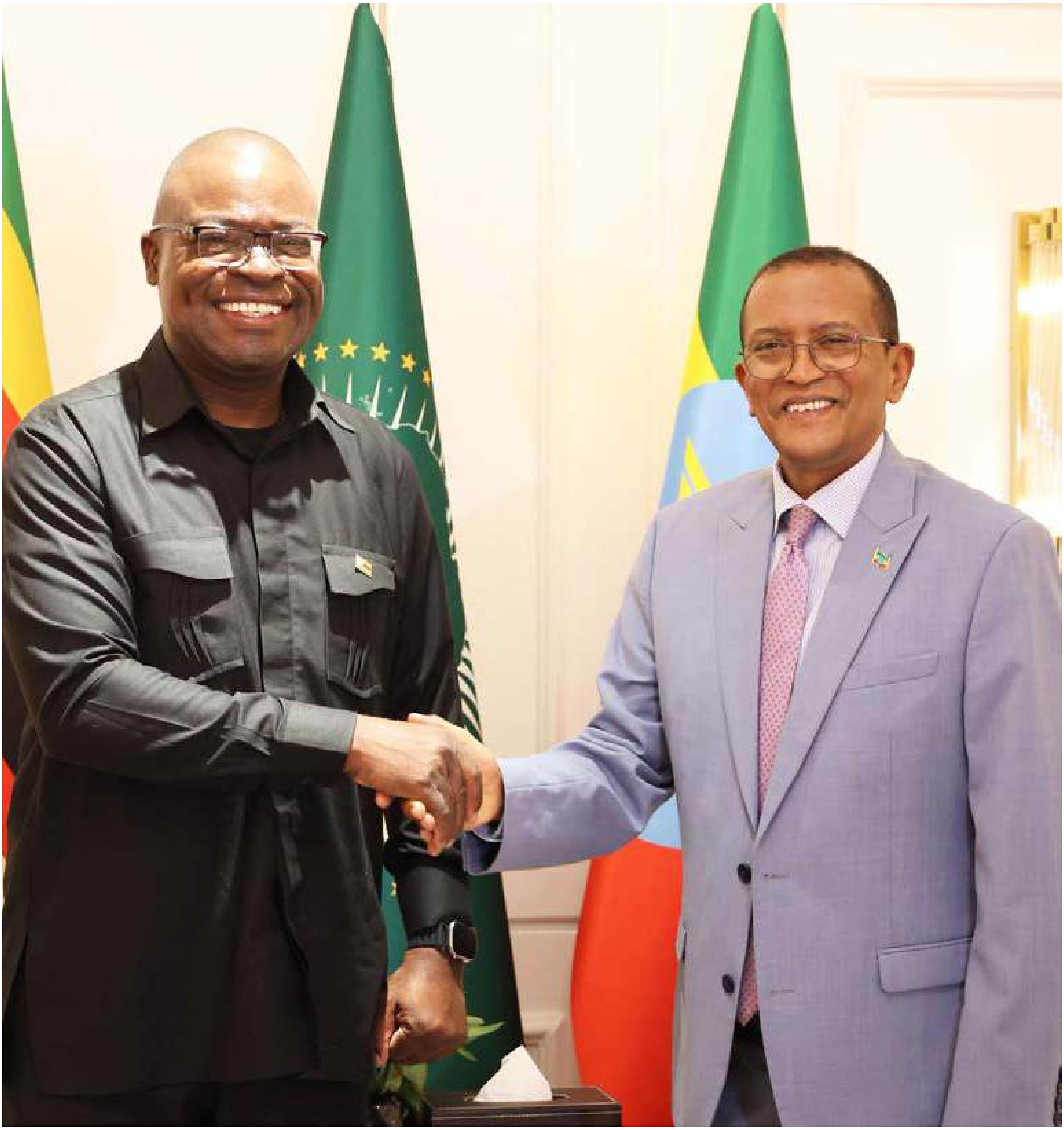
Beyond the competition, the festival transformed into a vibrant celebration of Zimbabwean entertainment, with dancehall sensation Blot making a surprise appearance that electrified the crowd. Social media personality Wilson Manyenyezero, popularly known as Willow Edutainment, delighted revellers with his trademark fusion of comedy and dancehall, while Nisha T and her all-female band delivered one of the night's standout performances.

Music stars Baba Harare and Jah Prayzah brought the event to a thrilling close with energetic performances that kept thousands of fans on their feet.

Festival sponsor Chibuku added to the festive atmosphere by rewarding lucky patrons with branded merchandise and complimentary beverages throughout the day.

Presenting prizes to the winners, National Arts Council of Zimbabwe representative Napoleon Nyanhi applauded the festival for preserving Zimbabwe's cultural heritage and providing a national platform for traditional dance groups to showcase their talent.

The annual Chibuku Neshamwari National Dance Festival remains one of Zimbabwe's premier cultural showcases, uniting communities through traditional dance while celebrating the country's rich cultural diversity and artistic excellence.



Africa Must Back Sport: Murwira

By Abel Karowangoro

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Professor Amon Murwira, has called for greater investment in sports institutions, infrastructure and professional leagues, saying Africa has abundant talent but must strengthen its sporting ecosystem to unlock the sector's full potential.

Speaking in an interview with the African Union's Public Relations and Communications Team on the sidelines of the 49th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council in Addis Ababa this week, Prof. Murwira said sport should be recognised as a strategic driver of economic development, youth empowerment and continental integration.

The interview focused on the The African Sporting Century (TASC) initiative, which seeks to harness sport as a catalyst for Africa's social and economic transformation.

"Africa has world-class sporting talent, but the continent must invest in strong institutions, modern infrastructure and professional leagues to fully realise the potential of its sports industry," Prof. Murwira said.

He said a well-developed sports sector can create employment, stimulate tourism, attract investment and strengthen Africa's global profile through sports diplomacy.

"Sport is more than competition. It is a powerful tool for youth empowerment, economic growth, tourism, investment and diplomacy," he said.

Prof. Murwira also hailed the election of Zimbabwean Kirsty Coventry as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), describing it as a milestone not only for Zimbabwe but for the African continent.

"Kirsty Coventry's election reflects Africa's growing influence in global sport and gives confidence that the continent is increasingly taking its rightful place in international sporting leadership," he said.

He said the achievement demonstrates Africa's capacity to produce world-class leaders capable of shaping the future of international sport.

The remarks, released by Zimbabwe's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, come as African nations seek to expand investment in sport as part of broader efforts to create jobs, develop youth talent and diversify their economies.

By strengthening institutions and investing in modern sporting infrastructure, Prof. Murwira said, Africa can transform its rich sporting talent into a sustainable industry that delivers lasting social and economic benefits.

Minister Mavunga Calls for Youth Games Support

Takudzwa Karowangoro

Deputy Minister of Local Government and Public Works Hon. Albert Mavunga has urged stakeholders in Bulawayo to support Team Bulawayo's fundraising drive ahead of the 2026 National Youth and Paralympic Games in Marondera.

Speaking at the Team Bulawayo Youth and Paralympic Games Fundraising Dinner held at Hotel St Patrick's on Friday, Minister Mavunga said the community had a responsibility to ensure that young athletes from Bulawayo get the opportunity to participate in the games.

He said the fundraising initiative was aimed at mobilising resources to support athletes, coaches and officials representing Bulawayo Metropolitan Province.

"Our failure tonight to resource Team Bulawayo will also be our failure to be a responsible community that provides for its children," Hon. Mavunga said.

He said participation in the games could provide athletes with an important pathway to greater opportunities, including selection to represent Zimbabwe at the 2026 Under-19 AUSC Region 5 Games in Mozambique.

"Marondera is not the end, it is the launchpad. Preparations for the games were progressing well, with 250 athletes and coaches already identified for the Youth Games, while 110 athletes had been identified and were undergoing training for the Paralympic Games, " he said.

The Paralympic Games are scheduled to take place in Marondera two days after the Youth Games.

He commended the Team Management Committee, Provincial Associations, technical staff, parents and other stakeholders for ensuring that preparations were on track.

With technical preparations largely in place, Mavunga said the focus should now be on ensuring that Team Bulawayo has adequate resources to travel and participate in the games.

The fundraising target is US$134,033.

Hon. Mavunga called on businesses, organisations and individuals to contribute towards reaching the target, stressing that every contribution would make a difference.

"There is no more 'too little' or 'too small' for this cause. Every dollar counts. Every table bought. Every pledge made," he said.

He also urged the Board and Management Committee to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of funds raised.

Mavunga thanked the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for spearheading the initiative and called on the people of Bulawayo to rally behind Team Bulawayo.

"Let us support our Minister. Let us support our athletes. Let us support Team Bulawayo," he said.

The fundraising dinner was held under the theme: "Together We Make Team Bulawayo to Marondera."

Youth and Paralympics Games Fundraising Dinner

Guest of Honour, Deputy Minister of Local Government and Public Works, Hon. Albert Tawanda Mavunga, has called on stakeholders to unite in ensuring that Team Bulawayo sends a strong delegation to the upcoming Youth and Paralympics Games in Marondera.

Addressing guests at the fundraising dinner, Hon. Mavunga stressed that supporting the team's participation is an investment in the future of young athletes.

"Let me state this plainly. Our failure tonight to ensure Team Bulawayo gets to Marondera will also be our failure as a community to provide opportunities for our children."

He said participation in Marondera offers athletes more than the chance to compete, as it also provides an opportunity to be considered for selection to represent Zimbabwe at the 2026 AUSC Region 5 Under-19 Games in Mozambique, where the country will compete against 10 other nations.

"That is the prize. That is the dream. Marondera is not the end—it is the beginning of greater opportunities."

Hon. Mavunga urged corporates, organisations and individuals to support the fundraising initiative, saying every contribution will help empower young athletes to realise their sporting potential and proudly represent Bulawayo and Zimbabwe on the regional stage.

UEFA Demands Infantino's Exit, Threatens No-Confidence Vote

NYON, Switzerland — UEFA has reportedly demanded the immediate resignation of FIFA President Gianni Infantino, warning that it will pursue a vote of no confidence to remove him if he refuses to step down, escalating a growing governance crisis within world football.

The development follows mounting backlash over Infantino's now-abandoned proposal to sell a stake in the commercial rights of the FIFA World Cup to private investors, a plan that drew fierce opposition from European football's governing body and several national associations.

This opening is written in a hard-news style. It avoids stating as fact that Infantino will be removed; instead, it accurately reflects that UEFA has reportedly demanded his resignation and is threatening further action, which is supported by current reporting.

Castle Lager PSL: Hardrock Stun Manica as Chiefs, Ngezi Secure Away Wins

By Hurumende.com Sports Desk

Hardrock FC produced the standout result of Castle Lager Premier Soccer League Week 25 after cruising to a commanding 3-0 victory over Manica Diamonds at Chahwanda Stadium on Saturday.

The emphatic win saw Hardrock collect maximum points in impressive fashion, while dealing a significant blow to Manica Diamonds' campaign.

At Luveve Stadium, Bulawayo Chiefs claimed a valuable 2-1 away victory over Chicken Inn in a closely contested Bulawayo derby. Chiefs showed resilience to secure all three points against their city rivals.

Ngezi Platinum Stars also returned home with maximum points after edging Agama 1-0 at Wadzanai Stadium. The narrow victory keeps Ngezi firmly in the race for a strong finish in the league standings.

FC Hunters continued their fine run of form with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Triangle United at Gibbo Stadium, courtesy of a disciplined defensive display and a decisive goal.

Elsewhere, FC Platinum and Simba Bhora shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw at Mandava Stadium in a match where both sides created several scoring opportunities but were unable to find a winner.

Rufaro Stadium witnessed a goalless stalemate between Scottland FC and MWOS, with both teams failing to convert their chances despite an entertaining encounter.

Another scoreless draw was recorded at Nyamhunga Stadium, where ZPC Kariba and Dynamos settled for a point apiece after a tightly contested match.

Castle Lager PSL Week 25 Results

* Scottland 0-0 MWOS
* ZPC Kariba 0-0 Dynamos
* FC Platinum 1-1 Simba Bhora
* Triangle United 0-1 FC Hunters
* Agama 0-1 Ngezi Platinum Stars
* Chicken Inn 1-2 Bulawayo Chiefs
* Hardrock 3-0 Manica Diamonds

The Week 25 results could have a significant impact on both the title race and the battle for survival as the 2026 Castle Lager Premier Soccer League season enters its decisive stages.

COMMENTARY:
Bhora Africa Poll Suggests Majority Believe Scotland Challenge Was a Penalty

The debate surrounding Scottland's goalless draw against MWOS continues to dominate Zimbabwean football discussions, with many supporters insisting the visitors were denied a clear penalty in the dying moments of the match.

A poll conducted by Bhora Africa following the match shows that the majority of respondents believe the 92nd-minute challenge by the Scottland goalkeeper should have resulted in a penalty.

At the time of the screenshot, 11 participants voted that it was a penalty, none believed it was not a penalty, while one respondent said the incident was not clear.

The controversial challenge has left MWOS supporters frustrated, arguing that the decision denied their side a golden opportunity to snatch all three points in what eventually ended as a 0-0 draw at Rufaro Stadium.

Although the poll reflects the opinions of football fans rather than an official ruling, it highlights the growing debate over refereeing decisions in the Castle Lager Premier Soccer League.

The incident is likely to remain a talking point as supporters continue to analyse whether the goalkeeper's challenge warranted a spot kick.

Ultimately, only the match officials' decision stood on the day, but the Bhora Africa poll indicates that many fans believe MWOS had a legitimate claim for a late penalty.

Derby Fever Hits Rufaro

By Kelvin Matore

Zimbabwean football's oldest and most celebrated rivalry returns to Rufaro Stadium as CAPS United host Highlanders in a fixture that has defined generations of local football.

For decades, meetings between Makepekepe and Bosso have transcended the league table.

Their encounters have been built on history, tradition and passionate support, with every clash carrying enormous significance regardless of either side's form.

The rivalry dates back to the early years of Zimbabwe's top-flight football and has produced some of the country's most memorable matches. From title-deciding contests to dramatic comebacks, controversial refereeing decisions and stunning individual performances, the fixture has remained one of the biggest attractions on the domestic football calendar.

Although Highlanders and CAPS United have each enjoyed periods of dominance, neither side has consistently held the upper hand in recent years. Many of their meetings have ended in draws or been decided by a single goal, highlighting just how evenly matched the two clubs have been whenever they meet.

This weekend's encounter comes with CAPS United seeking to end a run of two consecutive defeats, while Highlanders arrive with renewed confidence under coach Benjani Mwaruwari. However, history suggests current form often counts for little when these two giants face each other.

Rufaro Stadium has witnessed countless unforgettable battles between the Green Machine and Bosso, with thousands of supporters expected to once again create an electric atmosphere. The rivalry has always been about more than three points—it is about pride, prestige and proving superiority between two of Zimbabwe's most decorated football institutions.

With history pointing to another closely fought contest, supporters should expect a tactical battle, fierce competition and the possibility of another dramatic chapter in one of African football's enduring rivalries.

Prediction: CAPS United 1-1 Highlanders. History suggests this fixture rarely produces an easy winner, and another tightly contested draw would come as no surprise.