

A NATION REMEMBERS: Zimbabwe honours its heroes

FULL STORY
ON PAGE 2

From Harare to Bulawayo and from the Zambezi Valley to the Lowveld, Zimbabwe will unite in remembrance of the men and women whose sacrifices delivered independence.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa leads the nation in honouring Zimbabwe's fallen heroes and heroines during Heroes Day commemorations.



INSIDE ISSUE

NEWS

**ZACC nabs
Hwedza
man**

BUSINESS

**Vendor licence
renewals face
new ZIMRA
tax check**

TOURISM



**Spain,
Zimbabwe
Move to
Deepen
Tourism
Cooperation**

HEALTH

**Period Poverty
Faces Legal Fight**



SPORT

**Coca-cola
promotion
changes
lives...**



Join our
WhatsApp Channel

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

FOLLOW • SHARE • STAY INFORMED

*Hurumende
News Hub*

Zimbabwe honours its heroes

By Takudzwa Karowangoro

At sunrise on Monday, Zimbabweans in every province will begin making their way to heroes’ acres, memorial sites and community gathering places to remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives for the country’s independence.

Some will carry flowers. Others will hold photographs of relatives whose lives were consumed by the liberation struggle. Families will stand beside graves bearing familiar names, while other citizens will remember thousands whose sacrifices were never recorded on stone.

At the National Heroes Acre in Harare, wreaths will be laid and the nation’s leadership will pay tribute to Zimbabwe’s fallen sons and daughters. At the same time, similar ceremonies will take place at provincial and district shrines throughout the country.

From Mashonaland Central to Matabeleland South, from Manicaland to the Midlands, the message will be the same: Zimbabwe does not forget.

The 2026 Heroes Day commemorations will be held on Monday, August 10, under the theme “Lest We Forget”. The main ceremony will take place at the National Heroes Acre, supported by gatherings at the country’s 10 provincial heroes’ acres and 60 district heroes’ acres. The Government has arranged 162 buses to transport relatives of national heroes and heroines to the commemorations, according to official preparations announced ahead of the holiday.

The commemorations will honour those who fought, suffered and died during the liberation struggle, as well as men and women recognised for outstanding service to Zimbabwe after independence.

Behind every grave lies a human story: a family that lost a parent, a village that lost a son or daughter and a nation built on sacrifices that can never be repaid.

Heroes Day is therefore more than a date on Zimbabwe’s calendar. It is a national act of remembrance.

REMEMBRANCE BEYOND HARARE

The National Heroes Acre remains the principal symbol of Zimbabwe’s liberation history, but the story of the struggle does not belong to Harare alone.

It is written across all 10 provinces.

It lives in the rural homes that sheltered freedom fighters, the mountains and valleys that provided passage, the communities that supplied food and intelligence, and the families that endured detention, displacement, violence and loss.

It also lives at provincial and district heroes’ acres where many men and women who contributed to the struggle were laid to rest closer to the communities from which they came.

This countrywide character of the commemorations ensures that remembrance is not confined to the capital.

Every province contributed people, resources and courage to the liberation of Zimbabwe. Every province carries

memories of sacrifice. Every province has names that must be remembered.

HARARE: THE NATIONAL CENTRE OF REMEMBRANCE

In Harare, the main commemorations will take place at the National Heroes Acre, where the country’s leadership, relatives of fallen heroes and members of the public will gather for the national ceremony.

The shrine stands as one of the country’s most recognisable symbols of sacrifice, sovereignty and independence.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage has updated the official record of national heroes and heroines. The number of fallen national heroes stands at 254 following the posthumous declaration of Petros Khumalo, Shumirai Wekwete, Joseph Zethi Dube and Herbert Zaba Sambo, the Government announced in June. The commemorative programme also includes the preservation and rehabilitation of liberation-war sites.

Yet Harare’s remembrance extends beyond those buried at the national shrine.

Across the province, families will remember political activists, workers, students, organisers and ordinary residents who supported the struggle in different ways. Their contributions remind the nation that liberation required not only those who carried weapons, but also those who organised, communicated, sheltered others and sustained resistance.

BULAWAYO: MEMORY IN THE CITY OF KINGS

In Bulawayo, commemorations will be held at the Provincial Heroes Acre in Nkulumane.

The city occupies an important place in Zimbabwe’s political and liberation history. It produced and accommodated nationalists, trade unionists, organisers and young people who rejected colonial rule.

For families in Bulawayo, Heroes Day is a reminder that the liberation struggle was carried through homes, workplaces, townships and political movements, as well as on the battlefield.

The province has completed preparations for the commemorations, with residents expected to gather at the provincial shrine under the national theme, “Lest We Forget”. Bulawayo’s provincial ceremony is scheduled for the Nkulumane shrine.

The occasion will allow younger residents to hear again the stories of those who came before them and to understand that the freedoms they enjoy were secured through struggle.

MANICALAND: HONOURING SACRIFICE IN THE EAST

In Manicaland, people will gather at the Provincial Heroes Acre in Mutare, while additional commemorations will take place in the province’s districts.

The province’s mountains, valleys and communities occupy a central place in the history of the liberation struggle. Its proximity to Mozambique made many parts of Manicaland important to the movement of fighters, refugees and supplies.

Communities experienced the conflict directly, and many families lost relatives or endured displacement and violence.

Preparations at the provincial shrine have included upgrading and expanding the site to provide a dignified setting for the commemorations. Events are also planned in six other districts, ensuring that people unable to travel to Mutare can honour heroes and heroines within their communities. Provincial authorities have urged residents to attend in large numbers.

For Manicaland, remembrance is rooted not only in the graves at official shrines, but also in the communities that carried the burden of war.

MASHONALAND CENTRAL: REMEMBERING THE FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

Mashonaland Central carries some of the country’s deepest memories of the liberation struggle.

Its rural communities became important theatres of political mobilisation and armed resistance. Villagers supported fighters with food, shelter, information and guidance, often at enormous personal risk.

Many suffered punishment, forced displacement and the loss of relatives.

At provincial and district commemorations, families will remember both nationally recognised figures and local men and women whose names may be known mainly within their own communities.

Their stories form part of Zimbabwe’s national history.

Heroes Day offers Mashonaland Central an opportunity to preserve those stories and pass them to younger generations who did not experience colonial rule or the liberation war.

MASHONALAND EAST: KEEPING COMMUNITY MEMORY ALIVE

In Mashonaland East, remembrance will reach from the provincial centre to districts, villages and family homes.

The province was an important site of nationalist organisation and rural resistance. Its proximity to Harare and routes leading towards neighbouring countries gave it strategic importance during the struggle.

Many residents supported the liberation movement as fighters, messengers, political organisers, providers of food and protectors of those moving through their communities.

The sacrifices made in Mashonaland East demonstrate that the struggle was sustained by networks of ordinary people.

As residents gather for Heroes Day, the province will honour those buried at recognised shrines and the many others whose final resting places remain unknown.

MASHONALAND WEST: REMEMBERING COURAGE ACROSS FARMING AND MINING COMMUNITIES

Mashonaland West will mark Heroes Day across its farming, mining, urban and rural communities.

The province contributed fighters, political activists, workers and ordinary citizens to the liberation struggle. Families endured arrests, displacement and the loss of breadwinners as the conflict intensified.

Its provincial and district ceremonies will provide a space for communities to reflect on those sacrifices.

Remembrance in Mashonaland West also carries a responsibility to preserve liberation history in a province where rapid economic and social change can distance younger generations from the experiences of their parents and grandparents.

Heroes Day reconnects that generation with the price paid for independence.

MIDLANDS: THE HEART OF A NATIONAL STORY

At the centre of Zimbabwe, the Midlands brings together communities from different cultural, economic and historical backgrounds.

The province’s central position made it an important meeting point for political activity, transport and communication. Its mining towns, farms and rural communities all contributed to the national struggle.

Workers, students, traditional leaders, villagers and political organisers played different roles. Some joined the fighting, while others provided the support that made resistance possible.

As families gather at the provincial shrine and district commemorations, the Midlands will remember that heroism did not take a single form.

It was found on the battlefield, in prison cells, in workplaces, in classrooms and in homes where frightened families protected those fighting for freedom.

MASVINGO: REMEMBRANCE IN THE LAND OF GREAT ZIMBABWE

Masvingo’s Heroes Day commemorations will take place in a province whose very landscape carries powerful symbols of African civilisation and sovereignty.

The Great Zimbabwe monument remains a reminder that the country’s history did not begin with colonial rule. It speaks to an older heritage of statehood, culture, trade and African achievement.

During the liberation struggle, Masvingo’s rural communities supplied fighters, food, information and shelter. Many families suffered violence and loss.

On Heroes Day, the province will connect its ancient heritage with the modern struggle for independence.

Its ceremonies will honour those who defended the right of Zimbabweans to govern themselves and preserve their identity.

MATABELELAND NORTH: HONOURING HEROES IN LUPANE

Matabeleland North’s provincial commemorations will be held at the Provincial

Heroes Acre in Lupane.

The province has confirmed that preparations are complete, while emphasising the historical significance of holding the ceremony at the shrine where its fallen heroes are buried. Provincial authorities said the event would remain in Lupane so that remembrance stays connected to the graves of the province’s heroes.

Matabeleland North’s liberation history is carried in its villages, forests and communities, many of which experienced the hardships of war and colonial repression.

Its residents will remember fighters and civilians, recognised heroes and largely unrecorded contributors, as part of one provincial story of courage and endurance.

The gathering in Lupane will also allow families to stand close to the graves of their loved ones, transforming a national ceremony into an intimate moment of personal remembrance.

MATABELELAND SOUTH: SACRIFICE ALONG THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER

In Matabeleland South, Heroes Day will be observed at provincial and district

To page 3





Zimbabwe honours its heroes

From page 2

levels, with communities gathering to remember the region’s fallen sons and daughters.

The province’s long borders and routes into neighbouring countries gave it particular importance during the liberation struggle. Many people crossed those borders to join the struggle, seek refuge or support political and military activity.

Families were separated, and some never saw their loved ones again.

Provincial authorities have mobilised resources for the commemorations and called on communities and businesses to support the events. The main Matabeleland South ceremony will form part of the nationwide commemorations on August 10.

For the province, the day will be both a public ceremony and a deeply personal recollection of relatives who left home to fight for a country they hoped future generations would inherit.

A TRIBUTE TO THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Zimbabwe’s liberation history includes celebrated commanders, political leaders and activists whose names appear in books, monuments and public institutions.

But the struggle also depended on people whose names are less widely known.

They include the villagers who shared their last meal with fighters, the women who carried supplies, the youths who served as messengers, the families who offered shelter and the detainees who endured imprisonment.

They include mothers who raised children alone after their partners left for the struggle, families who buried relatives without ceremony and communities whose homes and livelihoods were

destroyed.

Some received official recognition. Others did not.

Heroes Day belongs to all of them.

The designation of national, provincial and district heroes provides formal recognition, but the nation’s memory must remain wide enough to include every contribution made towards Zimbabwe’s freedom.

The sacrifices of women deserve particular remembrance. Women served as fighters, organisers, nurses, messengers, providers and guardians of families and communities.

Many faced violence, separation and hardship, yet continued contributing to the struggle.

Their heroism must not disappear behind accounts that present liberation only through the experiences of men.

PASSING MEMORY TO A NEW GENERATION

For many young Zimbabweans, the liberation struggle is history learned through textbooks, documentaries, monuments and family stories.

They did not experience colonial laws. They did not hear gunfire in their villages or watch relatives leave home for war.

That distance makes remembrance more important, not less.

When survivors and relatives share their experiences, young people gain a fuller understanding of independence. They learn that freedom was achieved through human choices, courage and sacrifice.

However, remembrance must go beyond repeating

names once a year.

Liberation history should be preserved through oral testimony, museums, archives, schools, monuments and community projects. Provincial and district accounts are essential because national history can become incomplete when local experiences are lost.

Each province holds memories that exist nowhere else.

Recording those memories will ensure that future generations understand the liberation struggle as a national movement built from thousands of local stories.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LIVING

Honouring the dead also places obligations on the living.

The heroes and heroines of Zimbabwe struggled for political freedom, human dignity, access to land, equality and the right of the majority to determine the country’s future.

Remembering them therefore requires more than laying wreaths.

It requires citizens and institutions to protect the country’s independence, uphold peace, preserve national unity and create opportunities for future generations.

It also requires sustained support for surviving veterans, widows, widowers and families whose lives were permanently changed by the struggle.

Memorial sites must be maintained with dignity. Graves and records must be protected. The stories of heroes and heroines must be preserved accurately and shared widely.

A NATION UNITED BY MEMORY

On Monday, the ceremonies will differ in size.

The largest gathering will take place beneath the towering monument at the National Heroes Acre in Harare. Others will be held at provincial shrines, district centres and community memorials.

Some families will gather privately around the graves of loved ones.

Yet all these acts of remembrance will form part of one national tribute.

Harare will remember.

Bulawayo will remember.

Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West will remember.

The Midlands and Masvingo will remember.

Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South will remember.

Across cities, towns, farms, mines and villages, Zimbabwe will pause to honour the people whose sacrifices made independence possible.

The flowers laid at the shrines will eventually fade. The speeches will end, and the crowds will return home.

But the duty to remember must continue.

Zimbabwe does not forget its heroes and heroines. Their courage lives in the flag, in the land, in the country’s sovereignty and in every generation born free.

Lest we forget.

President Mnangagwa, UAE Minister Push for Stronger Economic Cooperation

Takudzwa Karowangoro

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has reaffirmed Zimbabwe's commitment to strengthening economic and political ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with discussions focusing on trade, investment and critical infrastructure development.

President Mnangagwa made the remarks after meeting UAE Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Sheikh Shakhboub bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, and his delegation at State House.

The meeting forms part of Zimbabwe's ongoing engagement and re-engagement efforts aimed at strengthening relations with international partners.

"It was a pleasure to welcome His Excellency Sheikh Shakhboub bin Nahyan

Al Nahyan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and his delegation to State House this morning," President Mnangagwa said.

He said Zimbabwe remained committed to deepening its economic and political relations with global partners.

"As part of our continuous engagement and re-engagement drive, Zimbabwe remains committed to deepening our economic and political ties with global partners," he said.

President Mnangagwa described the UAE as one of Zimbabwe's top trading partners, saying the discussions focused on upgrading strategic bilateral cooperation.

"The UAE is one of Zimbabwe's top trading allies, and today's fruitful

discussions centered on upgrading our strategic bilateral cooperation, with a particular focus on critical infrastructure developments like aviation and border digitisation," he said.

The two countries are also exploring opportunities to expand trade, innovation and sustainable investment, with the potential to create jobs and support Zimbabwe's economic development.

"Together, we are unlocking new pathways for trade, innovation, and sustainable investment that will create jobs and propel our economy forward," President Mnangagwa added.

He reiterated Zimbabwe's readiness to attract international investment, concluding: "Zimbabwe is open for business!"



GOOD QUALITY

PAVERS



**Holland
Pavers**



**Interlocking
Pavers**



**Hexagon
Pavers**

STARTING FROM

\$0.15 EACH



4888 Sandton Industrial Park
Sandton - Harare

📞 **0776 532 384** 📞 **0713 032 755**



**Perfect
edge**

Any dream. Any Job. Any Size.



Zimbabwe Marks Heroes, Defence Forces Days with Pride and Gratitude

Zimbabwe on Monday and Tuesday honour the country's national heroes and members of the Defence Forces for their sacrifices and contribution to the nation.

Heroes Day and Defence Forces Day remain important national commemorations, providing an opportunity for Zimbabweans to remember those who made significant sacrifices during the struggle for independence and to recognise the role played by the country's security services in protecting national

sovereignty.

Heroes Day is dedicated to remembering Zimbabweans who sacrificed their lives and freedom during the liberation struggle. Their courage and determination played a critical role in the attainment of independence in 1980.

The sacrifices of the liberation war heroes and heroines continue to form an important part of Zimbabwe's national history, with their contribution remembered through monuments, national

shrines and annual commemorations.

Defence Forces Day, observed the following day, recognises the contribution of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces in safeguarding the country's territorial integrity, maintaining peace and supporting national development.

Beyond their traditional defence responsibilities, members of the Defence Forces have participated in various national programmes, including disaster response, infrastructure development,

community assistance and other initiatives aimed at supporting citizens.

The two commemorations also provide an opportunity for Zimbabweans to reflect on the values of patriotism, unity, peace and national development.

The country marks the holidays, Zimbabweans are encouraged to remember the sacrifices of those who came before them while recognising the continued contribution of the Defence Forces to the nation.

The commemorations serve as a reminder that the freedom enjoyed today came at a significant cost and that preserving peace, unity and national sovereignty remains a shared responsibility.

Heroes Day and Defence Forces Day therefore go beyond public holidays, offering Zimbabwe an opportunity to celebrate its history, honour its heroes and reaffirm its commitment to building a peaceful and prosperous nation.

DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE?

HELP IS JUST A CALL AWAY



NATIONAL
TOLL-FREE
HELPLINE:

406

 FREE

 CONFIDENTIAL

 AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE

GET HELP FOR:

 Drug and substance abuse counselling

 Support for individuals and families

 Referrals to treatment and rehabilitation services

 Information on prevention and recovery

 Reporting drug-related concerns

 **Hurumende**
.com

Information for Empowerment

 **ZIMBABWE**
GOVERNMENT

Unity · Development · Prosperity

TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A DRUG-FREE ZIMBABWE

 Your call can save a life. Your support can change a future.



Transfer funds easily across the nation and around the globe.

Contact: marketing@zimpost.co.zw



Effortless USD Transfers Made Easy

Transfer funds quickly and securely today

ZIMPOST
DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES

BEYOND THE PARADE: ZDF PROJECTS TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

Clinics, classrooms, public-service offices and free medical outreach programmes highlight the Zimbabwe Defence Forces’ work beyond national security.

By Shyline Majaji

HARARE — For communities in Mwenezi and Beitbridge, this year’s Defence Forces Day commemorations will be remembered for more than military parades and ceremonial displays.

They will be remembered through new clinics bringing healthcare closer to rural families.

In Buhera, residents will remember the opening of a Civil Registry office expected to make identity documents and other essential services more accessible.

At Hallingbury Primary School in Harare, young learners will benefit from a new Early Childhood Development and Information and Communication Technology complex.

These projects form part of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Community Assistance Programme, which uses military engineers, artisans, medical personnel and other specialists to support communities across the country.

The completed facilities were handed over during the ZDF Community Assistance Week held from July 27 to 31 ahead of the 2026 Defence Forces Day celebrations.

The programme demonstrates the military’s peacetime role in supporting national development through the construction of schools, clinics, roads, bridges and other public infrastructure.

It also includes free medical outreach programmes conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

Commander of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces General Emmanuel Matatu said the programmes were being undertaken in all 10 provinces as part of the military’s constitutional responsibility to assist communities.

“The Zimbabwe Defence Forces is a people’s army ready to assist the communities as enshrined in the Constitution,” Gen Matatu said in remarks ahead of this year’s commemorations.

He said the ZDF’s peacetime mandate included helping to build social amenities such as clinics and schools while supporting the development of roads and bridges.

HEALTHCARE COMES CLOSER TO MWENEZI

One of the major projects handed over this year is the Nikita Mangena Clinic in Mwenezi District, Masvingo Province.

The facility is expected to reduce the distance travelled by residents seeking healthcare, particularly pregnant women, children, older people and patients with chronic illnesses.

Before the clinic was constructed, some residents reportedly travelled about 20 kilometres to reach Chirindi Clinic.

Long distances can delay treatment and place additional pressure on families who may not have reliable transport.

The new clinic is therefore more than a building. It represents quicker access to medical attention and a reduced burden on surrounding health facilities.

The project was implemented through cooperation involving the ZDF, the local

authority and the community.

Military artisans provided technical expertise and skilled labour, while community members and other partners contributed resources and support.

Mwenezi Rural District Council chief executive Albert Chivanga Ndlovu previously said the clinic would bring relief to communities that had struggled to access health services.

He commended the relationship between military artisans and residents during its construction.

The project demonstrates how cooperation between public institutions and communities can deliver essential infrastructure in underserved areas.

WHUNGA CLINIC BOOSTS BEITBRIDGE HEALTH SERVICES

In Matabeleland South, Whunga Clinic in Beitbridge District was also among the flagship community projects completed and handed over ahead of Defence Forces Day.

The clinic is expected to improve access to primary healthcare in an area where some communities travel considerable distances for treatment.

Rural clinics play an important role in providing maternal healthcare, immunisation, basic treatment, health education and referrals to larger hospitals.

By bringing these services closer to residents, the Whunga Clinic could help families seek medical assistance earlier rather than waiting until conditions become severe.

The project also reduces transport costs for patients and relatives.

For pregnant women and families with young children, having a clinic within easier reach can make a significant difference to health outcomes.

The Nikita Mangena and Whunga clinics show how the ZDF Community Assistance Programme is responding to practical needs identified by communities.

BRINGING CIVIL REGISTRATION SERVICES TO BUHERA

The Civil Registry Office constructed in Buhera District, Manicaland Province, represents another side of the ZDF’s community-support work.

Access to birth certificates, national identity documents and other civil-registration services is essential for participation in education, employment, banking, social protection and many other areas of life.

Residents in rural districts may be required to travel long distances to obtain these documents, sometimes making repeated journeys because of incomplete applications or administrative delays.

The new Buhera office is expected to bring services closer to the district’s residents and reduce the costs associated with travelling to distant centres.

Birth certificates are particularly important for children because they are often required for school enrolment and examinations.

National identity documents are similarly important for voting, opening bank accounts, seeking formal employment and accessing public services.

By helping construct the office, the ZDF has contributed to public infrastructure that supports residents throughout their lives.

ECD AND TECHNOLOGY BOOST FOR HARARE SCHOOL

In Harare, the ZDF completed an Early Childhood Development and ICT complex at Hallingbury Primary School in Mabel-reign.

The facility brings together two important areas of education: early learning and digital skills.

Early Childhood Development facilities provide younger pupils with age-appropriate classrooms and learning environments during a critical stage of their growth.

The ICT component is expected to give pupils greater access to computers and digital learning resources.

As education systems increasingly incorporate technology, learners without access to computers risk being left behind.

The new complex can help narrow that gap by introducing children to digital tools within the school environment.

The project also demonstrates that the Community Assistance Programme is not confined to rural areas.

Urban schools can also face shortages of classrooms, technology and specialised learning facilities because of population growth and limited resources.

The Hallingbury complex will complement efforts by education authorities and school communities to improve learning conditions.

CLASSROOMS OPEN DOORS TO EDUCATION

Beyond the four flagship handovers announced by the Government, the ZDF has continued supporting school construction in other parts of the country.

In Rushinga, Mashonaland Central, General Matatu commissioned a modern classroom block at Mubvunduzi Secondary School.

Artisans from the Zimbabwe National Army Artillery Brigade constructed the block in partnership with the school community and other stakeholders.

New classrooms can ease overcrowding, improve learning conditions and reduce the need for pupils to attend lessons in unsuitable facilities.

The project reflects a long-standing focus of the ZDF Community Assistance Programme on education.

Over the years, military engineers and artisans have helped build classroom blocks, Early Childhood Development centres, laboratories, dormitories, administration offices and ablution facilities.

Such projects are particularly important in growing settlements and disadvantaged communities where existing infrastructure may not accommodate all learners.

FREE HEALTHCARE REACHES VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Construction is only one part of the ZDF’s

community work.

Military doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals also conduct free medical outreach programmes in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

These programmes take healthcare services to communities where some residents cannot afford regular treatment or face difficulties travelling to hospitals.

Services can include general consultations, treatment, eye examinations, medication and health education.

Medical outreach programmes also assist in identifying conditions that require further investigation or referral.

For older people, people with disabilities and patients with chronic illnesses, the arrival of medical teams can provide access to services that might otherwise be delayed.

Gen Matatu said the ZDF would continue working with the Ministry of Health to conduct outreach programmes in different parts of the country.

The medical programmes reinforce the idea that national security includes the wellbeing and resilience of communities.

SKILLS IN THE SERVICE OF COMMUNITIES

The ZDF’s contribution to community projects is often centred on the provision of technical expertise and skilled labour.

The military has trained engineers, builders, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, healthcare workers and other specialists whose skills can be deployed during peacetime.

Beneficiary communities and development partners usually contribute building materials, funding or other resources, while military personnel provide technical and construction support.

This approach allows projects to be completed through shared responsibility.

It also helps reduce construction costs and provides communities with infrastructure designed and built by trained personnel.

The partnership model encourages residents to participate in the development of facilities they will use.

Schools, clinics and local authorities can identify their needs before working with the ZDF and other partners to implement the projects.

A PEOPLE’S DEFENCE FORCE

Defence Forces Day is traditionally associated with military parades, drills, equipment displays and speeches honouring the men and women who protect Zimbabwe’s sovereignty.

The Community Assistance Programme broadens the public’s understanding of the military’s role.

It shows soldiers building classrooms, medical officers treating patients and engineers constructing facilities that support daily life.

These projects are not undertaken only during Community Assistance Week.

Work continues throughout the year, while the designated week provides an

opportunity to hand over completed facilities and highlight their effect on beneficiaries.

The programme also helps strengthen relations between military personnel and civilians.

Communities interact with soldiers not only in emergencies or security operations, but also as builders, medical professionals and development partners.

PREPARING FOR DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

The ZDF’s community role also includes assistance during natural disasters and other emergencies.

Military personnel have skills and equipment that can be deployed during floods, storms, disease outbreaks and infrastructure failures.

Engineers can help restore damaged bridges and roads, while medical teams can assist affected communities.

The military’s organisational capacity also makes it an important partner in rescue operations and the distribution of emergency assistance.

Community-development projects can strengthen resilience before disasters occur.

Better clinics, roads, bridges and schools provide infrastructure that can support emergency responses when communities face crises.

A LASTING DEFENCE FORCES DAY LEGACY

The 2026 Defence Forces Day celebrations will be held at Rufaro Stadium in Harare on August 11 under the theme “ZDF: Guaranteeing Peace and Stability for the Attainment of Vision 2030”.

Similar commemorations will take place at provincial centres throughout the country.

The national programme will include an address by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, a military parade, displays, musical performances and a football match between Zimbabwe Defence Forces and Namibian Defence Forces select teams.

Long after the parade has ended and the crowds have left the stadium, the community projects will remain.

Patients will continue seeking treatment at Nikita Mangena and Whunga clinics.

Residents will continue obtaining documents from the Buhera Civil Registry Office.

Children will continue learning at the Hallingbury ECD and ICT complex and in classrooms constructed with military assistance.

That is the enduring story behind the celebrations.

The Zimbabwe Defence Forces’ contribution is measured not only by its ability to protect the country’s borders and sovereignty, but also by the clinics, classrooms and public facilities improving people’s lives.

Beyond the uniforms and ceremonial displays, the ZDF’s community programmes leave a practical legacy — one built in bricks, mortar, skills and service.

ZIMBABWE OPENS NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON INTERSEX RIGHTS

By Hurumende News Hub

Zimbabwe has taken a significant step towards addressing the legal, medical and social challenges faced by intersex people after the Government convened a high-level meeting on their rights and inclusion in Harare.

The breakfast meeting, held at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday, 5 August 2026, was organised by the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. It brought together senior Government officials, medical professionals, civil society organisations, development partners, parents of intersex children and intersex-led groups.

Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi attended the meeting alongside Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Minister Edgar Moyo and Health and Child Care Minister Dr Douglas Mombeshora. Deputy Justice Minister Advocate N.T. Mazungunye also participated.

The meeting focused on legal recognition, bodily autonomy, access to healthcare and public services, and protection from discrimination.

Government officials acknowledged that Zimbabwe's laws and administrative systems do not adequately respond to the lived realities of intersex people. Gaps remain in legislation, identity-documentation systems, healthcare guidelines and institutional procedures, while most official systems continue to classify citizens only as male or female.

The Ministry of Justice said the engagement followed national legal research and consultations intended to document the experiences of intersex people and identify weaknesses in law, policy and service delivery.

The United Nations Development Programme supported the research, whose findings are expected to inform future legal and policy reforms.

The programme included presentations on intersex people in Zimbabwe, testimony from members of the intersex community, findings from the national legal research and a high-level panel on institutional responses.

Discussions centred on four areas: legal and policy reform; protection from medically unnecessary and non-consensual interventions; access to identity documents and legal recognition; and inclusion in education, employment, sport and public services.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS BRING LIVED EXPERIENCE TO THE TABLE

Three intersex-led organisations took part in the meeting: Intersex Community Zimbabwe Trust, led by director Tsitsi Ndabambi; Intersex Community of Zimbabwe, led by Kuda Murisa; and Bulawayo-based Intersex Advocate Trust Zimbabwe, represented by Malume Ngwenya.

Parents of intersex children also shared personal experiences of diagnosis, stigma, difficult medical decisions and the challenge of dealing with systems built around strictly male and female classifications.

Dr Prisca Mureriwa of Sally Mugabe Central Hospital provided a clinical per-

spective, explaining the diversity and complexity of intersex variations and the need for multidisciplinary care involving health professionals, families and psychosocial-support services.

Participants said inadequate legal recognition affects much more than identity documents.

Intersex people can encounter difficulties obtaining birth certificates, national identity cards and passports. Differences between a person's sex characteristics and official records can also create barriers when enrolling at school, seeking healthcare, opening bank accounts, applying for work, owning property or using immigration and other public services.

They argued that legal identity is not simply an administrative matter, but a gateway to fundamental rights and full participation in society.

CALLS FOR SAFEGUARDS IN HEALTHCARE

The meeting heard concerns about medically unnecessary and irreversible procedures performed on intersex children without their informed consent.

Advocates called for clear national guidelines for health workers and families, particularly where an intersex child does not face an immediate medical emergency requiring intervention.

Participants also described stigma in healthcare facilities, including parents being subjected to derogatory language after giving birth to intersex children.

Some intersex people reportedly avoid public health institutions for fear of humiliation or discrimination.

Advocates said these experiences show the need to train healthcare workers and improve access to accurate information, counselling and specialised care.

Education emerged as another area of concern.

Intersex children may face bullying, stigma, enrolment difficulties and a lack of understanding among teachers and school administrators.

Participants called for schools to become safe and inclusive places where every child can learn without discrimination.

The meeting also examined access to justice.

Participants said the absence of explicit protection against discrimination based on sex characteristics can leave intersex people vulnerable to abuse and reluctant to report violations.

They called for awareness training for police officers, prosecutors, lawyers and judicial officers so that intersex people can seek justice without experiencing further discrimination.

IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AND PRIVACY

Participants urged the Civil Registry to establish a clear, respectful process for reviewing official records when a person's sex characteristics become apparent or are understood differently later in life.



They also strongly rejected humiliating practices in which a person might be asked to expose their body to prove their identity or sex characteristics, stressing that privacy and dignity must be protected.

Minister Moyo said the discussions had exposed a genuine gap in Zimbabwe's statutes because existing systems largely recognise only male and female classifications.

He said Government institutions needed to become more adaptive and inclusive, while acknowledging that cultural beliefs had contributed to poor public understanding of intersex issues.

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare highlighted its child-protection mandate and the need to consider measures that ensure intersex children receive appropriate recognition, care and protection.

Participants also raised the treatment of intersex people in prisons.

They noted limited specialised training among correctional officers and a lack of comprehensive procedures governing the admission, classification, accommodation, healthcare and protection of intersex inmates.

Stakeholders called for practical, rights-based procedures that protect intersex inmates from abuse and discrimination while respecting their safety and dignity.

Government representatives described the meeting as an important learning opportunity and acknowledged the need for institutional training and clear operating procedures.

The Ministry of Justice said the findings from the consultations would be validated with stakeholders before being developed into specific legal and policy proposals.

It pledged continued engagement with intersex people and civil society organisations, as well as feedback on progress.

'WE WERE HEARD; NOW WE WANT ACTION'

Ndabambi said the meeting marked an important moment for Zimbabwe's intersex community after years of advocacy and closed-door engagement.

"The engagement was a powerful and important moment for Zimbabwe's intersex community because, for perhaps the first time, our concerns were being discussed directly at such a high level, with ministers, senior Government officials, medical professionals and other key stakeholders in the room," she said.

She said she left the meeting encouraged, but conscious that dialogue must now produce measurable results.

"For years, intersex persons and their families have lived with stigma, discrimination, uncertainty around identity and documentation, barriers to healthcare and education, and decisions about their bodies being operated on without their informed consent," Ndabambi said.

She added: "Our recommendations are therefore not simply a wish list; they are a call for Government to translate the dialogue into meaningful and measurable action."

Priorities identified by Intersex Community Zimbabwe Trust include affordable and accessible healthcare for intersex people and their families, particularly children; protection from unnecessary and non-consensual medical interventions; equal access to education, employment, sport, public services and political participation; stronger legal protection against discrimination; appropriate legal recognition; and safe, dignified access to public facilities and places of detention.

Ndabambi also called for sustained public education, saying misinformation and lack of awareness continue to fuel stigma.

"As Intersex Community Zimbabwe Trust, we are ready to work alongside Government, medical professionals and other stakeholders to take this conversation forward. We were heard; now we want to see that listening translated into action," she said.

She stressed that the community was not seeking preferential treatment.

"Intersex people are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for equal rights, dignity, protection and the opportunity to live our lives without discrimination. As the President has said, no person should be left behind."

FROM CONSULTATION TO ACTION

The high-level meeting followed closed-door dialogues and provincial consultations held in Harare, Bulawayo and Masvingo.

Those meetings allowed intersex people to share their experiences in safer and more confidential settings.

The consultations sought to document lived experiences, identify shortcomings in legislation and service delivery, gather recommendations for an inclusive legal framework and uphold the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us".

For the organisations involved, the Harare meeting represented a shift from closed consultations to a public national conversation with senior policymakers.

The next phase will test Government's commitment.

Advocates want authorities to review laws, develop institutional guidelines, train frontline workers and establish practical systems that respond to the realities of intersex people across Zimbabwe.

The Ministry of Justice said the research and engagement process remains underway, with evidence, expert input and lived experience expected to shape concrete proposals.

For Zimbabwe's intersex community, the meeting was more than a breakfast gathering.

It placed intersex voices within the national conversation on law, healthcare, identity, education, employment, justice and social protection.

The community has spoken and Government has listened. The next measure of progress will be action.



DRUNK DRIVING: Zimbabwe's roads a ticking time bomb

The recent arrests of Edgar Sibanda and Donovan Denga for driving under the influence of alcohol are not isolated incidents.

They represent a deadly culture of recklessness that continues to claim innocent lives on Zimbabwe's roads.

On 6 August 2026, Sibanda, 26, was intercepted at a checkpoint along High-glen Road after attempting to flee from officers while driving a Toyota Coaster with three passengers.

A breathalyser test confirmed he was intoxicated. On the same day, Denga, 45, was arrested after a minor accident along Harare-Mutare Road, with a breathalyser confirming he too was un-

der the influence.

These incidents follow the jailing of Admire Ndebele, a 55-year-old kombi driver who was sentenced to two years in prison after being caught with a blood alcohol level of 270mg per 100ml, more than three times the legal limit, while carrying 16 passengers along the Bulawayo-Beitbridge Road.

The Beitbridge Magistrates' Court rightly handed down the maximum penalty, sending a clear message that there is zero tolerance for such dangerous behaviour.

However, one wonders whether these penalties are enough to deter others.

As National Police Spokesperson Commissioner Paul Nyathi has stated, the National Prosecuting Authority "warns drivers that there is zero tolerance for drunk driving and the flouting of road regulations."

The statistics paint a grim picture. While the Zimbabwe Republic Police recorded a drop in total accidents during the 2026 Easter holiday, 337 accidents compared to 384 in 2025, the number of deaths rose from 24 to 30.

This means that although fewer crashes are occurring, they are becoming more lethal. The death rate per accident increased by 41 percent from 2025 to 2026.

Pedestrians accounted for 19 of the 30 Easter deaths, nearly two-thirds of all fatalities. This is a national disgrace.

To its credit, the ZRP has launched a nationwide blitz targeting traffic offences, including drunk driving, unregistered vehicles, and reckless driving.

On 14 July alone, 1 809 arrests were made, bringing the cumulative total to over 2 000 since the operation began. Commissioner-General Stephen Mutamba has also warned that police are now equipped with breathalyser machines and will be conducting tests on suspected offenders during the upcoming Heroes and Defence Forces holidays. This is a welcome development.

However, enforcement alone is not enough. We need a cultural shift. Motorists must understand that driving under the influence is not a minor offense, it is a crime that endangers every person on the road.

As we approach the Heroes and Defence Forces holidays, let us remember the words of Local Government Deputy Minister Hon. Albert Mavhunga, who recently declared road safety a national priority.

"The greatest tribute we can pay to the memory of those we have lost today is to ensure that such tragedies do not recur."

No destination is worth a human life.

ZACC nabs Hwedza man

The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) has arrested Cephas Ndudzo for allegedly selling and allocating State land designated for the expansion of Hwedza Growth Point, pocketing USD 1 300 in an illicit deal.

Ndudzo appeared at the Hwedza Magistrates' Court on charges of unlawfully disposing of land belonging to the State.

He was remanded out of custody on free bail and is scheduled to return to court on 12 August 2026.

According to ZACC, between 31 October and 16 November 2025, Ndudzo sold a portion of State land in Ndudzo Village to one Courage Chemhere for USD 1 300 without any authority from the Hwedza Rural District Council, the legitimate custodian of the land.

"Investigations established that the land belongs to the State and is reserved for the expansion of Hwedza Growth Point," ZACC stated in its official release, confirming the arrest.

The case highlights the growing menace of land barons who prey on unsuspecting home-seekers while undermining orderly urban planning and development.



The land in question was never allocated to Ndudzo, nor did he have any legal claim to it, investigators said.

ZACC has intensified its crackdown on land fraud as the government pushes to regularise settlements and protect State resources from corrupt individuals.

The commission has urged members of the public to verify land ownership with relevant local authorities before entering into any land transactions.

Ndudzo's arrest is the latest in a series of ZACC operations targeting illegal land allocations across the country.

The commission has vowed to pursue all individuals involved in land fraud, warning that no one is above the law.

"The commission continues to warn members of the public against land barons and urges citizens to report any suspicious land dealings."

Ndudzo remains free pending his next court appearance as investigations continue.



11 citizens repatriated from South Africa

Itai Mazire

Government has declared the Munhenzva bus disaster a State of Disaster, as grieving families gathered today at a mass memorial service for 11 citizens who perished in a horrific crash in South Africa's Free State province last week.

President Mnangagwa declared the tragedy a national disaster on 1 August, triggering immediate government intervention. Authorities facilitated the repatriation of all 11 bodies from South Africa, extended state assistance towards funeral arrangements, and provided grocery support to affected families during their time of grief.

Glen View residents demand prepaid water meters

Itai Mazire

Glen View residents are demanding that Harare City Council and Helcrow Water urgently install prepaid water meters, saying the system could help bring greater transparency to water billing while encouraging improved service delivery in the suburb.

The demand comes as a new water and sanitation report exposes a stark divide in Glen View, with some households receiving municipal water only once or twice a month while others have supplies on most weekdays.

The Harare Residents Trust (HRT) Water and Sanitation Barometer, covering the period from June 7 to July 7, 2026, found that residents in Glen View 4 were receiving council water only once or twice a month, usually in the evening.

The little water reaching some households was reportedly dirty and greenish, raising concerns over water quality.

Residents without reliable municipal supplies have been forced to rely on private boreholes, with some paying as much as US\$1 for five buckets.

In Glen View 7, the situation is relatively better, with council water reportedly available from Monday to Friday.

However, residents around 8th Circle continue to contend with chronic sewer bursts which have not been permanently resolved despite council interventions.

Glen View 7 has also been receiving supplementary water from a borehole donated by Médecins Sans Frontières.

Against this backdrop, a snap survey conducted by Hurumende News Hub has found that an overwhelming majority of residents believe prepaid water meters could help address some of the suburb's water problems.

Residents say prepaid meters could end disputes over estimated bills by ensuring households pay only for the water they actually consume.

They also believe the system could improve accountability by giving residents a clearer picture of their consumption while ensuring council collects revenue upfront.

Ms Gamuchirai Gomba, a Glen View 3 resident who supports the prepaid rollout, said the system could restore confi-

dence in municipal billing.

"Prepaid meters will bring transparency because everyone will know exactly what they have paid for and how much water they have used," she said.

Another resident, Ms Angeline Zindoga said prepaid meters would also eliminate the practice of estimating household consumption.

"We will only pay for the water we actually use instead of being billed based on guesses," she said.

However, some Glen View residents argue that metering alone will not solve the water crisis unless council first ensures reliable supplies.

Mr Martson Marecha of Gen View 1 said residents were concerned about being charged for a service that was not consistently available.

"Will the installation help alleviate the water crisis? They are adding a burden to us when we don't even have water to measure," he said.

Harare Mayor Jacob Mafume has on several occasions defended the prepaid water programme, saying it would prevent residents from being billed for water they had not received.

"Once you have a prepaid water meter, if the water has not come, we are not charging you. We are no longer giving you estimates," Mafume said.

He said the system would also give council access to revenue in real time, allowing it to reinvest in water infrastructure.

Helcrow Water managing director Mr Zodeck Muchoko said the rollout was progressing, with more than 70 000 prepaid meters installed so far and Glen View prioritised for the next phase.

Muchoko said the utility was targeting about 106 kilometres of pipe replacement this year, with 52 kilometres already completed through the replacement of ageing pipes with PVC pipes.

Suburbs including Kuwadzana, Warren Park and Glen View have been prioritised because of major metering challenges.

For Glen View residents, however, the expectation is that prepaid metering should go hand in hand with improvements in water availability and infrastructure.

The HRT report attributes Harare's wider water crisis to ageing infrastructure, inadequate maintenance and slow responses to reported faults.

It recommended that the City of Harare introduce a 48-hour response standard for reported water leaks, burst pipes and sewer overflows.

The residents' organisation also called for a time-bound programme to replace ageing water and sewer infrastructure, with Glen View 4 specifically identified for priority attention.

It further recommended regular water-quality monitoring and publication of results for individual distribution zones.

For Glen View residents, prepaid meters could therefore provide more than a new way of paying for water.

If combined with pipe replacement, faster repairs and reliable supplies, they could help create a more transparent system in which residents pay according to actual consumption while council is held accountable for delivering the service.



The tragedy unfolded on 31 July along the N1 Highway in Trompsburg when a bus carrying 78 passengers overturned, killing 10 at the scene and leaving one injured passenger to later succumb at Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein.

The deceased include one adult male, five adult females, and five minors, two boys and three girls, hailing from Buhera, Bikita, Wedza, Zvishavane, Beatrice, and Shurugwi. Thirteen others sustained injuries.

"On behalf of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde Dr E.D. Mnangagwa, the Government of Zimbabwe and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families on this sad, untimely and tragic loss of your beloved family members," said Deputy Minister for Local Government and Public Works, Hon Albert Mavhunga spoke on behalf of Minister Daniel Garwe, and officiated as chief mourner at the Beitbridge memorial service.

"His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde Dr. ED Mnangagwa, has consistently called upon Zimbabweans to exercise maximum caution on our roads, reminding the nation that road safety is everyone's responsibility," said Hon. Garwe.

As Zimbabwe prepares to commemorate Heroes and Defence Forces holidays, the Deputy Minister issued a stern warning to motorists and public transport operators.

"The greatest tribute we can pay to the memory of those we have lost today is to ensure that such tragedies do not recur," Mavhunga urged. "Drivers must exercise patience, avoid speeding, dangerous overtaking and reckless driving and ensure that their vehicles are roadworthy before embarking on any journey. No destination is worth a human life."

The names of the deceased were read out during the solemn ceremony: Grace Machingura, Michelyn Tinekutenda Makunura, Mashura Phillip, Mashura ShyIn Merlin, Madhoro Nyaradzo, Mutero Ellis, Mukuwe Vallary, Mukuwe Angel Vanissa, Mukuwe Star, Sheilla Gondo, and Praise (Anyway) Rukombo.

"These were not just statistics; they were mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, relatives, friends and our neighbours.

"Let us all commit ourselves to making this Heroes and Defence Forces Holiday a period of joy, peace and safe travel for every Zimbabwean."

The mass memorial service, held at Beitbridge and coordinated by District Development Coordinator S. Mafu, included prayers, a sermon, and addresses from government officials and family representatives.

The government has vowed to continue supporting bereaved families as the nation mourns its loss.

Spain, Zimbabwe Move to Deepen Tourism Cooperation



Takudzwa Karowangoro

Zimbabwe and Spain are set to strengthen cooperation in the tourism sector as the two countries seek to use tourism to promote economic growth, investment and stronger people-to-people ties.

Spain is one of Zimbabwe's top three international tourism source markets.

The commitment was reaffirmed when Spain's Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Her Excellency Lourdes Sangroniz, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Hon Barbara Rwodzi.

Ambassador Sangroniz commended Zimbabwe for its strong tourism performance and praised the country's diverse tourism products.

"The KAZA UniVisa and the gastronomy tourism initiative being promoted under the patronage of the First Lady, Her Excellency Dr Auxillia Mnangagwa," she said.

The initiatives were described as important in promoting sustainable tourism development and regional integration.

Minister Rwodzi said Zimbabwe remained committed to deepening tourism cooperation with Spain in areas such as destination management, hospitality, gastronomy and tourism education.

"Tourism remained a strategic pillar under the National Development Strategy 2," she said.

Minister Rwodzi called for the signing of the concluded Tourism Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries, saying it would strengthen destination marketing, investment promotion, technical cooperation, information sharing and skills development.

"We must increase cooperation between Zimbabwean and Spanish tour operators to boost tourist arrivals between the two countries," she said.

The Minister said Zimbabwe was diversifying its tourism sector beyond traditional nature and wildlife tourism to include gastronomy, religious and sports tourism.

"Gastronomy tourism was also helping Zimbabwe strengthen its soft diplomacy and international relations.

Zimbabwe's benchmark study visit to the Basque Culinary Centre in Spain, which is expected to support the establishment of the Africa International Academy for Culinary Arts," Minister Rwodzi added.

She also invited Spain to participate in the upcoming Sanganayi/Hlanganani Dzimbahwe World Tourism Expo, which will be held in Masvingo from 9 to 12 September 2026.

The growing cooperation between Zimbabwe and Spain is expected to create more opportunities for tourism investment, skills development, cultural exchange and increased visitor arrivals.

Old Mutual returns to Zim Market with VFEX listing

Itai Mazire

Pan-African financial services giant Old Mutual Limited has officially listed on the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX), ending a six-year trading suspension and marking a major vote of confidence in Zimbabwe's evolving financial architecture. Trading is set to commence on 12 August 2026 .

Officiating at the listing ceremony in Victoria Falls, Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube congratulated VFEX on establishing itself as a credible and competitive platform capable of connecting Zimbabwe to regional and international capital. He described the listing as a significant milestone in the evolution of Zimbabwe's capital markets.

"Today's milestone is a powerful demonstration of the progress that is possible when Government, regulators, market institutions and the private sector work together with a shared vision."

"This decision represents an important endorsement of the Exchange's

growing role within Zimbabwe's and regional capital markets," said Prof Ncube.

He highlighted Old Mutual's longstanding contribution to Zimbabwe's economy, including mobilising long-term savings and investing in productive

sectors such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing and services.

"To Old Mutual, Zimbabwe is building, and we cannot build alone," he added .

Old Mutual Africa CEO Clement Chinkanda said the migration of the company's secondary listing from the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange to VFEX reflects confidence in the evolution of VFEX as an important platform for investment mobilisation and capital formation.

Old Mutual Group CEO Jurie Strydom emphasised the migration was about restoring market access for shareholders.

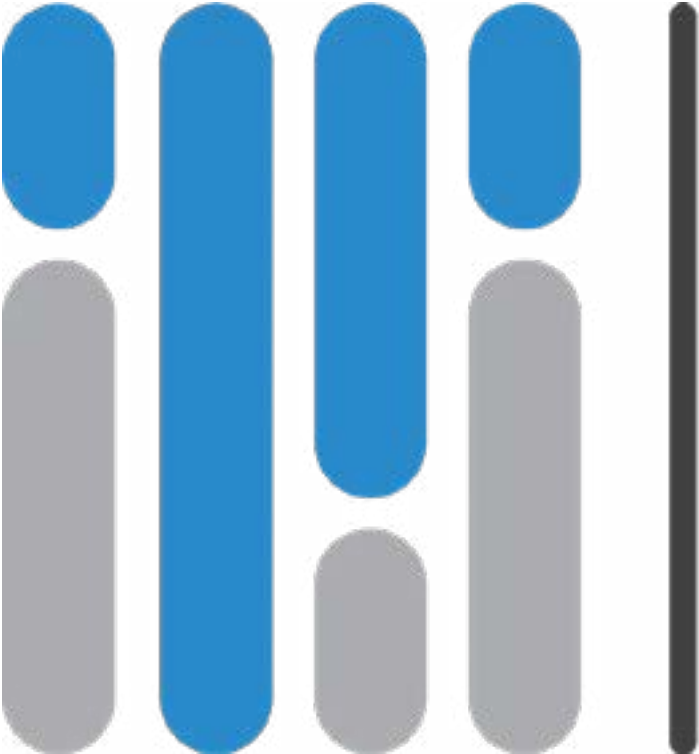
"This migration is about restoring choice and visibility of investment exposure to Old Mutual for our Zimbabwean shareholders," he said .

The opening price on VFEX will be independently determined by the market via bids and offers without usual trading limits on the first day, with normal 20 percent limits applying from the second trading day .

Prof. Ncube said that Zimbabwe's economic expansion cannot rely solely on commercial bank lending, calling for deeper capital markets.

He urged Old Mutual to partner with Government through the Infrastructure Fund, combining public purpose with private capital.

Declaring Old Mutual Limited officially listed, the Minister called for continued collaboration between Government, regulators, market institutions and the private sector to drive sustainable economic growth.



VICTORIA FALLS STOCK EXCHANGE

Vendor licence renewals face new ZIMRA tax check

Treasury proposes linking council trading permits to presumptive-tax compliance as it moves to widen Zimbabwe's tax base.

By Abel Karowangoro

Informal traders could soon be required to prove that they are compliant with Zimbabwe Revenue Authority presumptive-tax obligations before renewing their vendor licences under a new proposal by Treasury.

Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube has proposed connecting local authorities' licensing systems with ZIMRA's tax records through a shared digital platform.

Under the proposal, information held by councils would be used to register traders for tax purposes and confirm their compliance when they apply for or renew licences.

The plan would affect traders operating from council markets, shops, stalls and designated vending sites. It is intended to bring more micro and small enterprises into the national tax system.

Local authorities already maintain information on traders' names, business activities, operating locations, licence histories and renewal dates. ZIMRA administers presumptive taxes separately.

Treasury wants to close the gap between obtaining permission from a

council to trade and meeting national tax obligations.

If implemented, the integrated system could issue traders with tax identification numbers, place them in appropriate presumptive-tax categories, record payments and confirm their compliance before councils renew their licences.

The proposal comes as the Government seeks to spread the tax burden beyond formal companies and workers.

Zimbabwe collected ZIG137.8 billion, equivalent to about US\$5.15 billion, during the first half of 2026. The figure was ZIG13.4 billion, or 10.8 percent, above the ZIG124.4 billion revenue target.

Value Added Tax contributed 28 percent of total revenue, followed by personal income tax at 17 percent and corporate income tax at 14 percent. Excise duty accounted for eight percent, while the Intermediated Money Transfer Tax contributed six percent.

The figures show that Treasury continues to depend heavily on economic activities already visible through formal companies, payroll systems, banks and registered retailers.

Formal businesses have long complained that they carry corporate tax,

VAT, PAYE, regulatory levies, pension obligations and reporting costs while some smaller enterprises compete for the same customers without facing similar tax obligations.

Treasury believes expanding the number of registered taxpayers could increase revenue without introducing further taxes on businesses and consumers already operating within the formal system.

However, the proposed system could increase operating costs for vendors who already pay council licence fees, rentals, market charges and other levies.

Its success is likely to depend on whether presumptive-tax rates reflect the different sizes and earnings of informal businesses.

A street vendor with limited daily sales would struggle to meet the same obligations as a wholesaler or trader operating several outlets. Tax rates may therefore need to be determined by turnover, business activity, location and licence category.

High fixed charges could discourage traders from renewing their licences and push more businesses into unregistered or unregulated trading areas. Such an outcome would reduce both

council revenue and ZIMRA's ability to monitor economic activity.

A graduated tax structure could provide a more manageable route for small traders to move from survivalist operations into established businesses and, eventually, the ordinary tax system.

Treasury's proposal could also offer benefits to compliant traders.

A record of licence renewals, tax payments and digital transactions could help small businesses demonstrate continuity and cash flow when applying for loans, insurance, supplier credit and other financial services.

Many informal enterprises struggle to obtain working capital because they lack financial statements, verifiable turnover records and recognised operating histories.

Local authorities could also benefit from integrated records by identifying unlicensed traders, reducing fraudulent or duplicate permits and improving the collection of licence fees.

More reliable data could assist councils in planning market space, sanitation, security and infrastructure.

The system would, however, require dependable technology and safeguards

against administrative errors.

Delayed payment confirmations, inaccurate identity records or failures to match council and ZIMRA information could prevent compliant traders from renewing their licences.

Clear procedures would be required to allow traders to correct inaccurate records, appeal disputed tax obligations and receive temporary authority to operate while cases are being resolved.

Data protection is also expected to be a major concern because the proposed platform would combine traders' personal details, business information and payment histories across several public institutions.

Treasury has not yet announced when the proposal will be piloted or implemented nationally.

Analysts say authorities should begin with councils that already have reliable digital licensing systems before extending the programme across the country.

The proposal marks a significant shift in the administration of Zimbabwe's informal economy. A vendor licence would no longer serve only as permission to trade; it would also become a gateway into the national tax system.



Vendors conduct business at a busy market in Harare. Treasury proposes linking the renewal of council trading licences to ZIMRA presumptive-tax compliance.

Zim’s agricultural miracle

Opinion by Itai Mazire

When the African Development Bank injected USD 25 million into Zimbabwe's emergency food production project four years ago, it was meant to be a lifeline, a temporary fix to shield the nation from the devastating shocks of COVID-19, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and fractured global supply chains.

What has emerged, however, is far more than a rescue mission. It is a blueprint for agricultural transformation that has not only saved livelihoods but is now shaping Zimbabwe's path to food sovereignty and economic renaissance.

The statistics are nothing short of staggering. Over 188 000 farming households have been empowered across 153 000 hectares of productive land.

Average wheat yields have soared to an impressive five tonnes per hectare, a remarkable achievement for a country that once struggled to meet its domestic wheat demand.

The project exceeded its farmer target by 8 000 beneficiaries, with women comprising 60 percent of participants, well above the 40 percent goal. This is not just development speak, this is real change in the lives of mothers, fathers, and children across Zimbabwe's rural heartlands from Buhera to Bikita, Wedza to Shurugwi.

What sets this project apart from countless others is its deliberate shift from

handouts to systems that endure. The Seed Revolving Fund, implemented through AFC Land and Development Bank, is nothing short of revolutionary.

With a loan repayment rate exceeding 90 percent, it has proven what sceptics have long doubted, smallholder farmers are creditworthy.

More than 90 957 farmers, including 33 108 women, accessed quality inputs and repaid their loans, breaking the cycle of dependency that has plagued agricultural aid for decades.

This revolving model ensures sustainability, meaning the fund will continue to empower even more farmers in the years ahead without requiring fresh donor injections.

"The Seed Revolving Fund is the blueprint for breaking the cycle of dependency and fostering genuine farmer ownership," declared Professor Obert Jiri, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development.

Indeed, this model should be replicated across every agricultural programme in the country and beyond.

The project's success is particularly poignant given the context.

When it launched in 2022, Zimbabwe was reeling from multiple crises. The pandemic had disrupted supply chains, the Ukraine war had sent fertiliser and

grain prices through the roof, and climate change was making farming increasingly unpredictable.

Yet through strategic partnerships, with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, private sector players like Fertiliser and Seeds Group, and government agencies-the project turned emergency response into long-term resilience.

The partial credit guarantee scheme, administered through the Africa Fertiliser Financing Mechanism, exceeded its USD 15 million target by more than USD 44 million in fertiliser sales.

Over 80 000 tonnes of fertiliser moved through 23 private-sector agents. This is not aid, this is market-building on an unprecedented scale, demonstrating that Zimbabwe's agricultural sector is ripe for private investment.

The project also recognised that 21st-century farming requires 21st-century tools.

The IDEA farmer registry platform has digitised agricultural service delivery, creating a foundation for data-driven extension services that can track farmer performance, input usage, and yield patterns in real-time. Metal grain silos, threshers, moisture meters and oil-processing equipment have cut post-harvest losses, a persistent drain on farmers' incomes that previously claimed up to 30 percent of harvests.

By strengthening the Seed Services Institute and the Crop Breeding Institute, the project has reduced reliance on imported seeds, bolstering domestic seed production capacity and saving foreign currency.

As Eyerusalem Fasika, the African Development Bank's Country Manager for Zimbabwe, aptly noted, "These are not just numbers on a page, they represent farming families who adopted new practices, accessed financing and are now reaping the rewards in their harvests."

This is transformation at its most authentic.

Perhaps the most exciting development is that the lessons and financing models from this project are now shaping Zimbabwe's Agriculture, Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy 2 (2026-2030).

The strategy targets a USD 15.8 billion agricultural sector and aims to raise agriculture's contribution to GDP to between 12 and 15 percent by 2030. This is not a pipe dream, it is a roadmap grounded in proven success.

With climate-smart agriculture at its core, the strategy promises to make Zimbabwe a regional breadbasket once again while building resilience against future shocks.

"For FAO, this project evolved from a rapid response into a transformative initiative with impacts extending well be-

yond emergency support," said Patrice Talla, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa and Representative to Zimbabwe.

"The project made a significant contribution to building more resilient, inclusive and market-oriented agrifood systems."

As Professor Jiri said, "This is not merely the conclusion of a USD 25 million project, it is a celebration of resilience, a testament to the power of strategic partnerships, and a foundational milestone on our transformative journey towards Vision 2030."

The African Development Bank has reaffirmed its commitment to the next phase, vowing to carry the lessons forward.

The government has already begun integrating the project's innovations into national policy. Private sector partners are eager to expand their involvement.

The 188 000 farming families who benefited are now ambassadors of a new agricultural ethos, one rooted in dignity, self-reliance and prosperity.

With such partnerships, proven models and a clear vision, Zimbabwe is not just recovering from emergencies, it is building a food-secure future for generations to come.

The harvest has only just begun.

Emergency fund empowers 188K farmers

Itai Mazire

A four-year emergency agricultural programme has transformed Zimbabwe's food landscape, delivering record wheat harvests and climate-smart farming to more than 188 000 households while unlocking over USD 44 million in private-sector financing, officials confirmed last week.

The Zimbabwe Emergency Food Production Project, funded by the African Development Bank's USD 25 million Transitional Support Facility, exceeded all targets across 153 000 hectares.

It boosted average wheat yields to five tonnes per hectare, expanded drought-tolerant seed production and supplied improved technologies to farmers reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and global supply chain shocks.

"This is not merely the conclusion of a USD 25 million project, it is a celebration of resilience, a testament to the power of strategic partnerships and a foundational milestone on our transformative journey towards Vision 2030," said Professor Obert Jiri, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development.

Unlike traditional emergency aid focused on handouts, the initiative built lasting systems. Its Seed Revolving Fund, implemented through AFC Land and Development Bank, supported over 90 957 farmers, including about 33 108 women, with a loan repayment rate above 90 percent, proving smallholders' creditworthiness.

"These are not just numbers on a page, they represent farming families who adopted new practices, accessed financing, and are now reaping the rewards in their harvests," said Eyerusalem Fasika, the African Development Bank Group's Country Manager for Zimbabwe, noting that women made up 60 percent of beneficiaries, well above the 40 percent target.

The project modernised service delivery through the IDEA farmer registry platform, supplied metal grain silos and threshers to cut post-harvest losses, and strengthened the Seed Services Institute to reduce import dependence.

A partial credit guarantee scheme, run with the Africa Fertiliser Financing Mechanism and Fertiliser and Seeds Group, moved over 80 000 tonnes of fertiliser through 23 private agents, exceeding its \$15 million target by more than USD 44

million in sales.

"For FAO, this project evolved from a rapid response into a transformative initiative with impacts extending well beyond emergency support," said Patrice Talla, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa and Representative to Zimbabwe.

"The project made a significant contribution to building more resilient, inclusive and market-oriented agrifood systems."

"The Seed Revolving Fund is the blueprint for breaking the cycle of dependency and fostering genuine farmer ownership," said Prof Jiri.

The project's financing models are now shaping Zimbabwe's Agriculture, Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy 2 (2026-2030), which targets a USD 15.8 billion agricultural sector and aims to raise agriculture's GDP contribution to 12-15 percent by 2030.

The African Development Bank has reaffirmed its commitment to the next phase, vowing to carry the lessons forward as Zimbabwe secures its food sovereignty.





Period Poverty Faces Legal Fight

By Tsitsi Ndabambi

For many girls in Zimbabwe, the start of a menstrual period can mean missing lessons, falling behind in class or staying at home because sanitary products are unaffordable.

For some women, it can mean choosing between buying food and purchasing menstrual products. In rural communities, emergency settings and places without adequate water and sanitation facilities, managing menstruation safely and with dignity can be even more difficult.

The Government now wants to address these challenges through a national menstrual health policy framework that could eventually be developed into an Act of Parliament.

Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Minister Senator Monica Mutsvangwa announced the plan during the two-day Zimbabwe Menstrual Health Symposium held at Rainbow Towers in Harare from August 5 to 6, 2026.

She told delegates that menstrual health should not be treated solely as a medical concern, but as a matter of dignity, education and economic empowerment.

“Menstrual health is a matter of health, dignity, education and economic empowerment for girls and women in Zimbabwe,” Sen Mutsvangwa said.

The symposium was held under the theme, “Advancing Standards, Policy Reform and Market Development for Affordable Menstrual Products”.

It brought together Government officials, development partners, United Nations agencies, private-sector representatives, academics and civil society organisations to discuss ways of strengthening Zimbabwe’s response to menstrual health challenges.

Sen Mutsvangwa said the symposium was aligned with the National Development Strategy 2, Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5 and 6.

She said stronger standards for menstrual products could stimulate local manufacturing, facilitate trade and improve access to safe, affordable and high-quality products.

THE HIDDEN COST OF MENSTRUATION

Across Zimbabwe, many girls and women, particularly those from vulnerable communities, still struggle to afford menstrual products.

Some resort to unsafe alternatives, including pieces of cloth and tissue paper, which can expose them to discomfort and possible infection.

The situation becomes more difficult during emergencies and displacement, when access to clean water, private sanitation facilities and essential hygiene supplies is severely limited.

As part of Government and United Nations Population Fund efforts to support vulnerable groups, Sen Mutsvangwa said her Ministry had donated 800 dignity kits to returnees at the Beitbridge Reception Centre.

The kits provided immediate menstrual-health and hygiene support to women and girls rebuilding their lives after returning to Zimbabwe.

However, the effects of inadequate menstrual health management go far beyond physical health.

For schoolgirls, particularly those in rural communities, a lack of menstrual products and adequate sanitation facilities can lead to absenteeism, lost learning time and poor academic performance. In some cases, persistent challenges can contribute to school dropout.

Women who cannot access suitable menstrual products may also struggle to participate fully in employment, trade, training and other income-generating activities.

“Menstruation also remains surrounded by stigma, silence and misinformation in many of our communities,” Sen Mutsvangwa said.

She said such attitudes undermine the confidence and self-esteem of girls and women and restrict their ability to participate fully in society.

MAKING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS AFFORDABLE

The Government has introduced several measures intended to improve the affordability of menstrual products.

These include the removal of Value Added Tax and import duties on menstrual products through Statutory

Instrument 4 of 2020.

The Ministry has also committed itself to supporting the provision of menstrual products in schools, with particular attention being given to girls in rural areas and other vulnerable groups.

Another Government intervention involves training women and girls to manufacture reusable sanitary pads using safe, high-quality materials.

According to Sen Mutsvangwa, the programme is intended to improve access to affordable products while equipping women and girls with practical skills, promoting local production and strengthening economic self-reliance.

The reusable-pad programme is being complemented by menstrual health education targeting women and girls, as well as men and boys.

Sen Mutsvangwa stressed that menstrual health should not be regarded exclusively as a women’s issue. She said the involvement of men and boys was essential to challenging stigma, correcting misinformation and building supportive families and communities.

“My Ministry, in collaboration with the World Bank and UNFPA, is developing an educational package on menstrual health and hygiene under the East Africa Girls’ Empowerment and Resilience Programme,” she said.

Known as EAGER, the programme will provide age-appropriate information to girls and boys in schools. Menstrual health education will also be extended to communities, out-of-school youths, women and girls.

The Minister said the educational package would help establish a culture in which menstruation is understood as a natural biological process rather than something associated with shame.

FROM POLICY TO LAW

A major outcome expected from the symposium is the development of a comprehensive national Menstrual Health Management Policy or Framework.

The framework would bring together existing interventions and establish a coordinated platform for the Government, development partners, civil society organisations, private companies and other stakeholders.

“We are steadfast in our resolve to

eventually mature this framework into a fully fledged Act of Parliament, ensuring that menstrual health and hygiene in Zimbabwe are permanently safeguarded by the force of law,” Sen Mutsvangwa said.

If enacted, such a law could give menstrual health greater prominence within Zimbabwe’s health and education systems, workplace policies and community-development programmes.

It could also provide a stronger foundation for addressing product affordability, safety standards, education, sanitation and protection from discrimination.

The Minister said the symposium was expected to improve understanding of international menstrual health management standards and encourage dialogue on policy and regulatory reforms.

It was also intended to strengthen national coordination, improve resource mobilisation and identify fiscal, regulatory and market measures that could make menstrual products more affordable and accessible.

Sen Mutsvangwa said girls and young women must remain at the centre of the policy-development process. She also called for the meaningful participation of private-sector companies involved in manufacturing, importing and distributing menstrual products.

SETTING SAFETY AND QUALITY STANDARDS

The Standards Association of Zimbabwe is expected to play an important role in developing and strengthening national standards for menstrual products.

Sen Mutsvangwa recognised the association’s work in coordinating the Menstrual Products Technical Committee.

Clear standards could help ensure that products available on the Zimbabwean market are safe and reliable while supporting the growth of local manufacturers.

The Minister also commended UNFPA, its East and Southern Africa Regional Office, Government ministries, civil society organisations, private-sector representatives and development partners for supporting the symposium.

She said the ultimate objective should

be to remove every barrier preventing girls and women from managing menstruation safely and with dignity.

“Our collective goal must be clear and unwavering: no girl should miss school because of her period, no woman should be forced to choose between food and menstrual products, and no girl should endure indignity, discomfort or infection because she lacks access to safe, affordable menstrual products,” she said.

A QUESTION OF DIGNITY

For years, menstrual health interventions in Zimbabwe have often been implemented as separate projects involving sanitary-pad donations, school programmes, health education and reusable-product initiatives.

The proposed national framework represents an attempt to unite those interventions under a coordinated policy supported by common standards, adequate financing and clear institutional responsibilities.

The challenge will be turning the commitments made at the symposium into measures that reach girls and women in schools, workplaces, rural communities, healthcare facilities and emergency settings.

A law alone may not immediately remove menstrual stigma or make every product affordable. However, advocates believe that a clear legal and policy framework could make menstrual health a permanent national priority instead of an issue addressed mainly through temporary projects and donations.

By officially opening the Zimbabwe Menstrual Health Symposium 2026, Sen Mutsvangwa urged participants to use the platform to build capacity, reach consensus and develop sustainable solutions.

The symposium has renewed the national conversation about menstruation and the barriers that girls and women continue to face.

It has also placed a clear ambition on the table: to move menstrual health from the margins of public policy and recognise it as an issue of health, equality, education, economic participation and human dignity.

MUSIC UNITES ZIMBABABWE IN HONOUR OF ITS HEROES

The Heroes Gala will bring together performers from across the country in a celebration of sacrifice, culture and national identity.

By Kelvin Matore.

Zimbabwe’s musicians will use song, dance and traditional performance to honour the country’s heroes and heroines during this year’s national commemorations.

The main Heroes Gala will be held at Chemhanza Grounds at Mubaira Growth Point in Mhondoro, Mashonaland West, on Tuesday, August 11.

The free concert is scheduled to begin at 6pm and continue late into the night, bringing together artistes from different provinces, generations and musical genres.

Sungura, jiti, gospel, mbira, Zimdancehall, hip-hop and revolutionary music will share one stage as the country remembers the men and women who sacrificed their lives for Zimbabwe’s independence.

The gala will form part of national Heroes Day commemorations being held under the theme “Lest We Forget”.

While the main Heroes Day ceremony will take place at the National Heroes Acre in Harare on August 10, similar commemorations will be held at 10 provincial and 60 district heroes’ acres across the country.

The gala will extend that national tribute through music and cultural performance.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MHONDORO

For the first time, Mhondoro will host one of Zimbabwe’s largest commemorative music events.

Chemhanza Grounds, located at Mubaira Growth Point, is expected to welcome thousands of people from Mashonaland West and neighbouring provinces.

Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services deputy director Hymn Mureru said preparations for the concert were progressing well.

He said taking the gala to Mhondoro would allow communities outside the country’s major cities to participate directly in a flagship national celebration.

Residents who would ordinarily travel to Harare or another urban centre to watch leading performers will have some of Zimbabwe’s biggest musicians appearing on their doorstep.

The choice of Mhondoro also reflects the continued decentralisation of national events, ensuring that communities across the country can host and benefit from major

celebrations.

A LINE-UP DRAWN FROM ACROSS ZIMBABWE

Jiti musician Braveman “Baba Harare” Chizvino is expected to headline the programme.

Known for energetic performances and lively interaction with audiences, Baba Harare will lead a diverse cast representing different regions and styles.

Peter “Young Igwe” Moyo will bring the Utakataka Express sound to the celebrations as he continues the musical legacy of his late father, sungura icon Tongai Moyo.

He will be joined by Simon Mutambi, Mark Ngwazi and Romeo Gasas, who are expected to deliver the driving guitar rhythms and social commentary associated with contemporary sungura.

Tshibilika musician Clement Magwaza will represent the sounds of southern Zimbabwe, while DT Bio Mudimba will bring his popular fusion of sungura and Tonga musical influences.

The line-up demonstrates the national character of the gala, with performers drawn from different cultural and geographical backgrounds.

Together, the artistes will use music to celebrate unity while paying tribute to Zimbabwe’s living and departed heroes.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Traditional music will be a central part of the programme.

Sasha Amadhuve and Afro-fusion musician Andy Muridzo are expected to showcase the enduring influence of mbira music on Zimbabwean culture.

Their inclusion is particularly significant because Mhondoro is widely associated with mbira music and traditional cultural practices.

The mbira has long accompanied ceremonies, community gatherings and moments of spiritual reflection.

At the Heroes Gala, its sound will connect the celebrations to Zimbabwe’s cultural heritage and the values that sustained communities during the liberation struggle.

Traditional music will share the stage with contemporary genres, illustrating how Zimbabwe’s culture continues to evolve while remaining rooted in history.

YOUNG VOICES JOIN THE COMMEMORATIONS

Zimdancehall musician Jah Master will add youthful energy to the programme, while Bulawayo-based contemporary artiste Mzoe 7 will bring an urban dimension to the celebrations.

Their inclusion will help connect the commemorations with younger audiences who may not have experienced colonial rule or the liberation struggle.

For many young Zimbabweans, music provides an accessible way of learning about the country’s history and understanding the sacrifices made by earlier generations.

By sharing the stage with traditional and liberation musicians, contemporary artistes can help carry the message of remembrance to a new generation.

The gala will therefore be more than a gathering of established stars. It will also be a meeting point between generations.

GOSPEL VOICES BRING REFLECTION

Gospel musicians Dorcas Moyo and Agatha Murudzwa will provide a spiritual and reflective dimension to the programme.

Their performances are expected to offer moments of worship and remembrance during an evening that will balance celebration with the solemn meaning of Heroes Day.

Dorcas Moyo has described performing at national commemorations as an opportunity to minister through music while contributing to national unity.

The LMG Choir will also perform, adding choral music to the diverse programme.

Gospel music has become a regular part of national events, giving audiences space to reflect on sacrifice, loss, hope and the country’s journey since independence.

CHINX LEGACY LIVES ON

One of the gala’s most symbolic performances is expected to come from Atenda Chinx, daughter of the late liberation war veteran and musician Dickson “Cde Chinx” Chingaira.

Backed by the Barrel of Peace Band, Atenda is building her own musical career while preserving a family legacy closely connected to Zimbabwe’s liberation history.

Cde Chinx became widely known for revolu-

tionary songs that documented the struggle, encouraged fighters and celebrated independence.

His music remains part of Zimbabwe’s liberation heritage.

Atenda’s participation will provide a direct link between the generation that experienced the struggle and young performers carrying its history forward.

Her appearance will also demonstrate the important role music plays in preserving national memory.

Admire “Chief Hwenje” Sibanda, who is known for revolutionary and patriotic music, will also take to the stage.

His performance is expected to reinforce the central purpose of the gala: paying tribute to those who fought and sacrificed for Zimbabwe.

REMEMBERING THROUGH SONG

Music played an important role during Zimbabwe’s liberation struggle.

Songs were used to mobilise communities, encourage fighters, communicate political messages and sustain hope during difficult periods.

They preserved the experiences of the struggle in ways that speeches and written records could not always achieve.

The Heroes Gala continues that tradition.

Through rhythm, lyrics and performance, artistes will retell the story of sacrifice and remind audiences that independence came at a great human cost.

The gala will allow Zimbabweans to remember collectively.

Some will sing along to familiar revolutionary songs. Others will dance to contemporary music inspired by the freedoms secured through independence.

Families of different generations will gather in one place, united by music and national memory.

MORE THAN ENTERTAINMENT

Although the event will feature some of Zimbabwe’s leading musicians, it is not simply another concert.

It is a commemorative platform that combines entertainment with history, culture and national identity.

For artistes, appearing at the gala is both an opportunity to showcase their work and a responsibility to honour the country’s heroes and heroines.

The event also provides space for established and emerging musicians to perform before a diverse national audience.

By placing sungura, gospel, mbira, Tshibilika, jiti and Zimdancehall on one stage, the gala will reflect Zimbabwe’s cultural diversity.

It will demonstrate that the country can remember its past while celebrating the creativity of its people.

The gathering is also expected to benefit the Mhondoro community.

Food vendors, transport operators, photographers, sound engineers, accommodation providers and other small businesses could benefit from the arrival of performers and thousands of spectators.

The economic activity generated by the event will give the host community another reason to remember the 2026 celebrations.

A NATION UNITED IN REMEMBRANCE

The Heroes Gala will take place after commemorative ceremonies at national, provincial and district shrines across Zimbabwe.

At those ceremonies, families, Government officials and members of the public will lay wreaths and honour the country’s fallen heroes.

The gala will carry that remembrance onto the stage.

Performers representing different provinces and generations will use their voices to celebrate the country’s freedom and preserve the memory of those who made it possible.

For one night, Mubaira Growth Point will become the centre of Zimbabwe’s cultural tribute to its heroes and heroines.

The guitars will sound, drums will roll and voices will rise from the stage.

Behind the music will remain a solemn national message.

Zimbabwe remembers.

Zimbabwe honours its heroes.

Zimbabwe does not forget.



Coca-cola promotion turns three bottles into family car for small-scale miner



A routine trip to buy Coca-Cola for his family has transformed into a life-changing moment for small-scale miner Esau Muguva, who has won a brand-new vehicle through the Coca-Cola promotion.

Muguva was handed the keys to his prize at a ceremony attended by representatives of Delta Beverages and the Coca-Cola system, marking an extraordinary outcome from a promotion designed to connect consumers with the excitement surrounding football and the FIFA World Cup.

Speaking after receiving the vehicle, Muguva encouraged consumers, particularly young people, to take advantage of legitimate opportunities such as the Coca-Cola promotion rather than spending their money on drugs.

"Even if you have 50 cents, you can use that money to buy a Coca-Cola product and participate in the promotion. You can win airtime, cash or even a motor vehicle," he said.

Muguva, who works as a small-scale miner, said his winning moment began when he bought three bottles of Coca-Cola while shopping for his wife.

He only became aware of the promotion after his wife noticed the distinctive yellow bottle and drew his attention to it.

"I bought three bottles of Coca-Cola to take home to my wife. When she saw the bottles, she noticed the yellow bottle cap and asked about the promotion. I then checked the information and found the code underneath the cap,"

he said.

He subsequently entered the unique code through the WhatsApp platform provided by the promotion and was stunned when he discovered that he had won.

Muguva said the experience was overwhelming, particularly because the purchase had been an ordinary household errand that unexpectedly resulted in him winning a vehicle.

The new car will now serve as the family's official vehicle, while his existing Toyota Probox will continue to support his business activities.

"With this car, this is my second car. I own a Toyota Probox, which I use for business. This one is going to be the official family car," he said.

Muguva's story was highlighted by Coca-Cola representatives as an example of how consumer participation can turn an everyday purchase into an extraordinary experience.

Speaking on behalf of Delta Beverages and the Coca-Cola system, Patricia Murambinda congratulated Muguva, saying the handover represented more than simply receiving the keys to a vehicle.

"Today is about more than receiving the keys to a vehicle. It is about turning an ordinary football moment into an extraordinary experience," she said.

Murambinda said Coca-Cola had maintained a strong relationship with football in Zimbabwe, noting that the

sport continues to bring people together across generations, communities and borders.

She also pointed to the company's long association with the Coca-Cola Games, which were held in Zimbabwe for more than two decades, saying the latest promotion was intended to recreate some of the excitement, anticipation and possibility associated with major sporting moments.

"To our winner, congratulations. We hope that every journey you make in

this vehicle reminds you of this moment and of the simple truth that sometimes when you participate, engage and believe, something remarkable can happen," she said.

Murambinda also thanked consumers who participated in the promotion, saying their continued trust and loyalty give the Coca-Cola brands meaning.

She added that the brand has several activities lined up for the remainder of the year and would continue creating opportunities that bring people

together.

Meanwhile, Dr Claybough Mapfumo, the Marketing Executive for Coca-Cola, urged consumers to continue participating in the promotion, which remains open until 31 August 2026.

He explained that consumers purchasing qualifying Coca-Cola products can find a unique code under the cap and enter it through the promotion's WhatsApp platform. Consumers can either scan the QR code on the promotional material, which directs them to WhatsApp, or use the designated WhatsApp number to submit their unique code.

The promotion also features weekly draws, with consumers standing a chance to win cash prizes, including US\$100 and US\$150, alongside other prizes.

Mapfumo encouraged the sales team and consumers to intensify participation during the remainder of August, stressing that another vehicle is still available to be won.

The promotion therefore continues to offer consumers multiple opportunities to walk away with prizes, with Muguva's experience serving as a reminder that a simple purchase can sometimes lead to an extraordinary reward.

For Muguva, however, the greatest significance of the prize lies in what the vehicle will mean to his family.

The small-scale miner now has a new family car, while his Toyota Probox remains dedicated to his business and an unexpected outcome from three bottles of Coca-Cola bought during an ordinary shopping trip.

