

# The Worker

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for Ziscosteel  
workers

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a bike for  
a living!

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out for  
Mashingaidze

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## UNITY IS STRENGTH

# CWUZ factions reunite

BY ADMORE MARAMBANYIKA

**S**ANITY is now prevailing in the commercial sector after the two warring factions which have been at each other's throat, agreed to unite and move forward with the agenda of fighting for the cause of Zimbabwean workers.

The two factions, which both commanded large followings at the workplace, recently united to oust former security guard and trade union turned politician Joubert Mudzumwe

who had allegedly wanted to muscle them out and seize all union properties.

Mudzumwe, who is the national chairman of the discredited Movement for Democratic Change (MDC - M) led by Deputy Prime Minister Professor Arthur Mutambara had become a thorn in the flesh for workers in the commercial sector. Using force and

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## Talk to my lawyer!



ZCTU continues to train workers as paralegal officers to represent their colleagues in work-based disputes. This group, which comprises workers from various affiliates, was the latest to graduate. **SEE STORY ON Page 6**

## Repreive for pregnant security guard

**A** SECURITY guard with Viking Security who was fired for failure to disclose her pregnancy with the employer got solace when an arbitrator ordered her reinstatement or payment of damages in lieu of reinstatement.

Tarisai Mwedzi was charged for failing to notify her employer within the first four months of her pregnancy which posed a 'safety and or a security threat'.

She was asked to leave her post and return for re-employment after giving birth however, not on

maternity leave.

Mwedzi approached the Zimbabwe Security Guards Union (ZISEGU) and the matter was taken up until the arbitration stage arguing that the employer was discriminating against her and was also trying to avoid its obligation of paying her while she was on maternity leave.

The arbitrator ruled in favour of Mwedzi after noting that there were reasonable grounds of dismissal.

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# CWUZ factions reunite

From Page 1

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The two factions, which both commanded large followings at the workplace, recently united to oust former security guard and trade union turned politician Joubert Mudzumwe who had allegedly wanted to muscle them out and seize all union properties.

Mudzumwe, who is the national chairman of the discredited Movement for Democratic Change (MDC - M) led by Deputy Prime Minister Professor Arthur Mutambara had become a thorn in the flesh for workers in the commercial sector. Using force and intimidation, he had clung to the union building in Waterfalls and threatened to deal with anyone who wanted to remove him.

Officials from both factions however struck a deal which saw organising secretary Chamunogwa being elevated to become co-acting General Secretary

together with Gilbert Karikuimba.

In an interview with *The Worker*, Karikuimba said the factions were working on the way forward and at the moment were keeping all the previous arrangement in place until the national executive members from both sides map the way forward.

The national executive committees from both formations will meet with the union staff.

"We will then bring the matter before the steering committee for it iron out outstanding administrative issues and the integration of staff members from both formations. We will then start updating all branches of the current developments and the way forward," he said.

"We are keeping the offices and structures in place but our officers are now working together. It might seem awkward that we are maintaining the various offices we had but on the ground we are now working as one team while the logistics are being looked into. We now have only one CWUZ," he said.

Karikuimba also said his formation was currently carrying out a membership and financial audit in preparation for the ultimate merger.

"We know we are going to be merging

two different systems so we would want to get into the union with all our books in order.

He said he was worried by Mudzumwe's conduct as he bludgeoned the union offices to cause mayhem but staff had subdued him and handed him over to the police.

"He came and bulldozed his way into what used to be his office and started calling someone pretending as if he was being attacked. This was in contravention

of a court order barring him from accessing the union offices until his case is finalised," he said.

Mudzumwe has a pending court case in which he is accused of swindling the union of thousands of dollars through acts of fraud with two other union officials.

Workers in the commercial sector had been divided for the past twelve years after the death of Shangwa Chifamba. One sector of the union was aligned to Lucia Matibenga while the other sector was aligned to Mushonga.

## Repreive for pregnant security guard

From Page 1

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The arbitrator ruled in favour of Mwedzi after noting that there were reasonable grounds of dismissal.

"It is clear from the correspondences made by the Respondent (Viking Security) that the Claimant (Mwedzi) was dismissed on allegations of failing to advise Respondent of her pregnancy status in time as per requirements. However, it is not clear what requirements or instructions the Respondent has that necessitate the 'timeous' pregnancy disclosure and the safety or security threat caused is not explained,"

## ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS



ZCTU



### ZCTU CONDOLENCE MESSAGE: ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR GORDON CHAVHUNDUKA

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) joins the rest of the country in mourning the passing on of the son of the soil, Professor Gordon Chavhunduka.

Professor Chavhunduka was well known as the President of the Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers' Association (ZINATHA) and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe. But for us in the ZCTU, we knew him as an astute Chairperson of the National Employment Council for both the Catering and Commercial Industry.

During his tenure in those positions, he stood firm and fair to all parties in times of difficulties and because of that he earned the respect of both employers and workers.

A traditionalist, a politician, a sociologist and an academic, Professor Chavhunduka was a rare breed of a Zimbabwean who combined several talents but never forgot his roots. He wrote several books on traditional medicine such as Traditional Healers and the Shona Patient; The Professionalisation of African Medicine: Ambiguities and Definitions and Traditional Medicine in Modern Zimbabwe.

We in the labour movement say we have indeed lost a true gallant son of Zimbabwe and Africa.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE. GOD BLESS  
14 January 2013

## ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS



ZCTU



### ZCTU CONDOLENCE MESSAGE ON THE DEATH OF VICE-PRESIDENT JOHN LANDA NKOMO

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) joins the rest of the nation in mourning the passing on of the Vice-President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Comrade John Landa Nkomo.

A veteran of the liberation struggle, Vice-President Nkomo was a rare breed of a politician who could mix with different people at different levels without any problem. He was a good listener, down to earth politician who worked immensely to uplift the lives of many Zimbabweans.

The ZCTU remembers him well during his time at Minister of Labour between the years 1988 to 1995 where he presided over some notable amendments to the Labour Relations Act.

These include the promulgation of Statutory Instruments 379 of 1990 on codes of conduct, Statutory Instrument 404 of 1990 and Statutory 252 of 1993 on retrenchments that empowered Works Councils and Employment Councils to adjudicate summary dismissals and retrenchment dispute procedures.

In 1992, he initiated the amendment to the Labour Relations Act that abolished employment boards, shortened the dispute resolution system through removal of hearing officers, regional hearing officers and the Labour Relations Board.

He also stood head above others representing Zimbabwe at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) annual meetings when he was still the labour Minister

We join the rest of the country in mourning a gallant son of the soil.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE. GOD BLESS

J. MOYO  
SECRETARY-GENERAL



# Tough times ahead for ZISCO workers

BY ADMORE MARAMBANYIKA

**T**HERE is no hope of getting salaries anytime soon for Ziscosteel workers following revelations by the Industry and Commerce Minister Welshman Ncube that Indian firm Essar Africa is not responsible for paying salaries at Ziscosteel until the deal is finalised.

The workers have gone for nearly a year without being paid.

Essar's US\$750 million take-over of a 53 percent stake in the collapsed giant steel maker has been stalled by bickering between Ncube and Mines minister Obert Mpofu, over the issue several months after the company's sell was agreed.

Sources say Mpofu is concerned that the transfer undervalued Zisco's iron ore resources but the company's workers have borne the brunt of the standoff.

However Ncube insisted that until the deal with Essar was concluded, the Indian firm was not obliged to pay the workers' salaries.

"Workers will remain under Ziscosteel until New Zim Steel takes over when the deal has been concluded. When that happens, then Essar will take most of the costs based on their 53 percent majority shareholding in the new company," he said.

"It is the new company that will have the responsibility to pay workers. We can't go to Essar and say 'pay workers' when we haven't sorted our side of the bargain. We can't expect one side of the deal to be applied when the other has not. The agreement requires that we do our part as Government, but we have taken two years to sort our side of the bargain," he said.

He said Essar, who had promised to be on the ground this month, was waiting for Government to honour its part of the deal.

Workers and their representatives claimed that their terminally ill colleagues were succumbing to various ailments as they were taking medication without eating enough food and their children were being turned away from schools because of outstanding fees. The situation is also dire for pensioners and widows who have not been getting anything from the company.

Hundreds of children failed to get Form One places as schools demanded result slips and fees deposits.

Most of the workers have resorted to work as farm labourers at nearby farms doing menial jobs while others are turning to gold panning.

The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Industry

and Commerce, chairperson William Mutomba, said both Essar and Government were supposed to consider the plight of workers.

"This bickering is costing workers while at the same time Government is losing revenue because we are importing steel when we should be exporting," he said. "Workers are the most affected by this delay. They are the ones who are suffering."

Mutomba said there was need for Essar to resume operations while the deal was being finalised.



Desolate and derelict - Ziscosteel Works

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## EDITORIAL

The  
**Worker**

COMMENT

## This is the year!

Finally, the political jig-saw puzzle will be solved. This year will bring finality to this political arrangement where strange bedfellows have been forced to put together for the past five years.

The people of Zimbabwe made a statement in the harmonized elections of 2008 and their wish was not granted. It is our hope and wish that in 2013 they will realize their long cherished dream of a new dispensation.

Elections are around the corner and political candidates from various parties will be on the ground to campaign. As labour we still stand by our position that we will not support those candidates who are against the cause of the working class. We have always done this and we will continue to do it.

We are also starting the year on a brighter note as one of the largest affiliates of the ZCTU, the Commercial Workers Union of Zimbabwe (CWUZ) will speak with one voice as the two factions which have been fighting each other for the past 12 years have now found common ground to unite.

Indeed unity is strength and we applaud those selfless leaders who have put their members' interests first. The power of every union is in its numbers and ability to organize and mobilize membership. We hope it will be back to the core business within the commercial sector for those who will be elected to lead the union.

The reunion of CWUZ is a wake-up call to other sectors where splinter unions have emerged. As long as workers continue to speak with divided voices they will not achieve their goal of fighting for their membership towards a decent work agenda.

It will always be our call that workers of the world should unite and speak with one voice. Zimbabwean workers should equally heed the call and follow suit.

**VMCZ**  
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Voice of the Labour Movement

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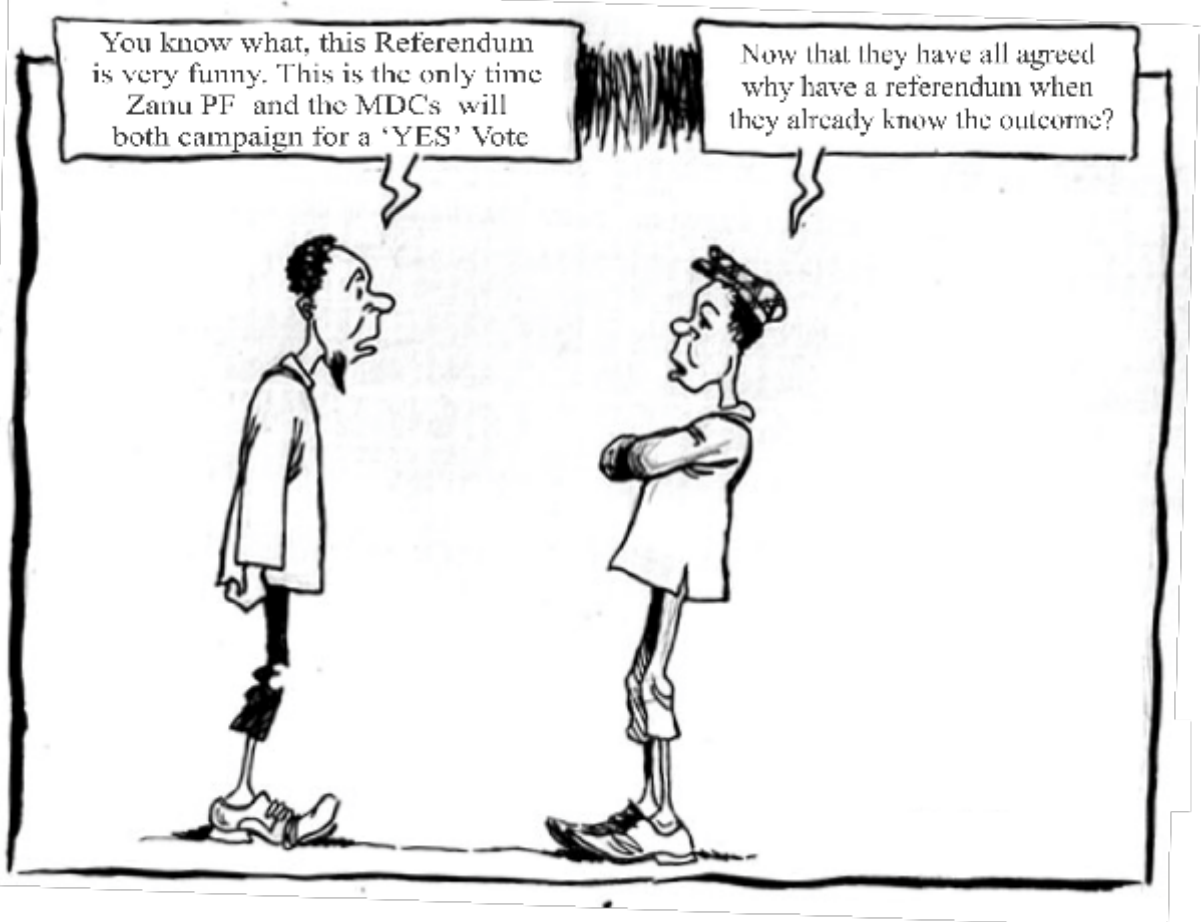
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## New draft creates royal political class in Zimbabwe

**Z**IMBABWE, we are told, now has a final draft constitution that we as citizens should either accept or reject in a referendum prior to elections expected later this year.

The extent of how this document reflects the wishes of the people is a matter of conjecture, save to say the referendum and adoption of the document is one of many political rituals we have to go through with no clarity as to their benefits for citizens of the country.

The nature of the discussions clearly indicates political interest took centre stage from citizens' interests. In this regard, it is folly to expect the document to foster a process of change that resonates far beyond the political sector to transform our lives socially and economically.

Even as many people did not know what this constitution is about and talked of the need for food, clinics, roads and jobs during the outreach programme, those statements spoke to the real issues for the people. They want a document that focuses on people rather than political issues and people should be at the centre of the constitutional debate. When politicians met to debate and compromise on the constitution, it is a natural expectation they have people at heart rather than party and personal interests.

We note, however, the new constitution has become an intense battleground for the contrasting political interests and debate has progressively drifted away from our understanding, participation and control. There is no doubt there is a facade of Zanu PF having been forced to backtrack on a number of issues the party was pressing for.

On the other hand, nothing

seems to have changed much as there appears to be no fundamental changes to policies that guide and influence national governance and the function of key national institutions. Our political leaders have skirted fundamental issues that include the fact that challenges we have faced over the past decade are largely defined by disrespect for the rule of law, dysfunctional national institutions and their abuse.

With or without a new constitution it appears Zanu PF still has an upper hand in defining



our political destiny. Even as it appeared Zanu PF's numerous objections and suggestions to the constitution have not been fully entertained, the party successfully took its government of national unity (GNU) partners down a long, winding road in order to bring us back where we have been since 1980.

That the pillars of Zanu PF control of this society have remained intact is shameful when, as stated earlier, they are at the centre of the national decline as a result of abuse and inefficiency. It is extremely sad the political leadership opposed to Zanu PF had the cheek to inform us that they compromised with Zanu PF on many constitutional provisions in order to accommodate Zanu PF's internal politics of succession. We now have the strangest language in a draft constitution, of

provisions that will be implemented after six years and others that would come into effect after 10 years.

We are not necessarily given details of this political horse-trading, save for an acceptance and confirmation by the MDCs that our lives are in the hands of Zanu PF, and that we need to give Zanu PF space to deal with its internal issues and re-organise without disturbances.

This constitution is not about the people; instead it allows President Robert Mugabe to ease out of political life without embarrassment and do so outside the control, will and wishes of the majority of people. There is suddenly a strange political convergence among GNU parties even as they appear to disagree.

We then ask: does it necessarily need a "new" constitution to negotiate Mugabe's exit, or the GNU could simply have negotiated that without taking the nation down the garden path for three-and-a-half years at a cost of nearly US\$50 million.

This constitution presents change without change; it marks a false transition and reinforces the continuation of a political culture that we have known for the past 30 years — that is the dominance of Zanu PF and subjection of the rest to its will.

While Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai says this is a social contract and about the people, there is little if any citizen footprint in the constitutional document and process.

The odds against the MDCs are well documented and cannot be overemphasised; their failure is to leave so much room for Zanu PF

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# Corruption feeding on Zimbabwe's poor

**Z**VIMBA - Suffering severe chest pains, Rosina Chataika, 57, was recently ferried 70km from her rural home in Zvimba District to Parirenyatwa Hospital in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

The consulting doctor said a blood test was required for a diagnosis, but for three days no test was performed, and her condition worsened. Chataika complained to the ward's male nurse, who asked her for a US\$50 payment to "jump the queue".

Her son, a bricklayer in the small town of Chegutu, about 120km from the capital, had to beg relatives for the bribe money. Chataika's blood sample was taken only after the nurse was paid.

Three months after being discharged, she was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She also sits on a \$600 medical bill for her two-week hospital stay, which she cannot afford to settle.

"If we had not managed to raise that \$50, I would have probably died. For the days I was in hospital, I learned that the nurse demanded money from many other desperate and poor patients who could not immediately get the services they wanted. [He] could probably be getting rich at the expense of the sick and poor," she told IRIN.

Several nurses told Chataika that the male nurse worked in tandem with doctors to provide preferential treatment at a cost. "The nurses, messengers and some doctors are demanding money to ensure that admitted patients get such things as medication. I am sure there are many people who are dying because they cannot pay the bribes," she said.

Chataika's experience is far from unique. The 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index, by Transparency International, ranks Zimbabwe at 163 out of 174 countries surveyed - with number 174, Somalia, perceived as the most corrupt. Zimbabwe's position on the index has fallen from 154 in 2011.

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ) said in December 2012, "Corruption amounts to a dirty tax, and the poor and most vulnerable are its primary victims, especially [those in] the rural and marginalized communities."

TIZ said corruption was particularly rampant within the education, health, mining, sports, judicial and agriculture sectors and was becoming ingrained within the society.

Sekai Chinouriri, 35, a divorced mother of two from Seke District, was denied a plot on communal land because she refused to provide the headman with sexual favours.

"I desperately need money, yet I cannot entertain the idea of getting into commercial sex" "The headman wanted me to have sex with him before he would give me the plot, which I need to grow vegetables for sale and to raise money to fend for my children and pay their fees. When my husband went away, I had to go and live with my elderly parents, but we are already a burden to them.

"Just because I won't give the village head the sexual favours he demanded, my family will have to beg for food and money, and that is not fair. I desperately need money, yet I cannot entertain the idea of getting into commercial sex," she told IRIN.

Chinouriri says the headman also demands villagers give him a cut of donor food aid in order to remain on the beneficiaries' list. "We are afraid to report him because we will be victimized," she said.

James Karima, 25, from Harare, is struggling to be admitted to a teacher training college - even though he has the qualifications - because he cannot afford the \$500 bribe for admittance.

"I had better grades at A-level than many people who have been admitted by

the colleges. They managed to raise the money to give lecturers and college staff, but I have no brother or relative to help me," Karima told IRIN. "Corruption in Zimbabwe is making some poor people get rich, and the rich, richer, while the majority of the poor are getting poorer."

Willas Madzimure, a member of parliament and chairperson of the Zimbabwe chapter of the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption, told IRIN poverty also meant powerlessness.

"They are the last in the queue and thus always miss out on life-changing opportunities. In rural areas, traditional leaders are demanding about \$300 or cattle for one to be given land, but where do these vulnerable people get the money or livestock from when they can't even build a shelter?" he said.

Madzimure said the government's anti-corruption "body has failed because it is influenced by politicians and does not have the money".



Nothing for free - Zimbabwe's poor have been hard hit by corruption in public institutions

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# More paralegals graduate

BY STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE adage 'Talk to my lawyer' is becoming more and more a reality in most affiliate unions of the ZCTU as paralegal officers are being trained to handle grievances and represent workers whenever they are in dispute with employers.

So far, hundreds of paralegal officers have been trained by the ZCTU as workers continue to advocate for a decent worker agenda and respect for their rights at the workplace.

In January, a total of 20 participants drawn from various affiliates of the ZCTU received their certificates of competency when they graduated in the 16th edition of the training programme.

The class commenced studies last year and the academic year spilled into 2013.

Vulani 'Sean Timba' Mhlanga came out tops after passing examinations at the end of the programme.

ZCTU President George Nkiwane in his remarks at the graduation ceremony said the trade union valued the programme which is designed to deal with the core business of trade unions.

"At face value this might seem like a simple Paralegal Course where graduates are awarded certificates at the end of the training, but it is way more than this. Our trade unions have been able to service membership, attract and recruit new members because of the great work we do after such kind of capacitation," he said.

He said results from the Labour



**TALK TO MY LAWYER: Graduates from the 16th Paralegal training programme**

court and arbitrators showed that paralegals were doing well in the field better than some lawyers adding that unions had also cut down on huge legal costs by making use of the paralegals.

"Some have advanced to Diploma level to become labour arbitrators but the Labour (Arbitrators) Regulations 2012 is now reversing our gains by only recognising those with University degrees with diplomas being just an added advantage. We sincerely hope our Minister of Labour will redress this aspect," he said.

to also reflect in the union leadership and in all our programmes," he said.

Nkiwane urged the graduands to utilise the skills and knowledge gained from the training to good use for the benefit workers and unions.

"I urge you not to 'sit' on the knowledge and skills that you have acquired here but put them to good use. Developing into a Paralegal of repute takes practice and experience. This course has opened doors for you to further develop yourselves so take the opportunities available to you. I wish all of you the best as you start executing your duties as Paralegals," he said.

Over the years, the paralegal course has produced crop of leadership in the unions who with some of them crossing the floor to become politicians. The likes of Members of Parliament (MPs) Colleen Gwiyo, Thabitha Khumalo, Paurina Mpariwa the labour minister and the Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai have passed through the ZCTU training programme.

Nkiwane expressed gratitude to the FES for being a consistent partner in the programme since its inception.

"As ZCTU we express our sincere gratitude for your support over the years. I know we will maintain our cordial relations and continue our partnership even beyond the Paralegal Course," said Nkiwane.

The minister of labour who was the guest of honour urged the partners to continue with the programme.

"This is a very important programme which graduands must take seriously especially when they start to represent employees in the courts. You need to be very careful and avoid mistakes that may result in job losses. Workers lives are now your responsibility so I urge you to exercise your duties with all caution," she said.

She added that her ministry was going to look into the issue of reforming the labour laws of the country and the requirements for arbitrators following concerns by unions over the requirements which are no longer favourable to labour.

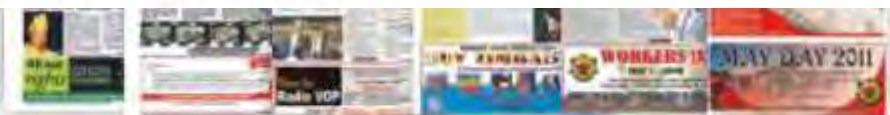
The Graduands were Vulani Mhlanga (RAYOS), Patricia Musarurwa (ZMEAWU), Bigboy Manzarame (ZFTATU), Anthony Chiponda (MVMWUZ), Mercy Mazhambe (PSA), Admore Marambanyika (ZCTU), Edward Moyo (RAE) Angelina Lunga (ZIMTA), Ortis Hombarume (CLAWUZ), Charles Diki (RAU), Girly Jerera (ZIBAWU), Lora Makuzva (ZCHWU), Moffat Chikata (GAPWUZ), Mxolisi Tshuma (NEWU), Enita Nyathi and Auxullia Bangura (ZISEGU), Martin Chauraya (ZESSCWU) Blandina Mushaike (FFAWUZ), Emily Mahuti (ZTWU) and Anna Mushaninga (ZUCWU).



...seems to be saying George Nkiwane after winning ZCTU Presidency in Bulawayo. Pic by Chrispen Tabvura

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# Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions



## ZCTU

### TOWARDS A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR ZIMBABWE



WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION?

DOES THE NEW CONSTITUTION REFLECT YOUR DESIRES?

DOES THE NEW CONSTITUTION DOMESTICATE ILO 8 CORE CONVENTIONS?

DOES IT ADVOCATE FOR WORKERS RIGHTS?



# VOTE X WISELY

*Shinga Mushandi Shinga, Qina Sisebenzi Qina*



# Of elections, prosperity gospels and *hokaspokas*

Welcome to 2013!

THE year 2013 is THE YEAR. It is what I would call 'a make of break year'.

As I write, politicians have negotiated their Constitution and it appears they are now ready for 'war'. Instead of us giving them a Constitution on how they should govern us, they decided to write their constitution on how to govern us and shove it down our throats. What an upside down world we live in!

All political parties seem to be in a hurry for elections. Zanu PF, with all the diamond money, is over confident of winning. The MDCs seem to be sheepishly following and they might be in for a rude awakening. Of course in a free and fair election, Zanu PF will be beaten hands down. On the other hand, the sympathy which people had for the MDCs seems to be dissipating. We are in for exciting times.

There are also issues to do with primary elections. On the MDC-T side, the party seems to be moving faster than Zanu PF in evading democracy by imposing candidates. *Chigumura* does not buy this nonsense idea of the so-called 'confirmation' process which is open to abuse and vote buying. This is simply imposition of candidates. If the MDC-T does not handle this with care, it will explode, like the Chitungwiza bomb which exploded at the n'anga's den, right in their face.

What is irking most Zimbabweans is

## ZANU PF MP fails to pay workers

ABOUT 43 employees at Wallace laboratories, which is owned by Zanu PF Seke Constituency legislator, Phineas Chihota, have vowed to sleep at the company premises until they get their salary arrears which have accrued to over \$500 000.00 since 2009.

The company has not been operational for the past five months and is facing serious viability challenges.

Thomas Ndakaripeyi, the Workers' representative confirmed the developments saying the employees had resorted to sleeping at the company to force the employer to pay up.

"The average worker earns \$300 per month and since Chihota was failing to pay, we suggested he should get an investor to help him run the business. We have decided to sleep here at the company premises until our salaries are paid in full because workers are suffering and some families are breaking up owing to financial challenges," he said.

Some workers said the employer refused to find an investor and also the involvement of an appointed judicial manager Knowledge Hofisi.

The workers are owed salary amounts ranging from \$3 000.00 to \$40 000.00 each since 2009.

The employees said the judicial manager tried in vain to convince Chihota to cede part of the company shares to the workers since the company was no longer in a position to pay them.

Chihota blamed the challenges which his company was facing on sanctions and a few elements among his employees whom he said wanted to tarnish his name by influencing other employees to stop working and engaging in acts that would attract unnecessary attention.

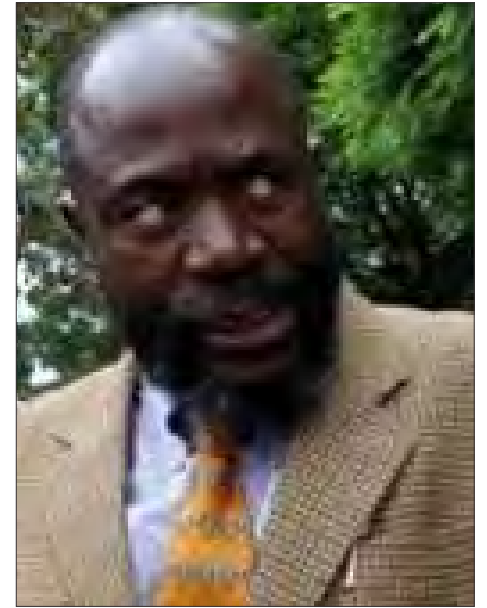
He also dismissed suggestions of getting an investor saying he had already acquired adequate material to resume operations.



Takavafira Zhou



Eubert Angels



Joseph Chinotimba

the issue of those people from the diaspora who, after enjoying the other side of the world, all of sudden have decided to come home from their safe heavens to contest elections.

These people are cowards comrades. They ran away from tyranny and we stayed behind. They built mansions for themselves in places like Borrowdale Brooke, Zimre Park and elsewhere. Because of them, our nation went through an economic crunch of unexplained proportions as we 'burnt' our currency to get the little forex they were sending over. Now they want to join the freedom train because the destination is now near. Shame on you *anamuchekadzafa*.

They think that they can come back and take over. If they are allowed to stand in the elections then those who were fighting in the trenches, those who remained behind to survive the Mugabe tyranny are the final losers!

Well, with Zimbabwean politics at large, this will always happen in our revolution. If you look at Zanu PF today, the people who are enjoying the fruits of the war are those that were abroad getting education and making money. The real war veterans are paupers. That is why people like Jabulani Sibanda can lead an organization of war veterans despite the fact that they cannot distinguish the difference between an air gun and an Ak47. Guys like Chinotimba can stand and boast that

they "died for this country!" The real comrades who fought in our country's liberation struggle can not speak and the like of Saviour Kasukuwere and the late Border Gezi have taken advantage of that.

All the political parties know very well that any open primary elections will see big guns falling with a thunder, hence attempts to shield them. Cry my beloved Democracy!

Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ) President

Takavafira Zhou also says he wants to enter politics due 'to pressure from family and the VaRemba people. I quote: "It was family pressure, lobbying by the wide VaRemba community and other people at large that enticed me, I have been resisting all along, but this time they cornered me," said Zhou. What does he take us for? Fools or zombies? People should learn not to lie through their teeth. This is an old fashioned Zanu PF way of doing things. He must just say that there is gold in politics up for digging. If he wins then he will at least find a job for himself.

However, that could be good news for PTUZ members who have not known any other President than Zhou. He had become somewhat of a life president. With all the disgruntlement by members, and threats of a split, that could be good riddance for bad r.....!

I have never waded into matters of Christianity very much simply because I

have my own principles about it, and I don't want to be labeled anti-church or what I say to be called heresy, but it seems Zimbabweans are getting nuts by day. When I was a young man, there used to come at our place a man who could do all sort of magic. Changing paper into money, sand into sugar, stones into eggs, eating a number of razor-blades and then a string and at the end of the day, the razors would come out all attached to the string. He could also take an adult male and fit him into a bottle. I saw it happen and it was for 'real'. He did not want to do his tricks when a one-eyed person was around and we were told that a one-eyed person would see the tricks. I am not sure about this, but we called him "harakasana hokaspokas" or a name to that effect. He could do miracles.

Frankly I don't see any difference with the current explosion of so called prosperity gospels. Most people now go to church not to seek God, but riches. They pray for cars, money and riches. The *harakasanas hokaspokas* of new churches that have sprouted out are said to put money into pockets of people, rain gold and do all sorts of things. They predict the death of people and Presidents and of course it happens. Because we are a country going through difficult times, there is a ready market for this. Even in Europe during the Great Depression, people resorted to churches for solace, but once things get better they changed. This explains why Christianity has been in decline in most European countries. But I find the gullibility of Zimbabweans amazing. Surely can we sink so low that we want to get riches from nowhere? Do we want to wake up tomorrow with fat bank accounts that we cannot account for? Are we content to get something that we have not sweated for? Hameno...I am out of here!



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# Easipark reinstates 40



EASIPARK employees

**E**ASIPARK has given in to pressure and reinstated 40 workers whose contracts it had refused to renew at the beginning of the year for unspecified reasons.

The dismissal of the 40 employees sparked massive protests by the South African company's entire workforce in solidarity with their colleagues.

The reinstatement deal came after the intervention of the Harare City Council, which is in a partnership with the car parking company. The council is currently engaged in a contract dispute with Easipak, arguing that the South African company was not meeting part of the agreement as the city was not realising much out of the deal. It wants the contract terminated as a matter of urgency.

Deputy Harare Mayor Emmanuel Chiroto confirmed the development.

"We had a meeting with the company management which has agreed to reinstate the affected workers. They have in fact assured us that the workers will be back at work soon," Chiroto said.

Last year Easipark was threatened by a Zanu PF linked youth militant group *Upfumi Kuvadiki* which argued that the company should go back to South Africa and leave the parking facilities job to Zimbabwean companies.

The group threatened to invade the company, citing the controversial indigenisation regulations which order that locals should hold majority shareholding in any foreign, often white, business entity. The threats were however never carried out.

In the streets of Harare, Easipark employees were always harassed by youths who had been made jobless after the introduction Easipark. Most of the youths had argued that they had been duped into allowing the South African company permission to install its gadgets as they were promised jobs as parking marshals on their traditional sites.

Meanwhile, Harare City Council has established its own parking company which is now operating in the southern part of the city centre. The company is currently controlling streets in the downtown part of the Commercial Business District in anticipation of taking over the control of parking in the whole city.

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# The Worker

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# Court upholds manager's suspension over illegal diamond sales



Marange diamonds

**T**HE Labour Court has upheld the suspension of Patrick Marufu a manager with the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe for selling diamonds to companies without valid licenses.

Marufu had been suspended for acts of misconduct following a hearing and launched an appeal with the Labour

Court contesting the decision.

The acts of misconduct against Marufu were that in May 2011, he sold diamonds to Red Mercury a company which did not have a valid license and he also sold diamonds to ZDPC Parmentia Investments on the basis of a payment receipt for a license.

Marufu was expected to check the

validity of the licenses the companies produced. He was also charged for giving rough diamonds manifesto to BCE Diamonds on March 11, 2011.

The manifesto contained rough diamond weights and prices for parcels that had been evaluated for international sales from Mbada Diamonds and Marange Resources (Canadile Miners). Marufu was not handling this particular

portfolio.

He admitted to falsifying prices of the parcels on the manifesto through his memo dated March 28, 2011.

The manifesto would have been used by Mayhill Limited, an international company. Mayhill Ltd wanted to participate in the Marange rough diamond tenders.

He was found guilty of abusing his authority in handling the sales portfolio and of giving privileged information intended for international sale.

Labour Court President Gladys Mhuri said it was a trite position that the burden of proof in civil matters was proof on a balance of probability.

"On the evidence placed before it, the Disciplinary Appeals Committee found on a balance of probability that Marufu committed the acts of misconduct preferred against him. The Disciplinary Appeals Committee noted that the sale of diamonds was governed by SI 157/2010 which requires that diamonds be sold to licensed manufacturers, and this was not disputed," said Mhuri in dismissing Marufu's appeal with costs.

## PSC ordered to reinstate teacher

**T**HE Labour Court has ordered the Public Service Commission to reinstate a Cranborne Boys High School teacher in Harare who had been fired for allegedly absenting himself from duty without official leave.

Ladistous Zunde was alleged to have absented himself from duty for more than 30 days but the school failed to prove its case and the court ordered his reinstatement without loss of salary and benefits from the date of his dismissal.

The Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture and the Public Service Commission discharged Zunde from the service in terms of Section 63 (e) of the Public Service Regulations SI 1/2000 in 2008.

The section empowers the Commission or head of ministry to discharge from duty anyone that has been absent from duty continuously without official leave for 30 days.

The dismissal would be with effect from the date of detention, restriction, and conviction or as the case maybe.

Labour Court President Gladys Mhuri noted it was not proven that Zunde was absent for a continuous period in excess of 30 days.

"I also find that even if Zunde had fallen squarely under the ambit of Section 63 (e), he should have been given the opportunity to be heard before discharge," she said adding that Zunde was around and there were days that he attended duty at the school.

"I find as incredible the submission that the disciplinary hearing could not be held because Zunde was in South Africa. He was not in South Africa right through this period. The register shows that he attended school on some days," she said.

Mhuri said that authorities knew his residence, and he could have been served with a notice of hearing at his residence.

The court was persuaded by Zunde's submission that the headmaster of Cranborne Boys High School wanted to get rid of him without any valid ground.

# Delta to reinstate

**A** Delta Beverages employee who was fired for stealing meat has been handed a second chance by the Labour Court which has ordered Delta to reinstate her.

Security guards arrested Sipiwe Mapuranga after she was found leaving the Delta premises with meat without a gate pass after a party at the workplace.

In her submissions she said that she had no chance to eat, and had been authorised by her supervisor to take some meat to eat as she left the premises.

She was dragged before the disciplinary committee which found her guilty of theft and imposed a penalty of dismissal.

Mapuranga then appealed against the decision to the Labour Court arguing that she was wrongly charged with theft since her immediate supervisor had authorised her to take the



meat.

She also further argued that the company destroyed the meat, which was critical in determining her guilt or innocence as evidence.

Mapuranga submitted that the duty to prepare the gate pass lay with her supervisor, hence she could not be blamed for failure to produce one when she was arrested.

In its opposing submission, Delta argued that Mapuranga was correctly charged with theft since she took more than what her supervisor had authorised her to take.

It also maintained that the meat was destroyed for practical purposes since it was rotting.

Labour Court President Lilian Kudya noted the conflicting evidence by Mapuranga's supervisor Luckson Zimbeva concerning

how much he authorised her to take.

"Zimbeva's suggestion that he only allowed her to take out 30 to 40 centimetre sausages clearly speaks of fabricated evidence. He would have the court believe that he measured the sausages in question in a bid to come up with their length and breadth," she said.

The court also noted conflicting statements by Delta that Mapuranga was caught with three kilogrammes and then more than 10kg.

Kudya said that the evidence failed to show that Mapuranga had stolen from Delta. She then ordered Delta to reinstate Mapuranga or pay her damages for loss of

# Chitungwiza fires striking workers

**C**HITUNGWIZA Municipality fired 17 workers and suspended several others for inciting and taking part in an illegal strike.

Council workers last year embarked on a strike over non payment of wages for over three months which paralysed service delivery.

Labour and Social Services Minister Paurina Mupariwa issued a show cause order directing the workers

to return to work pending justification of the strike before the Labour Court.

However, the workers continued with the strike despite the directive and the Labour Court declared the strike illegal.

The Municipality was given the green light to take disciplinary action against the workers who took part in the strike.

Following the Labour Court ruling, the municipality suspended 26 workers before conducting disciplinary hearings over two weeks which resulted in the conviction of the 17.

The dismissals were approved by the disciplinary hearing committee but workers are now appealing against the outcomes contesting the manner in which the hearings were conducted.



# ZISEGU to form Women and Young Workers structures



ZISEGU General Secretary  
Phillimon Nhema

BY ADMORE MARAMBANYIKA

**T**HE Zimbabwe Security Guards Union, (ZISEGU) will soon embark on a programme to establish Women and Young Workers Structures in all districts and regions.

General secretary Phillimon Nhema said the establishment of the structures was a top priority for the union and the union's national executive was given the task to do it as a matter of urgency.

"We have tasked our national executive members to organise the establishment of the structures in their respective regions. Once the region is organised and ready, the head office will then provide the resources for the establishment of the structures," he said.

"We have roped in our national executive members to spearhead the establishment of these structures to speed up the process. All regions will be structured concurrently and it would not take long unlike when the process is spearheaded from the head office," he said.

Nhema said the union will start by

establishing district structures and then move on to regional structures. He said the union was starting from the bottom to the top.

"We want to strengthen the union from the grassroots by forming vibrant structures that will become the face of ZISEGU in all regions, districts and workplaces. The visibility of the union will work in our favour as more potential members will realise that we are a well organised and focused union," he said.

Nhema said the involvement of women and young workers in the union will rejuvenate the union as there were more of these groups in the sector.

"The security industry is no longer the retirement home for servicemen. We now have more of young people and women joining the industry and they need to be integrated into the union structures," he said.

He said members were the owners of the union and it was vital for continuity to integrate them into positions and structures at all levels

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**New draft creates royal political class in Zimbabwe**

from Page 4

and Mugabe to use this important process to subvert the process of change. By leaving citizens out of the process the MDCs have missed a chance to reconnect with their political base that has driven opposition to Zanu PF for over a decade.

It was and still remains genuine grievances that drive opposition to Zanu PF and these remain unresolved today as desperation increases on a day-by-day basis. Although it has stabilised the socio-economic environment, the unity government has largely failed on issues such as service delivery, industrial revival and employment creation.

Our failure as citizens has been to allow piecemeal "political change" led by politicians to drive us nowhere. The stakes against the people are huge. The levels of social decay, suffering, hopelessness and pessimism are staggering, yet once again we seem to let a chance for change slip through.

Rather than "negotiate" Zanu PF's internal issues and insert these into the Copac draft as constitutional issues, the MDCs should have returned to base and consulted the people on the way forward.

Rashweat Mukundu is chairperson of the Zimbabwe Democracy Institute



## FAWWUZ welcomes Lobels bakeries reopening



Lobels factory in Harare

BY ADMORE MARAMBANYIKA

**T**HE Federation of Food and Allied Workers Union of Zimbabwe (FAWWUZ) has welcomed the reopening of Lobels Bakeries saying it was long overdue.

FAWWUZ organising secretary Runesu Dzimiri said the reopening of the once dominant bakery in the country was a positive development which could trigger other players to invest in the sector.

"As a union we are glad that Lobels has reopened and is also planning to expand its operations this year. We have a lot of members at the bakery and the closure had become a cause for concern because their welfare had been left unattended to," he said.

He said the union had already met with those employees that were now in employment at the bakery.

"Our union president is

employed at Lobels so we are not worried about losing membership at the concern. Lobels retained 450 workers and would be hiring more when the new plant is commissioned. We expect more workers to be hired soon, the development is set to improve our membership base," he said.

Lobels Holdings chief executive Ngoni Mazango said five local banks FBC Bank, CBZ Bank, NMB Bank, Metbank and Capital Bank which were owed US\$14 million by the bakery took over the company and invested US\$4,5 million in plant refurbishment and new plant acquisition.

"We have resumed and we are going to compete fairly. We are starting with the old plant that we have refurbished. In March, we will be commissioning a new line and this will give us a combined daily output of 250 000 loaves.

## Mine workers' wives force mine closure

**W**IVES of mine workers at Renco Mine, in Masvingo halted mine operations last month when they cordoned off entrances demanding that the mine pays last year's annual bonuses and increase their husbands' salaries.

The wives embarked on the action on behalf of their husbands to cover them from being charged by the employer while sending a clear message to the employer.

The more than 800 women from the mine compound blocked the gates, *toyi toyi* and singing while demanding their husbands' dues.

The women's representative Doreen Madzora said they protested on behalf of their husbands because workers who go on strike face victimisation and termination of employment.

"It is us and the children who bear the brunt of our husbands' poor salaries. We are blocking the mine from carrying out operations until they increase salaries and give our husbands their bonuses," she said adding that they would only move if their demands are met.

Workers at the mine were said to be earning salaries of between \$100 and \$300 per month. The wives are demanding that the salaries be increased to match the Poverty Datum Line (PDL) which is now above \$500.00 for an average family of six.

Renco Mine workers' committee chairperson Vincent Matiza confirmed the workers were hopeful that their wives' action would yield something positive.

"We have been blocked from entering our workplace by our wives who camped here before we entered for work. It is true we were not given our bonuses last year and our employer is declining to increase our paltry salaries, so our wives took it upon themselves to express their disgruntlement," he said.

Matiza said workers' rights such as embarking on a job action were not respected at the mine claiming that about 100 workers were fired for participating or attempting to organise an industrial action to demand decent wages and better working conditions last year. (Staff Reporter)

## Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions



# ZCTU

ZCTU Affiliate unions after the 7th Congress held in Bulawayo, August 2011

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Commercial Workers Union of Zimbabwe (CWUZ)	Cell: 0712584067 / 0774 170 442
Federation of Food Workers Union (FFWUZ)	Tel:748482 / 757600 Fax:798482
General Agriculture Plantation Workers Union (GAPWUZ)	Tel:762897 / 734141
National Engineering Workers Union(NEWU)	Tel:759597-8 / 0773 599 228 Fax:759598
National Union Of Clothing (NUCI)	Fax:752064 Tel:09-64432
Railway Artisans Union(RAU)	Telefax: 09- 64952
Railway Association of Engineering (RAE)	Telefax: 09- 67447
Zim Amalgamated Railway men's Union(ZARU)	Tel: 09-70041/ 09-786001 / 0960948
ZIM Banks & Allied Workers Union (ZIBAWU)	Tel:703744 / 707779 Fax:706674
Zim Catering &Hotel Workers Union (ZCHWU)	Tel:758903 /Fax: 758902
Zim Chemicals & Plastics Allied Workers Union	Tel:2901010 / 0773 371 708
Zim Construction Workers Union (ZCATWU)	Tel:773953 / 750158-9 Fax:773967
Zim Domestic & Allied Workers Union (ZIDAWU)	Telefax:775813/7
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Railway Yard Operating Staff (RAYOS)	Tel:09-62852
National Mine Workers Union of Zimbabwe	Cell: 0775 038 150
Zim State Universities	09 282842 0712 917 487 / 0772 747 387
Zimbabwe Teachers Association (ZIMTA)	Tel: 795931 Fax: 791042
Transport and General Workers Union	Tel: 04-702121 / 793477
Zim Security Guards Union (ZISEGU)	0773 475 196 Nhema 710161
Public Service Association (PSA)	
Zimbabwe Urban Councils Workers Union (ZUCWU)	





# Byo youths blast Kasukuwere

BY LIONEL SAUNGWEMA



Minister Kasukuwere

**Y**OUTHS in Bulawayo and some of their colleagues who are Junior Parliamentarians blasted Minister of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment, Saviour Kasukuwere for unfulfilled promises.

The youths clashed with the Minister at a hastily organized meeting held at Bulawayo's 7 Arts Theatre on January 28, 2013.

"You came to us two years ago and told us to apply for loans. CABS Bank has turned our applications down. Why? My father does not have a job. I have to supplement income by doing temporary teaching. Why?" said one of the

participants in the auditorium who drew a round of applause each time she asked, "Why?"

In response Kasukuwere said he was just providing a platform for empowerment of the youths and that he did not have all the answers.

However, in what seemed like a bid to evade the direct questions, the Minister accused the banks of stalling on the expedition of loan applications.

"I will ask CABS where is the \$3 million you used to fund *amakhiwa* (whites)," said Kasukuwere as he accused CABS of helping white people with loans and mortgages before and after independence.

However, a CABS employee who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "Our job is to give out loans for building and

such like projects. These loans are issued against capital or collateral. So where is the racism there?" asked the employee.

Seeing that Kasukuwere was on the receiving end during question time, Zimbabwe Entrepreneurs Youth Action (ZEYA) Director of Community Development in Matabeleland, Alfred Chinanayi jumped to the Minister's Defence.

"We trust and believe that a lot of changes will be taking place in our lives. As young people, we are ready to work and implement what we have been taught. It is good to have a leader who is willing to come and hear the needs, the cries, and the joys of his people," said Chinanayi.

Chairman of the

Matabeleland chapter of ZEYA, Pritchard Mkhwebu, went further to say that, "Hon Saviour Kasukuwere needs to put structures in place that will expedite the flow of funds to the youths of Matabeleland."

Mkhwebu went on to urge the Minister to deal with the Bulawayo City Council saying, "Honourable Kasukuwere should also deal with the Bulawayo Local Government on the issuing of licences to foreigners such as Nigerians coming to cook *sadza* in Zimbabwe. This sector, as far as my understanding goes is reserved for Zimbabweans."

Kasukuwere got the audience in stitches when he concluded his speech saying, "Lazy bones don't eat. We do not want youths who spend their time smoking *mbanje*."

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## Taking up alternative employment after suspension or dismissal

**U**SUALLY when an employee has been dismissed or suspended, he will end up taking alternative employment or he may simply wait for the determination of any committee, tribunal or court handling the matter.

A number of consequences will arise from the decision he would have made.

A suspended employee is not entitled to take up alternative employment at all. If he takes up employment, he would have repudiated his contract. If the suspension was illegal, he would have accepted the repudiation. This arises from the fact that an unlawful suspension is in itself repudiation and an employee has a right to accept the repudiation by taking up alternative employment or stand by his contract.

The case of *United Bottlers v Kaduya S 34-06* is pertinent to note in this regard. The court in the said case noted that a wrongfully

suspended employee has a duty by operation of law to remain available for employment by his employer. If he accepts alternative employment, by that fact alone he accepts the employer's repudiation and his only remaining remedy is to sue the employer for damages for breach of contract. An employee who is under suspension is therefore supposed to be available if called to resume work. This stems from the fact he would not have been dismissed and is therefore entitled to hold himself available if called.

Once an employee who was under suspension takes up alternative work, his damages will only be from the date of suspension to the date he took up alternative employment. He will only be compensated for the period he lost his income. He would not be paid anything beyond the date of obtaining alternative employment for he would not have suffered any loss unless if what he would be earning at the alternative employment is less than what he was getting.

An employee who has been dismissed is however not entitled to sit back and do nothing. He is entitled to mitigate his loss by taking up alternative employment. This position was made clear in the

case of *Bata v Ambali*. In that case, the court stated an employee who has been dismissed should not sit around and do nothing. He or she should look for alternative employment to mitigate their loss. In the case of *Madyara v Globe & Phoenix Industries (Pvt) Ltd S-63-02*, the court stated that while an employee should mitigate his loss by taking up alternative employment, the onus is on the employer to show that the employee earned or should have earned some money during the period in question.

Where an employee sits around and does nothing after wrongful dismissal, his damages would be limited to the period from the date of dismissal to the date he could reasonably have found alternative employment. In the case of *Maseko v Jongwe Printing and Publishing Co (Pvt) Ltd HH-191-02* the court ruled that it was reasonable to assume that the plaintiff could have mitigated his loss, and the damages would be based on

the date when he lost his employment and the date when he could reasonably have been expected to find alternative employment. A year would be a reasonable period.

It must be pointed out that the period that one would require in order to find alternative employment tends to vary on the basis of skill and availability of work.

If an employee was on a fixed term contract which was terminated before its expiry and the contract provided for a notice period, the employee will be entitled to payment for the remainder of contract save to state that he would also be under an obligation to mitigate his loss. In *Madyara v Globe & Phoenix Industries (Pvt) Ltd S-63-02* it was stated that the onus to prove that the employee earned or should have earned some money during the period under consideration is on the employer.

Basil Makururu is a registered legal practitioner, Notary Public and Conveyancer who writes in his personal capacity. He can be contacted at bezelm@newu.co.zw or 0733 785 729.





# Spinning bike for a living!



A man and his two bikes - Gabriel Nyakabau

BY BRIGGETTE KATIYO

IN a nation where unemployment is now hovering at more than 80 percent, looking for a job in the formal sector would be the last thing Gabriel Nyakabau would do.

For him necessity to survive has created an innovative spirit to survive and earn a living.

An ordinary bike is his tool of trade and he has managed to create employment for himself.

Those who have been to First Street Mall in Harare will bear testify to the man's wizardry when it comes to entertaining with his spinning bike.

According to Nyakabau, his bicycle riding technique has earned him a living thanks to on lookers who enjoy his antics and also buy his DVD. Some of the onlookers throw notes and coins when he does his wonders.

"I still have dreams, I see the moves and styles in my dreams and practice the following day," Nyakabau explained with delight.

The 24-year-old bicycle riding whiz kid who has taken his art to almost all the suburbs in Harare said he started it for fun but the attention and attraction it has brought forced him to go commercial to make a living out of it.

"In 2003 when I was in form one; I would take my cousin's bike, practicing what I would have dreamt in the bush or at school with my friends.

"At one time I was so ambitious that I initiated a group of crazy bike jugglers. I wanted to establish a big enterprise hence the name G-Nyaxs, but unfortunately the group turned against me because of lack funds to keep them going," he said.

Nyakabau is more popular in Glen-View, Budiriro, Arcadia and the city centre where he performs his shows and sells his DVDs for a dollar.

Not to be outdone by street actors, the bicycle whiz kid has also managed to produce a short film called, "King of stanza", and a song, "Ride", where he tells the world his journey to stardom.

Gabriel asserts that he is a dreamer, "It started as a dream when I was in grade 4 at Glen-View 9 Primary School in 1999".

He said his first bike was bought after selling manure and firewood and he suffered a lot in order to buy a good bike.

In a world full of tricksters and madigicians, Nyakabau says his performance is sheer hard work and practice, nothing else.

"Despite the hard work, some people want to soil my name claiming that I use juju, honestly it

is a genuine talent," he added.

Mrs. Deve, his aunt, concurred with Nyakabau saying that humility, trustworthiness, and hard work saw him excel as an entertainer.

"Gabriel is humble, trustworthy and hardworking; he has done quite a lot for the family by riding his bike."

"On the first of December 2012, Gabriel bought his sister a fridge and a four plate stove, as a present for her wedding, and we are very happy," the jubilating Deve said.

Gogo Deve added that the family was hoping the corporate world would help the boy to join world competitions.

Those who have seen Nyakabau perform his bicycle riding flair have admitted that the guy has perfected his art.

"The guy is entertaining, his skills on the bike are just good, but our worry is his ability because some of the things he does seems impossible to a normal human being," said Peter Sithole a spectator in First Street.

Another fan of Nyakabau, Nyasha Maluzana added that Nyakabau's bicycle riding prowess was mouth-watering.

"I have seen a lot of women holding breath each time the man perform his acts.

"He is just good and I wish he could go to competitions outside the country," Maluzana said.

Kathrine Chiwaka said that he is doing a wonderful work and should inspire his fellow peers to earn a living through descent ways than stealing and sniffing glue in the streets.

Nyakabau continues to delight onlookers each time he performs his bicycle riding prowess whether in the central business district or in suburbs.

Ghetto seems to be powerful in grooming youths into extra ordinary people with outstanding talents across all sectors.

It can be argued that most stars are ghetto harvested, for example, the likes of Winky Dee, Jah Prayzah, Tanga wekwa Sand o, Nox, among others



Nyakabau doing his thing with a bike

## AIDS Activists: Zimbabwe AIDS Figures Skewed

**H**IV-AIDS activists are disputing the latest figures from the National AIDS Council (NAC) showing significant decreases in HIV-related deaths and new infections.

The NAC recently said HIV-related deaths in Zimbabwe had gone down from 3,000 to 1,000 per week and new infection rates had also declined from an annual average of 66,000 to 44,000 which they credit to anti-retroviral treatment programmes.

But activists say the numbers are skewed as hundreds of Zimbabweans suffering with the disease at home, are unable to access the necessary assistance and treatment.

NAC spokeswoman Madeline Dube said the numbers were achieved with programs targeting treatment and counseling. Most of the deaths being recorded, according to Dube, are those of people defaulting on treatment.

Critics, however, charge that NAC has

failed to include AIDS groups who work directly with communities.

AIDS activist, Emmanuel Gasa, of the AIDS and Arts Foundation said that many Zimbabweans suffer at home and do not seek treatment in hospital because they cannot afford it.

"Most people are sick in places like Bikita, Goromonzi and others and are failing to access even the public assistance provided by government," said Gasa.

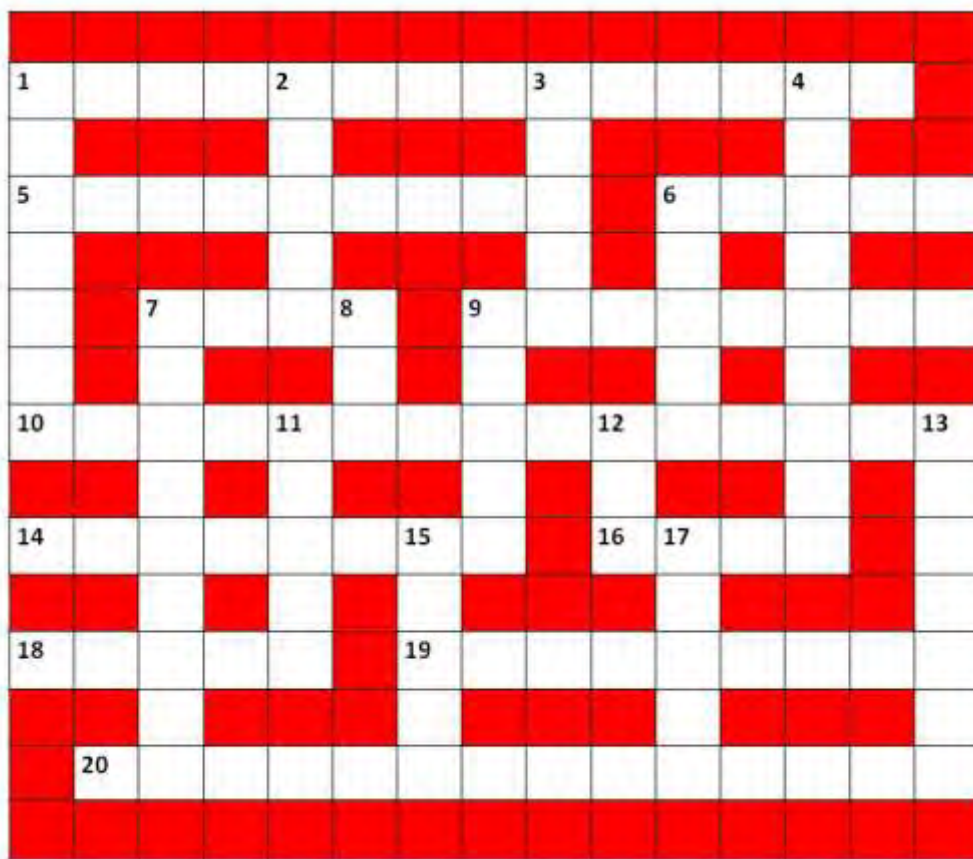
NAC is pushing for more to be done to ensure the country gets to zero new infections, a move Gasa said should involve smaller organizations working at grassroots level.

He challenged the government and donor partners to allow groups to join in while rounding statistics to pinpoint locals who are not commonly counted.





# LUNCHTIME PUZZLE



## ACROSS

1. Of supreme laws(14)
5. Applicant screening procedure(9)
6. Maltreatment(5)
7. Throw(4)
9. Hopeful(8)
10. Law-created entities(9,6)
13. Albizia sanam(8)
15. Cut(4)
17. Hair-salon tool(5)
18. Zimbabwean lake(9)
19. A city's factory zone(10,4)

## DOWN

1. Service customers(7)
2. Rotates(5)
3. Urban villages(5)
4. Chemical with atomic number 13!(9)
6. Spanish "friend"(5)
7. Norm(9)
8. Gel(3)
9. Concur(5)
11. Complete(5)
12. Wager(3)
13. Condition a vehicle(7)
15. Type of ant(5)
17. Rustic(5)

### SOLUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2013

**ACROSS:** 1.Rudolph, 4.Amp, 8.Recrut, 10.Exile, 12.Foster Dongozi, 13.Labour Officer, 16.Extra, 17.Bonuses, 19.Odd, 20.Ginnery

**DOWN:** 2.Unties, 3.Lye, 5.Mutoko, 6.Tree-felling, 7.Made inroads, 8.Revenue, 9.Coldrooms, 11.Unifies, 14.Bribed, 15.Cutter, 18.Eon

## Being single is not a disability

### Give the ladies a break

**M**arriage is not a priority for others, and one should not be forced into it by anybody because often single women have been asked, "so why are you still single, is there something wrong with you, have you tried this church, I know where you can get help?"

Due to different circumstances that some women (and men) face, some will choose to be single for the rest of their lives and not marry. Some have had abusive and traumatic relationships, some have had emotionally abusive relationships, some have tried several relationships and failed, some just choose to focus on their careers and some just do not want to get married.

Marriage is a lifetime commitment, well I still believe it is, and having to ask a woman who has had enough trouble with the menfolk to commit again if they are not willing to is unfair. The decision that these women will have made is not for anyone to judge, not for any pastor to lay hands and wave handkerchiefs, not for co-workers to gossip about or men to take advantage.

Often in the workplace most single women especially mature women whether with children or not face some pressure to commit or marry. Some co-workers and in some instances with bosses, have discussions about the singleness of these women and come up with ridiculous conclusions.

Society itself doesn't make it any easier for these sisters, where even pastors wave handkerchiefs and lay hands on them to take out demons. If one does not want to get married why force her to, because no matter how much a pastor can wave that handkerchief or shake her heard it is not

going to change anything until and unless the person decides to change her mind, so please let the sisters be.

Society has a lot of expectations from the girl child and not getting married is unheard of, it is a taboo. It is unheard of in our society that a woman has made a decision not to marry. The elders from the woman's family will take her to all the traditional healers in the area, all the prophets or even to the church to consult on the despicable decision their child will have made. In some families, a man will be arranged without any questions and the result will be a forced marriage which will be highly likely an unhappy one.

Society will always judge women for getting old without getting married, they will call them names, treat them without respect, and accuse them of having goblins that don't want them to marry.

As we begin 2013, let us all start in a clean page, if anyone does not want to get married no one has a right to ask why or raise eyebrows. Do not waste your time worrying and gossiping about the single sisters who choose not to marry, because they do not care what you think about them.

If you are a single woman with no intention of marrying, so be it sister, let no one judge you. In fact if anyone has a problem with it, they should just deal with it, because you do not have to answer to anyone. Raise your head up high, walk tall and ignore those who just do not know how to mind their business.

Being single is not a disability!!! Happy 2013



## ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS



ZCTU

### POLICE INTERFERENCE WITH ZCTU BUSINESS

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) is worried with what appears to be the start of fresh harassment by the State security agents of the ZCTU following an uncalled for visit to the ZCTU offices by two members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) last Friday, 18 January 2013.

The two police details claimed that they had come to attend a meeting as they had information that there was a ZCTU meeting going on. The ZCTU would like to make it clear that under the laws of the country members of the police are not allowed to attend ZCTU meetings and there has been rulings to that effect. The ZCTU will not allow them to attend any of their meetings unless if they are invited.

We believe the action of the police is a harbinger of harassment and intimidation of human rights groups that is to follow as the country moves towards the referendum and national elections. We will not hesitate to launch a complaint with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) when our rights to freedom of assembly and association is brazenly infringed.

We also call upon the co-Ministers of Home Affairs to reign-in their officers

**J. MOYO**  
**SECRETARY-GENERAL**  
21 January 2013



## Daggers drawn for Mashingaidze



**T**he controversy surrounding Zimbabwe's representatives voting in the FIFA Ballon D'Or took another twist, this time with Zifa deputy hairperson Ndumiso Gumede adding his voice.

Gumede says the ZIFA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the only man who really knows what transpired as all correspondence are addressed to him.

"When the ballot papers arrived in the country, Mashingaidze knows what he did with them," said Gumede.

"He says there is no way he cannot identify the people who cast their votes on behalf of the country as upon sending them back to Zurich, he signed to show that he had received, dispatched to the relevant people to vote and sent them back, on behalf of the association.

"Jonathan Mashingaidze owes an explanation to the country, as his office holds the sole responsibility to such matters. People are now accusing certain individuals of voting because as the chief executive, he is literally responsible

for the day to day activities of the association," fumed Gumede.

The veteran administrator says he suspects there was an underhand whose aim was to tarnish the image of the association which is still reeling from the effects of the Asiagate scandal.

"One will be tempted to believe that there is an underhand which is orchestrating all this only to make Zifa the laughing stock of the world.

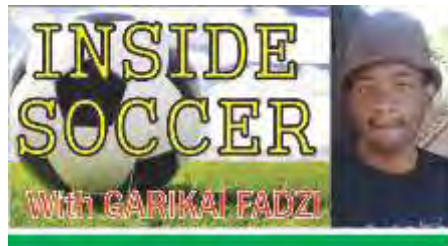
When contacted for comment, Mashingaidze expressed ignorance on the issue, preferring to bring other issues such as that of the never ending Asiagate scandal.

"It is actually news to us and, we promise as an association we will get to the root of this issue because it is embarrassing to the country. Anyone who will be implicated will face the music, they have no place in our football," said Mashingaidze.

While Matongorere denies voting, it would appear as if people within ZIFA believe that he was the one who voted after former coach Rahman Gumbo denied he had cast a vote as indicated by the FIFA records. The same FIFA records show that Matongorere voted as Zimbabwe Warriors captain.

It is no wonder then that Asiagate happened when you have ridiculous things like this happening. It means there are people with eyes completely off the ball. The next question is how much of this incompetence will continue at Zifa?

With Mashingaidze reportedly ill, it remains to be seen when the investigations will hit the ground.



### FLIP THROUGH IT!

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### DIGITAL VERSION