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SUNSHINE NEWS

We are bringing back the Sunshine: Acting Mayor

Endear a spirit of excellence, council urged

Council Countinues to refurbish its clinics

We are bringing back the Sunshine: Acting Mayor



Cllr Stewart Mutizwa

Staff Reporter

Council is determined to contribute to the nation's 2030 vision of achieving a middle income economy and is working to make the city shine again, Acting Mayor Cllr Stewart Mutizwa has said.

Speaking at the second interactive conference between City officials, councillors and various government ministries, Cllr Mutizwa said the city has what it takes to assist the country achieve its vision through its 2025 vision and welcomed cooperation between the local authority and central government.

Endear a spirit of excellence, council urged

Staff reporter

Harare Provincial Administrator Mr Tafadzwa Muguti has implored council to endear itself to the spirit of excellence in service delivery.

He revealed that Harare Metropolitan Province contributes 68 percent of national gross domestic product of which 90 percent of the contribution is from City of Harare area.

"Harare must position itself as the biggest contributor to the national GDP and catalyse the devolution agenda in Zimbabwe," he said.

He made the remarks during an interactive meeting between Government, councillors and management. The interactive meeting is part of the Government roadmap to transition the city to stability to enable service delivery.

Council has recently been going through leadership instability at both management and councillor level.

"As a nation, we aspire to be an upper middle class economy by 2030 and as the City of Harare, we wish to strengthen our own contribution to this national vision through our 2021-25 strategy.

"We are mindful of the current challenges, but we will strive to overcome them. It is my hope that, our coming together will further enhance our resilience.

"I strongly believe that the synergy between my Council and the executive shall be the Silver-Bullet that will take Harare to its dream. We need full Government support in this journey," he said.

He applauded cooperation which has so far been exhibited by Government and council officials towards improving service delivery in the city.

"In our last engagement, you emphasized building a high performance Harare Team focused on improving on service delivery.

You were so passionate about addressing soft governance issues affecting the City of Harare, unpacking key service delivery challenges in Roads, Water, Solid Waste, Planning and Housing delivery. "These are the issues our Council is seized with. In all our council meetings, service delivery is toping the agenda," he said.

He said this showed how serious councillors and management are in resolving service delivery issues.

"That is why we are here to assist in stabilising the capital city and ensure that it performs its mandate fully," he said.

"You are Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe is Harare. If city of Harare fails to deliver, it is the nation that fails," he said. He urged the remaining councillors to bring sanity to the city.

He praised the city for working to ensure water delivery is improved.

He said markets should be modernised and ensure the city maximises on its asset base. He said in comparison council had the biggest asset base than Old Mutual and was only second to Government.

He said council should turn itself into a property mogul

120000 receive Covid jabs in Harare



Dr Masunda

Bothwell Petro

At least 120 000 people in Harare had by Tuesday been vaccinated against Covid 19.

The city is now on course to achieve herd immunity by year end. City Epidemiologist, Dr Kudzai Masunda said

40 000 people have received the second jab.

“Our vaccination campaign which we started in February is going on well. We have more than 120 000 people in Harare who have received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and just above 40 000 that have received the second dose.

“This is good. We expect our herd immunity to be around 950 000 people which means we have already surpassed the 10 percent mark for Harare. We are hoping that if we get more people we may reach the target that the Government has set,” he said.

He however expressed concern over lack of uptake by people from the southern and western suburbs.

“We are seeing a disparity in terms of uptake of the vaccination campaign in that more people from the northern and eastern suburbs are coming to get vaccinated and we have less people in the southern and western parts of Harare.

“So we still want to encourage people in the Southern and Western districts to come and get vaccinated. “We have tried by all means to make sure that there is distribution of vaccination centres in Harare.

We have more than 24 centres that are vaccinating so we still encourage people to present themselves at these facilities and get vaccinated,” he said.

He encouraged residents to take any of the vaccines as they are all effective.

“We have got Sinovac, Sinopharm, and Covaxin which we are using at the moment and we still expect more types of vaccines to come into the country and we encourage people to get vaccinated with any of the vaccines which the government has approved because they have been seen to be efficacious and they have been seen to be safe for our communities so we hope that you will come and get vaccinated,” he said.

Dr Masunda said there is an encouraging decrease in the number of cases in the city

“We are still within the Covid 19 outbreak which started last year in March. Fortunately we are not getting as many cases as we had in the second wave from December up to February.

“We are getting about 15-20 cases per week for the past three to four weeks which is a far cry from where we were getting more than 100 or 200 cases per day in January and February,” he said.

He encouraged residents to continue sticking to preventive measures.

“What we are now doing is that we want to improve on our preventive strategies so as to limit the spread of Covid 19 within our communities.

Council amending traffic by-laws

Staff reporter

Council and Government is in the process of amending various traffic by-laws to ensure that they resonate with the current socio-economic environment.

Acting Chamber Secretary, Mr Warren Chiwawa said the Harare Traffic had communicated the need to amend the by-laws.

“There are recommendations that came from Harare Traffic to amend the Harare Clamping and Tow Away by-law but we took a holistic approach and we are now amending that by-law together with the Pre-paid Parking Disc by-law and the Harare Traffic by-law.

“In terms of progress with the Harare Clamping and Tow Away by law, we effected the changes, referred the amendment by-law to the Ministry of Local Government for onward to the Attorney General's office legal drafting division so that the amendments are then gazetted.

He said some parts of the draft amendment were gazetted but there are other areas that the Attorney General's office felt that there is need for further consultations.

“We are working on that so that we finalise all the amendments that were done,” he said.

Motoring offences rile traffic section

Bothwell Petro

Harare's Traffic Enforcement Division is concerned with the rate at which the motorists are flouting road traffic regulations.

In an interview Chief Traffic Officer Martin Chimombe said there are a lot of illegal activities happening particularly in suburbs where the city's traffic by-laws do not cover.

"We have a serious challenge, for example Kuwadzana alone has 57 illegal car parks and that is a huge number considering they are using council grounds for free.

"Unfortunately we cannot effect anything, we cannot arrest them because our laws do not permit but all things being equal I think there is a reason we should clear the mess," he said.

He said enforcement is ensuring all illegal kombis are off the city roads.

"We need electronic gadgets to enforce. We need smart enforcement.

"We are reviewing our by-laws to cater for these new challenges that are coming up so that the whole city is covered.

"We need to invest in order, safety and security. The measures I am talking about will provide what it takes to ensure order, safety and security," he said.

The City's Clamping and Tow Away by-law was enacted in 2005 and is restricted to the CBD. Chimombe said the city needs to adapt to population growth as well as its expansion drive.



Government happy with stability at Council



Staff Reporter

Government is happy with the stability currently obtaining at City of Harare with the city now expected to refocus its energies towards providing service delivery.

This was revealed by Provincial Development Coordinator Mr Tafadzwa Muguti who was speaking at an interactive workshop between Government and Council.

"I am happy to note that the situation is now calm and we

expect the city to refocus its energies towards providing water and waste water services, manage waste, repair roads, provide primary health care, and all the other social services.

"Harare must be able to provide portable water to the citizens; Harare must be able to provide decent accommodation to its population.

Council Countinues to refurbish its clinics



Bercy Kuyumani

The City Health Department is continuing with the refurbishment of its facilities with attention now focused on Kuwadzana Poly Clinic.

The renovation of Kuwadzana Poly Clinic is part of the city's move to improve service delivery, meet increasing demand for services and release pressure on satellite clinics.

Head Epidemiology and Disease Control Dr Kudzai Masunda said the renovation of Kuwadzana Poly Clinic

and other facilities will improve maternity services and general health delivery in the city.

“There are currently on going renovations at Kuwadzana Poly Clinic as well as repairs to the roofs and ceilings. “We have done the necessary orders.

We are hoping all the materials should be on site by end of this week and work to be completed hopefully by next week. We hope the clinic will be functional in two weeks,” he said.

He said plans were afoot to refurbish other health facilities and the department is always looking at improving health delivery.

“We have finally completed Highlands Clinic and we are hoping in the next few days or weeks it should be functional.

“We have other renovations that are penciled in other clinics I know Glenview satellite clinic there is something happening now and other facilities in Harare.

“There is always room for continuous improvement and we are hoping that we can do that with the facilities that we have.”

City band set for another release

Mercy Makuwatsine

Harare City band has composed a scorching song encouraging the preservation of wetlands.

Titled Matoro, the song is expected to resonate with residents as the cry to protect wetlands grows louder.

The City's water resources are under threat from stream bank and riverine wetlands cultivation resulting in increased siltation of Harava, Seke, Lake Chivero and Manyame dams.

Sunshine News crew caught up with the band during their rehearsals in one of the recording studios in the CBD.

Band member Kasanga Simba Mafaiti said the band's first recording was Covid-19 Yapinda Mumusha. “The band which comprises council employees was formed in 2015 and approved by council in 2019.

“It has 23 members of which 14 are males and nine

females. Three ladies are leading vocalists. Mafaiti said “Our first track was Covid-19 Yapinda Mumusha which highlighted the problems the nation was and is facing due to the pandemic.” The band is available for hire.



Government to inject more funds for roads



Staff Reporter

Government is set to inject more funds for road rehabilitation to ensure that Council has resources to fix the city's roads most of which are now in bad shape.

Speaking at an interactive workshop between Government and the city the Provincial Development Coordinator Mr Tafadzwa Muguti said Government is working with Council through the Provincial Roads Committee.

“We are determined to increase the budget for Harare so it can attend to more roads. Starting from next week we have organized training for city engineers through Zinara.

We shall continuously be training councilors and management to avert effects of brain drain”
“I Implore the chairpersons of the newly formed Investment Committee and Business Committee to explore ways of luring investment.

Investment climate should be the bedrock of our core strategy to revamp Harare. Political will is there to change Harare into a World Class City,” he said.