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SUNSHINE NEWS

Uphold law and order to lure investors: Harare urged

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City plans for competitive property rates



Uphold law and order to lure investors: Harare urged



Mr Tafadza Muguti

Bridget Sibanda and Bercy Kuyumani

Harare Provincial Development Coordinator (PDC) Mr Tafadza Muguti has implored Council to uphold high standards of law and order in order to lure investors.

Muguti was speaking on the sidelines of an interactive meeting between Government and the City of Harare.

“If we are going to have the best investment climate within the African continent and be able to lure foreign direct investment and local domestic investments we need to have law and order,” he said.

“We all love economic development but it all has to come with order.

We have noted that car sales are sprouting on road verges in contravention of the Roads Act.

“We all know that development has to be at least 70 metres from the middle of the roads going to the left or right to the shoulders of the road and most of the car sales are sitting within the roads servitudes,” he said.

He said some of these car sales have become hives for various illegal activities.

“We are also aware that most car sales are now a front for money laundering where people are buying drugs and gold illegally. “We are aware of it and we will be dealing with it thoroughly.

For sound investments we need to have law and order. The dealings have caught the attention of the office of the PDC and we are going to be dealing with it soon,” he said.

He said his office will be launching a blitz together with the police. Mr Muguti urged other stakeholders like ZIMRA to fully audit most of the vehicles being sold and the legitimacy of most of the car sales.

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TelOne pledges waste management support

Staff Reporters

Telecommunications giant TelOne says it will continue supporting council's waste management initiatives.

This was revealed by the corporation's Communications Manager, Mrs Melody Harry during a handover of bins to the city's Amenities Division.

The bins will be placed in strategic positions in the Central Business District (CBD).

Mrs Harry said TelOne is playing a big role in the city's waste management initiatives.

"Let me take this opportunity to express TelOne's commitment to support the City of Harare particularly in terms of refuse management through the provision of these litter receptacles.

"We really hope that this year we will go a notch higher beyond just providing these TelOne bins.

We would like to support you in terms of waste removal. We may not be able to support the removal from each receptacle but am sure we will be able to maybe facilitate once in a while clearing the dumpsites," she said.

"We also want to ensure that these road islands that we have been supporting Harare remain up to standard. We want the city to be

world class and as TelOne we will continue to play our part.

"We just want to reassure council that we are here for you, you are a good client of ours, but besides that we have a clear obligation to ensure that we have a clean city," she said.

Accepting the donation, the City's Acting Amenities Head Engineer Keith Mapunzamoyo said the donation will go a long way in assisting council in waste management.

"We express our gratitude towards this kind gesture, you have not done it for the City of Harare but you have done it for the entire residents of the city, we really appreciate and acknowledge that this will go a long way trying to improve the solid waste management in the city.

"As you are aware currently the city is challenged. We welcome your noble idea to assist in the removal of refuse," he said.



City plans for competitive property rates

Bridget Sibanda

City plans for competitive property rates

Council is set to charge competitive rates for its various properties which are being leased to companies and individual.

The city has a huge property portfolio ranging from shops to residential properties strewn all over Harare and its satellite towns.

This was revealed by Acting Finance Manager Alfred Guni during an interactive meeting between council and government officials last week.

Guni said there is non-performance of leases owing to poor

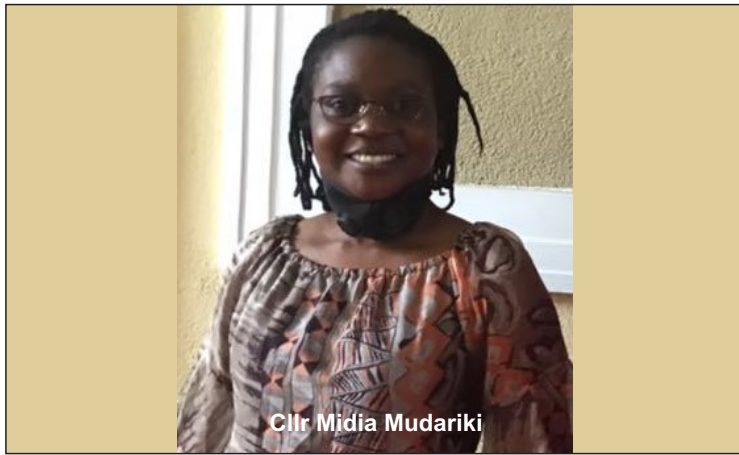
collections from tenants which has become a challenge to the city's balance sheet.

As a solution, the city of Harare is planning to update the registry against property database from Department of Housing and Community Services by June this year.

He added that root cause for the poor performance of most leases is political interference in allocations, collections and terminations.

Going forward, Mr Guni, said Council is going to vet prospective clients before allocating the leases and this is going to be done using bank statements and proof of business concepts.

Mudariki vows to restore Belvedere glow



Cllr Midia Mudariki

Bothwell Petro

Ward 5 Councillor Midia Mudariki is working hard to restore Belvedere's glory despite the financial challenges faced by Council.

Having grown and spent her youthful years in Belvedere, Councillor Midia Mudariki knows the area like the back of her hand. The mother of one grew up at Belvedere Teachers College before moving out to settle in the same area

"I was born in Guruve but grew in the area. I know what it used to be back then. It had some of the best infrastructure and amenities," she says. It is that nostalgic thinking that made her decide run for the ward's councillorship so that she can fight to bring the area to what it was before. "Most of the infrastructure is now dilapidated and the area has become a pale shadow of its glorious past. The standards of the roads for example, have gone down

"I then decided to become the ward councillor so that I can work with corporates, residents and Council to bring back the spark. Belvedere was a very nice place and we used to enjoy being in the area" she

says.

She has however faced some problems as Council is most of the times financially hamstrung to fully execute some of the required works in the ward.

"We have tried and are still working on some projects but as you know, council has not been financially stable since we came into office and that has affected our operations. "I am going to work flat out to make sure that some things change during the course of this term," she said. She said for now Council has put gravel on some of the roads in her area while working on a lasting solution. Cllr Mudariki is grateful to some residents who have adopted certain works in the ward.

"There are some residents who have adopted some pieces of land in the area to beautify. One group has adopted Rowland Square and another worked on some robots along Bishop Gaul.

"We installed a solar system at the robot but the batteries were unfortunately stolen.

"The Hindu Society donated a fridge for Belvedere Clinic while another group assisted in renovating our District Office," she says. Cllr Mudariki says she is working with various groups in the community to uplift their lives.

"We have trained some youths and women in soap and candle making projects, about 80 people have so far been trained," she says.

She says she still has a lot to work on in the ward and urged residents in the ward to remain steadfast and expect some more works in the ward as she feels she has a lot to offer.

City engages FCB over ballooning debt

Bothwell Petro and Bridget sibanda

Council has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Financial Clearing Bureau (FCB) that will see the later assisting council to recover its debts which have now gone beyond ZWL\$7 billion. The agreement with FCB will see defaulting residents being blacklisted.

Acting finance director, Mr Livingstone Churu said council will engage residents first before FCB comes into play because it understands the effects of the novel coronavirus.

"We are planning to engage our ratepayers so that we understand their problems. We have already engaged some corporates and some of the prominent people who owe us.

"Ratepayers who fail to comply will be blacklisted. We are finalising our contract with the FCB," he said.

Mr Churu said FCB has worked with other institutions including ZESA

and TelOne to recover debts.

He is optimistic the deal will improve service delivery.

"Eventually defaulters will be blacklisted by other financial institutions and will be required to clear their debts the city before they can deal with other service providers," he said.

He said the process of engaging residents before FCB comes into play will assist council in cleaning their bills.

"Some of our bills are disputed, so in the process one of the key deliverables is to clean the bill before we blacklist."

Mr Churu said the City is targeting to recover at least half of its debts in order to effectively improve service delivery.

"Our target is to collect at least 50 per cent of debt. I want to emphasise that it is not an issue of blacklisting and collecting money but also to improve service delivery. Residents fund service delivery," he said.

SUNSHINE SPORTS



Volleyball clubs face unusual season

Yvonne Saniro

Harare City Volleyball team are facing an indifferent season this year following the effects of the novel coronavirus.

Both players and members of the technical department from the team say the coronavirus has affected their rhythm and do not know what to expect from their rivals in the league as there has been massive movement of good players across the league.

The men's captain Blessing Manhai said the players have little confidence because of the little preparatory time they have had. "This season is going to be tough as the players are not yet physically able to train and endure the exercises that are being done during the training sessions."

He said this has lowered their confidence ahead of the new season. "We are not really confident that we will be able to win since the players did not have enough time of practice due to staying at home," he said.

The teams' technical director Nyasha Takawira echoed Manhai's sentiments as most of the players are still rusty.

"This season is going to be tough as the players are not yet physically able to train and endure the exercises that are being done during the training sessions."

"As you can see some of the players have forgotten how to handle the ball, we need to make sure they are can do better before the season starts," he said.

The season will start with the usual Zimbabwe Open Championships which will be held at University of Zimbabwe.

Since bursting onto the volleyball scene three years ago, the Citizens, as they are fondly know by their multitudes of supporters, they have grown to become one of the strongest teams in the country and region and have represented the region at various regional competitions.



Madure upbeat ahead of handball season

Bercy Kuyumani

Harare City Handball coach Tafadzwa Madure is pleased by his side's preparations ahead of the forthcoming season despite the Covid 19 pandemic handicap.

Like many sports in the country, handball was affected by the coronavirus induced lockdowns and lost several players who moved to seek greener pastures but Madure believes his team has what it

takes to fight for honours this season.

"We are trying to get into form with the guys. We have been training for five weeks.

He said the team recruited news faces. The team is becoming compact and should be the team to beat.

We lost some players during the lockdown who moved to other clubs.