



The city of Harare

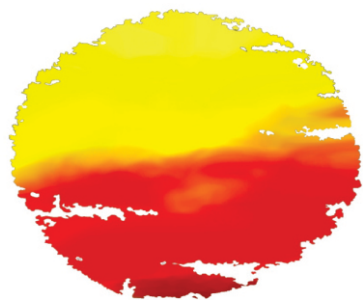


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SUNSHINE



NEWS

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Take heed or we die!

Over the past week, Covid 19 cases and deaths have been increasing.

This forced Government to place localised lockdowns in Kariba, Karoi and Kwekwe where the numbers are rising.

Harare is not spared either. We are the economic hub of the country and the population during daytime multiplies threefold as people throng into the city for various business.

We implore our valued residents, stakeholders and ratepayers to take heed of preventive measures announced recently by Government to reduce the spread of the virus.

We need everyone to play a role as we thrive to reach our vision. We want everyone alive, we want your contribution towards the development of this city and country.

Over and above what the Government has

said on preventing the disease, we would like to urge our residents to avoid unnecessary travel into the CDB and gatherings at local shopping centres.

We understand that many are running around trying to make ends meet and we believe the Government is aware of this but for those that just want to travel or gather for the sake of it please take heed of the preventative measures by Government and those that we have always been practising over the past 18 months.

If you have to gather outdoor gatherings are safer than indoor ones, particularly if indoor spaces are small and without outdoor air coming in.

The virus seems to be continually coming in different forms and variants but health experts say preventive measures remain the same

Let us listen to advice lest we all perish.

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Demand services that you pay for, PDC Muguti



PDC MUGUTI

Bridget Sibanda

Ratepayers who are not paying their rates have no right to demand services from Council as they are failing to fund service delivery, Harare Provincial Coordinator Mr Tafadzwa Muguti has said.

Speaking at the commissioning of the Harare Municipal Police band equipment, Mr Muguti said residents should get services they pay for.

“The people of Harare should demand for services they pay for. If you are not paying for any services, then you have no right to make demands for service delivery.”

Mr Muguti said council should fund the municipal police so that they improve on enforcement. “Your worship if there is any department which needs funding, it is the Harare municipal police because the economy is based on enforcement.”

“How do we grow the economy of the province when there is lawlessness. How do we grow the economy of the province when only 10 percent are paying rate

“We are tired of the current generation which keeps on comparing Zimbabwe to countries like South Africa, America and UK. Why not build our own South Africa, America or UK. Let us make our roads the best and our towns safe. All of this is possible,” he said

City launches SHE policy

Yvonne Saniro

Employee Relations Manager Mr Jabulani Duve says safe working environments are key to achieving a world class city status for Harare.

Mr Duve was speaking on the sidelines of the launch of the city's Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) policy recently.

"Health and safety is very key to us achieving our vision 2025. We need to eliminate any occupational injuries.

"We need our employees to focus on productivity rather and their targets and for them to be able to attain their targets, they need to work in a safe environment.

"We need to provide them with their personal protective clothing and equipment so that they can be able to achieve their targets," he said. He said the launch of the SHE policy will aid employees and enable them to be provided with

adequate tools and personal protective gear.

"The employees will have the guidance in terms of how they should work in safe environments, so the policy is an enabler in terms of our productivity."

"Thus this is one of the support service that is being given by the human capital department in terms of having a high performance team so that we can achieve our vision 2025," he said

Speaking at the same function, chairperson of the Human Resources and General Purposes Committee (HR&GPC) Cllr Kumbirai Kunashe said the SHE policy was a vital requirement.

"The issue of health and safety of our employees is something which we cannot do without. For things to go well in our city as workers we must have a guideline."

He congratulated members who created the SHE policy and applauded their work as it is a guideline for workers and institutions.

COUNCIL shifts to LED lights

Kuyumani Bercy

Council is modernising its street lighting by replacing the bulb system with LED lights

Street lights provide security to residents in addition to adding beauty and ambience to the environment.

City Electrician Mr Regis Jairos said the project is targeting selected dark spot areas, main roads and parts of the Central Business District (CBD) which are not on solar system.

"We will be targeting busy intersections in Harare as well as bus termini where there is a lot of human traffic," said Mr Jairos.

In the CBD, the department has already completed installations along Rotten Row between Coventry and Belvedere roads.

"We targeted this section of the road because it is a dark spot and there are a lot of muggings around that area which is between two hills in the Kopje area.

"The area is prone to muggings because they are some vagrants and street kids who stay around that area," he said.

LED lights fitting is made of light emitting diodes and retro-fitted in place of high pressure sodium (hps) bulbs which tend to consume a lot of energy.

Mr Jairos said LED lights will reduce the city's electricity bill.

"LED lights has a long life span, they can actually burn up to more than 55 000 hours.



"It has an efficient lighting of more than 80 percent and lighting weight compared to high pressure sodium (hps) fittings so it is easy to carry it up and mould on a pole", he said.

He said these lights have less maintenance cost because there is no lamp switching accessories as they are just a compact fitting without any switch gear inside.

Jairos said LED tower lights are free from theft and vandalism.

"We have installed these lights on high poles which are mostly around 14 metres on main roads and it is not easily accessible when you do not have platform to reach that height.

"We would need support from stakeholders and ratepayers so that they will take ownership of these lights," he said

SAVE WATER



Every drop counts

Purchase of equipment as a step in the right direction: PDC

Sibanda and Yvonne Saniro

Council has now fully resourced its Harare Metropolitan Police musical band.

The band provides entertainment at council functions and will be hired to perform at private functions raising resources to fund the band.

The decision to resource the band caught the eye and appreciation of Harare Province Development Coordinator Tafadzwa Muguti, who was quick to laud the city.

"It is a great day because we are once again showing as Harare that we are pursuing a standard of excellency within the city. I want you to know that is the little things that you do that show the rest of the world that we are alive and well in Zimbabwe and we are going forward not backward," he said.

He said Council should fund the municipal police because the economy of Harare depends on them. The band was formed in 2019 as a cost cutting measure to perform at council functions and promote talent amongst the city council workers.

It consists of volunteer council workers mainly from the Harare Municipal Police. Speaking at the event, Acting Mayor Cllr Musarurwa Mutizwa said council is a very big institution which must promote a lot of activities.

The activities include arts, sports and culture.

"This is why we have so many facilities dotted around the city to make sure that residents participate in sports recreational activities," he said.

Cllr Mutizwa said the owning musical instruments and a band would save hiring costs for council.

"In council we have a department that is responsible for promoting such events, that is the department of housing and community services," he said. He said music is a key component at every event and in unifying people.

"Music is art, music is culture, and music is life. As Africans, even in church, for the Holy Spirit to come down people need to sing," he said.

The band will cater for council events, parades, city council adverts, public awareness education just to mention a few.

The band will also be available for hire outside council.



City of Harare, CHRA to launch Client Services App

Tatenda Mujeyi

The City of Harare under partnership with community based organisation Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) will soon launch a mobile application Taura Harare to meet customer relationship management.

In a bid to meet the ever argued challenge of the city's response to customer relationship management the city of Harare will launch the 'Taura Harare' mobile application in partnership with Combined Harare Residents Association.

"It is not like we have no means to achieve Customer Relationship Management, at times resource challenges are the biggest impediment.

We have a Information and Publicity Committee and

management team, physical customer complaints offices across districts, we are available on social networks 24/7 and we are adding the TAURA Harare Application to our many customer service platform's in partnership with CHRA." The City's Public Relations Manager Michael Chideme said.

The Mobile Application's adoption is pending approval by the Information and Publicity committee with formalities expected any time soon.

"The application has gone through trial runs and we are awaiting approval from the council's committee on Information and Publicity we expect a resolution from the committee soon and we hope to thereafter stream it on line," Chideme also said.

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City of Harare, CHRA to launch Client Services App

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The proponents have sought to defy the growing assumptions that technology in the Covid-19 era could potentially widen the technology gap through offering residents universally applicable service.

According to a publication by United Cities and Local Governance titled, Digital Technologies and the COVID-19 pandemic

“Despite the increased demand for digital technologies in response to the COVID-19 crisis, there is the risk that the rapid application of these technologies during the current emergency will broaden the digital divide.

Although the existence of a digital divide is not new, the current crisis adds a new dimension of urgency to address it.

In a bid to cater for the needs of the old folk and mitigate some of these challenges, ever increasing prices of data and smart phones the application will also work on conventional phones through the SMS platform.

“Yes we can confirm that the platform is text based and works on WhatsApp.

To further cater for the old folk, the 'TAURA Harare' application shall be SMS compatible to allow for those who do not have smartphones.” Mr Akili, the Combined Harare Residents Programs Officer said in an interview.

The application is expected to increase accurate information transfare through the usage of photography and partial data collection as a communication tool.

“You will see that the application seeks to address the challenge of bureaucratic information flow through directing complaints to the relevant office.

A sewer systems complaint will automatically notify the relevant management department and the plumber on

duty thereby cutting the time and cost the City would have taken to communicate the complaint,” Mr Akili also said.

Optimism is high among project's proponents in terms of continuity as the project is set to be a 24 hour complaints station that will be initially funded by CHRA and remains a cheap option for council's adoption.

“We funded the project and we are going to see it's coming to life financially but the important issue is it can be considered as part of council's budget as it is a cheap option. With research carried out four to five years ago suggesting that close to 95% of the urban population owns mobile phones the success of the Application 'Taura Harare' can never be undermined,” Akili said.

The City of Harare deserves a lasting solution to customer services management, with critics arguing that it is not the submission of complaints that is challenging but council's response to customer complaints. Taura Harare app once approved will be available on Google Playstore.



Mr. Michael Chideme

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Advertising companies risk shame

Bothwell Petro

Advertising billboard owners have been given a 48 hour ultimatum to pay up their lease fees to council or risk removal of their billboards.

Acting Finance Director Mr Livingstone Churu confirmed the council decision.

He said council is owed in excess of \$ZWL34 million by the companies which have billboard lease agreements. Companies that advertise goods and services pay to these companies.

The companies are expected to pay their monthly lease fees to council.

Mr Churu said the companies will be named so that the public knows the institutions that are withholding municipal funds and affecting service delivery. Several letters of demand have been sent to the companies.

"It is noted with regret that despite an earlier request for prompt payment of your account, your account remains outstanding.

"By copy of this letter you are hereby given 48 hours' notice to settle your account or your name will be publicized without

further negotiations," he said.

Mr Churu has already advised the City's Work's Department to proceed and de-face and remove all billboards with outstanding amounts and in breach of contract.

The City's Principal Communications Officer Mr Innocent

Ruwende said council is failing to provide satisfactory services because there are companies and individuals enjoying municipal services but not paying for the same.

"These companies are given money in advance by advertisers and are making a killing in the city but cannot pay the same to council thereby affecting service delivery

"We have been blamed by government for failing to collect revenue and provide services and we are going all out to ensure that all those who owe council pay their dues.

"This is just the beginning and we will be extending the operation to other corporates and individuals who are holding on to our money yet they are demanding five star services," he said.

Mr Ruwende said residents and ratepayers fund service delivery.



Mr. Livingstone Churu



Council workers working on road islands

SUNSHINE SPORTS



Lockdown a setback: Machazane

Bothwell Petro

Harare City Football Club captain Marshal Machazane says the current lockdown will negatively affect their fitness levels as they will need to restart all over again.

Contact sports are currently banned as the country fights a resurgence in the rise of new coronavirus cases.

Many contact sports were just starting after more than a one and half year long layoff due to the global pandemic which has claimed millions of lives.

The rise in Covid Cases means the country has to enforce preventative measures and this has affected a lot of sporting disciplines in the country.

“It is a big setback to us as players because there are strides that we had taken until we got to game number five and now we have been told to stop of which I feel like it is not good for our players. It is not good for our fitness as we are going to start all over again.

“We have to put in the work and it is never easy. I think this lockdown has jeopardised everything. I think we were on the right track as Harare City,” he said.

The experienced Sunshine City Boys captain said he was happy with the performance of the team at the time of the break.

“Truly speaking I think you have seen comments on social media about our team. I think we have a very good team right now and we are working as a team, we are working as a family, and there is love and everything that every coach requires.

He said new players have gelled well with the old boys and the team was doing tremendously well. Machazane said the team managed to dominate its games and was just unlucky not to score.

“If you look at our team in the games that we have played, we were tactically good, we were technically good and everything that we have been doing shows that the coach has done a tremendous job because we have been playing so well

“We have just lost against Dynamos which is our first loss in five games but if you look at the game, it was a good game. If you understand football you can see that there were a lot of things that were being done right and I am very proud of the new boys and the team. I believe we can do much more than we have done right now,” he said.