



The city of Harare



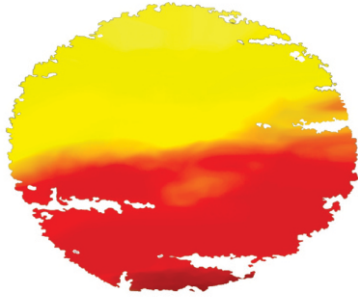
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SUNSHINE



NEWS

☀️ Government assists in revenue collection

☀️ Meter replacement on course

☀️ Residents urged to vaccinate

☀️ First street fountain sprinkling



Government assists in revenue collection



PDC MUGUTI

Bothwell Petro

Government is capacitating local authorities to enhance revenue collection to improve service delivery, Provincial Development Coordinator Mr Tafadzwa Muguti has said. Mr Muguti was speaking during a tour of Harare Quarry, Shawasha Complex and the Coca-Cola Market.

He said Government wants to aid local authorities' to collect revenue to boost service efficiency.

"Government has noted with concern through various investigations instituted into the operations of local authorities by the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works that their capacity for revenue collection is highly diminished

"This does not bode well for optimum service delivery. This had resulted in poor refuse collection, poor road infrastructure and general malaise," he said.

He said this made it critical for Government to step in to capacitate local authorities and enhance their collection capacity.

"This necessarily includes, among other things enabling council to collect revenue from markets designated for informal traders.

"Government's economic blueprint for the next five years can only be implemented properly through adherence to the laws and bylaws that have been enacted to govern the conduct of business both in the

formal and informal sector," he said.

He said Council's Strategic Business Units (SBUs) must also perform to ensure revenue collection which will in turn be channelled towards service delivery.

The PDC said Council infrastructure must be used in a manner that benefits council, ratepayers, traders and other stakeholders and encouraged council to cut the bureaucratic red tape to accelerate issuance of licences and permits.

"Our thrust going forward must be optimum revenue collection and judicious use of the revenue collected.

"This thrust also requires we cut the red tape within our local authorities.

"Local authorities must expedite the provision of permits and approvals for traders in the informal sector and for other businesspeople in general in order to stimulate

Deal to protect wetlands

Yvonne Saniro

Council is partnering Harare Wetlands Trust (HWT) to protect and preserve wetlands.

Council recently authorised Acting Town Clerk, Engineer Phakamile Moyo to negotiate a memorandum of understanding with the pressure group.

Acting Works Director Engineer Norman Karidza recently told council that HWT had engaged the city with a proposal to protect wetlands.

"Harare Wetlands Trust approached the City of Harare in the last quarter of the year 2020 in order to secure an MOU for the purpose of cooperating in the protection and preservation of Harare's wetlands.

"Following the above engagement with the city, it was agreed HWT produce a draft memorandum of

understanding to kick start negotiations with the city. "Harare Wetlands Trust and City of Harare are to collaborate with willing communities within the suburbs to develop local environment plans which would incorporate wetland management plans with leases," read the minutes.

The Committee noted that the cooperation is in the development of legal, policy and institutional policies and programmes that enhance wetland preservation. The agreement should centre on joint monitoring of wetlands and other ecologically sensitive areas in Harare.

"Council agreed to carry out of publicity and awareness campaigns on environmental, wetlands and biodiversity and ecological conservation," read the minutes.

The agreement also included activities such as biodiversity and securing the primary source of Harare's raw water sources.

Meter replacement on course

Prudence Tsaha

4 000 new water meters to be replaced as council moves to reduce non revenue water losses.

So far replacement has taken place in Glen View 1, Sunningdale, Ashdown Park and parts of Mabvuku and Tafara.

Focus is now on Zambezi Flats in Mabelreign. Acting Water Distribution Manager Engineer Charles Chinyanya confirmed the development.

“In Ashdown Park our target is to replace 700 water meters and we have now replaced 316. We are now targeting Zambezi Flats while we are almost completing Glenview. Our initial target for Glenview was 2 000 meters and we have managed to replace 1 800 meters,” he said.

Meters at some houses were not replaced because owners left their the gates locked while some residents were not complying with the process.

“We failed to reach our targeted number for water meters because other residents are still new and some were not complying. They did not open their

gates such that their water meters could be replaced,” said Eng Chinyanya.

He said the process was faster in Ashdown Park as it was just the replacing of the water meters but in Glenview the process involves replacing pipes.

He advised residents who are illegally accessing council water to regularise their connection before the end of July at Old Mutual House.

Eng Chinyanya said the exercise is part of Councils' thrust to reduce non-revenue water and failure to regularise the connections will lead to penalties. “Failure to regularise before the stipulated date will attract penalties, and this may include prosecution or permanent removal of their connection.”



Council rehabilitates markets

Bridget Sibanda

Council has rehabilitated the Mbare Musika Farmers Market and Budiriro 1 Vegetable Market with the assistance of United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF), Oxfam and United Nations Development Programme.

According to recent Council minutes, Acting Housing Director Ms Lizzy Muchena reported that in August last year, OXFAM undertook an initiative

to upgrade the two market structures under the urban resilient programme aimed at transforming markets into competitive and COVID 19 compliant areas.

“The committee noted that the refurbishment of the Budiriro 1 market structure project began in August 2020 and was completed in January 2021.

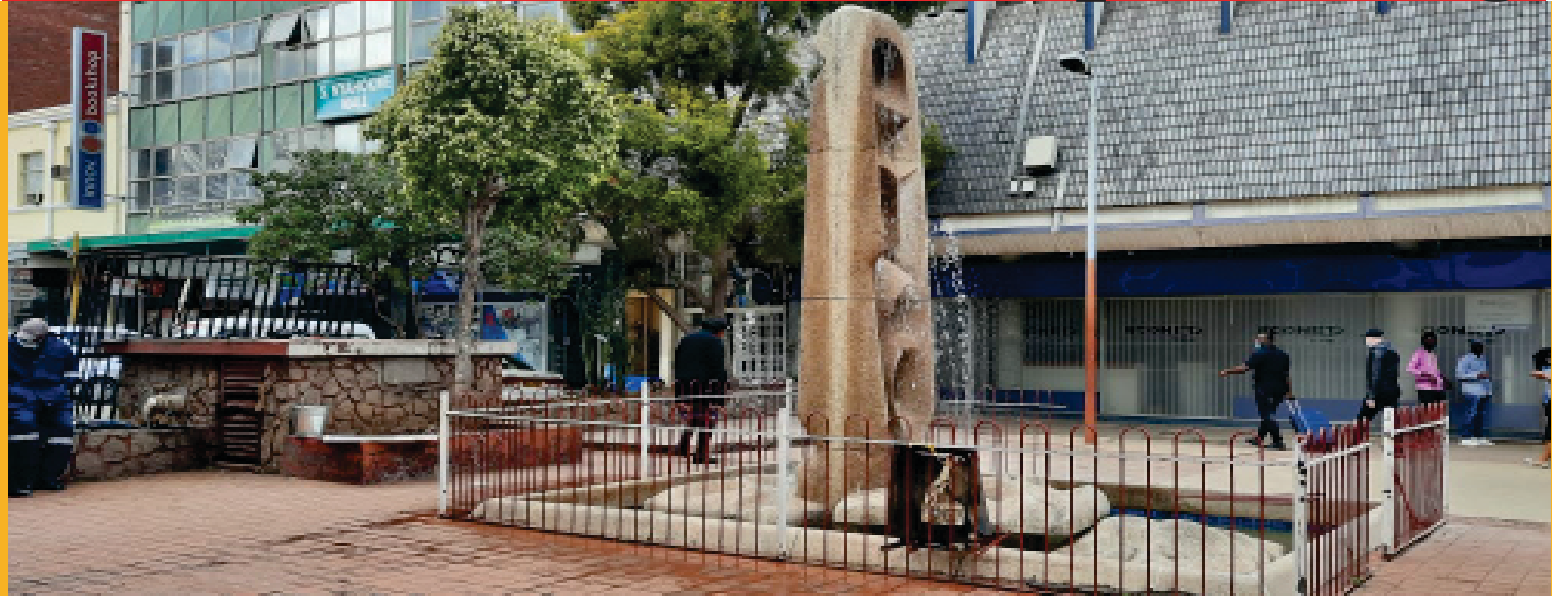
“In January, the market was fully functional and traders were paying

their rentals to council. In the same year, OXFAM refurbished Mbare's new vegetable farmers market,” read the minutes.

The NGO provided the area with water and put security measures to ensure that the area safe.

Oxfam also beautified the area by constructing dwarf walls and built an overnight safe for safe keeping of goods by traders.

First Street fountain sprinkling



Bridget Sibanda

Council has rehabilitated the Wimpy First Street fountain in partnership with Nyahokwe Jewellers.

The fountain, located at the corner of First Street and George Silundika has not been functional for over 10 years

The jewellers who also own Nyahokwe Mall along First Street, rehabilitated the fountain as a social responsibility programme.

A Nyahokwe representative Ms Zvinavashe said the resuscitation was aimed at bringing life and sparkle to First Street.

"Rehabilitating the fountain was a way to beautify

the area as it is in front of the mall.

It enhances the day to day business and attracts customers. As a business benefitting from the residents of the city we saw it fit to plough back," she said.

Before the fountain was fixed, it had become a dumpsite and ended up being a health hazard to residents.

The fountain will soon be barricaded to keep vandals off the beautiful structure.

"I would like to encourage other business owners in the Central Business District to beautify their places of business to attract customers and operate in a clean environment."

HCD lauds frontline workers

Bothwell Petro

Acting Human Capital Director, Mr Bozzman Matengarufu has hailed the city's frontline workers for their dedication in the fight against Covid 19.

Mr Matengarufu was speaking after visiting the City's ambulance services staff who are conducting Covid-19 tests at City Sports Centre.

Tests are being done to all people visiting the testing even if they are not Harare residents.

"I am excited with the enthusiasm that the workers have. "They are so committed, " he said.

"I feel something more must be done towards

these committed workers as part of our commitment to them.

In the next two or three days we will make a report to our Human Resources and General Purposes Committee (HR&GPC) outlining our plans to recognise their efforts," he said.

The team at City Sports Centre is responsible for visiting and the management of patients with mild sickness and those who do not need hospitalisation at their homes.

The medical team makes sure that those at home stick to Covid-19 guidelines and are also taking their medication.

Residents urged to vaccinate

Bothwell Petro and Bercy Kuyumani

Covid Disaster Medical Team head Dr Soman Mudariki has urged residents to be vaccinated against Covid 19

Dr Mudariki who is also the City's Ambulance Services head said the Covid-19 pandemic has had a serious social, economic and political impact and it is time for people to unite and stop the spread of the disease.

"I would like to urge citizens not to hesitate to jump on the vaccination programme. Do not listen to unformed opinions," he said.

"We need to win as a team together and try to survive this third wave. If we do not take care of ourselves we might suffer the consequences of ignorance," he said.

He said he is satisfied with the current vaccination programme which is moving on well in light of the rising figures.

"Right now our numbers are coming up and thanks to the responsible authorities that have shown leadership through lockdowns, he said.

The City's testing teams have been at the forefront of the Covid-19 fight in the country, going to areas outside the city in providing care, testing and management of

the novel virus.

Dr Mudariki urged residents to continue observing World Health Organisation guidelines on the prevention of the disease.

"Now then the third wave of Covid 19 is upon us all residents and citizens need to take much care in terms of cutting down the transmission cycle as Covid 19 is spread through natural means breathing, talking, coughing and sneezing," he said.



Dr Mudariki

Keep your city clean



Sunshine City

