



The city of Harare



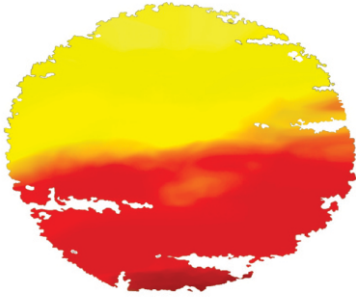
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NEWS



Harare ease of doing business gets thumps up



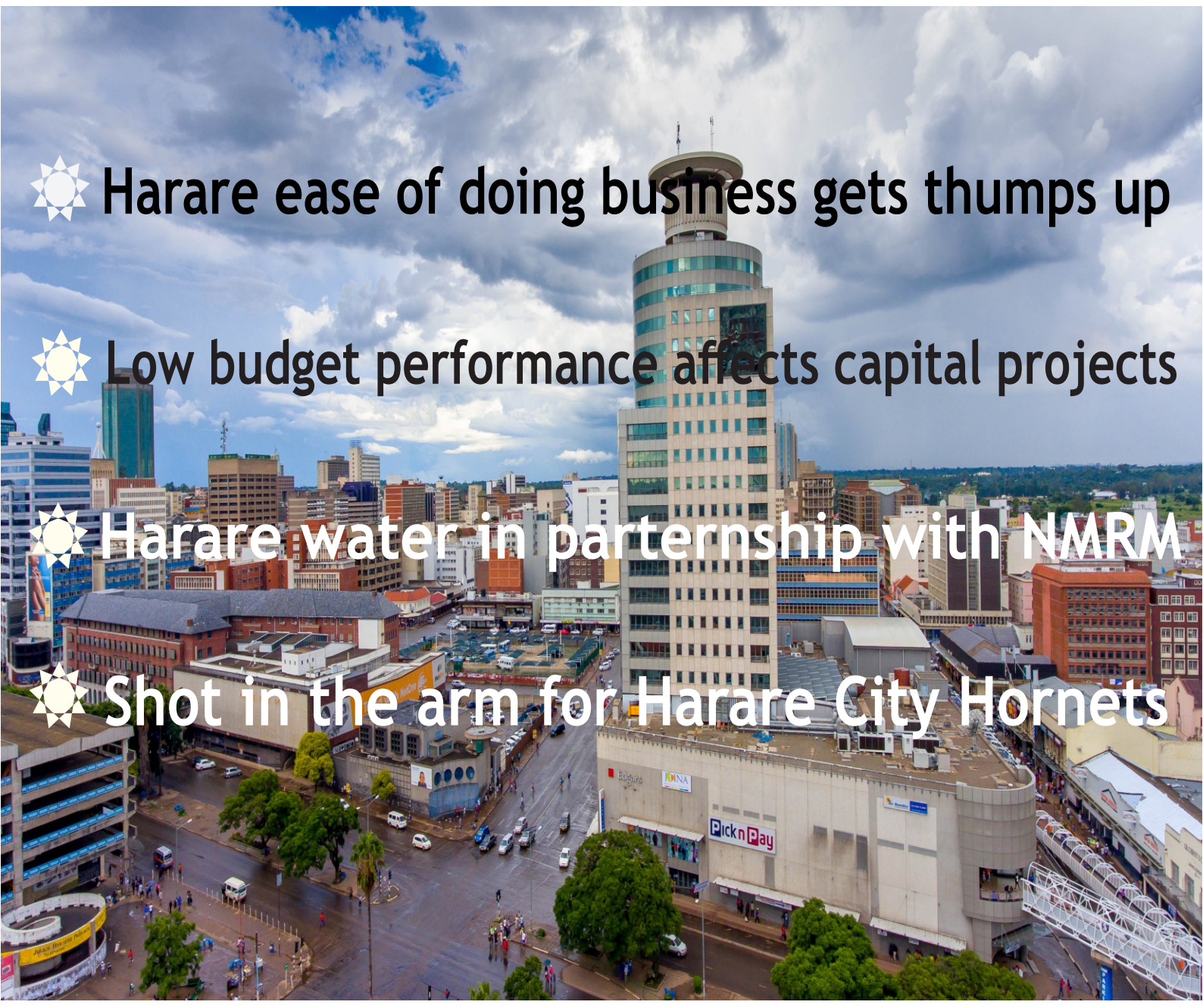
Low budget performance affects capital projects



Harare water in partnership with NMRM



Shot in the arm for Harare City Hornets



Harare ease of doing business gets thumps up

Bothwell Petro

Harare's ease of doing business initiative is one of the best and makes it easy for new businesses to set up shop.

Harare started an ease of doing business initiative a few years ago so as to enable new businesses to quickly get required permissions and licenses to operate.

Among the initiatives was the setting up of a one stop shop to speed up the approval of layout and house plans, the amalgamation of businesses licences as well as reducing the turnaround time for renewal and application of new shop licences.

Speaking during the donation of a basketball kit to Harare City Hornets this week, Varun Beverages Vice President Mr Fungai Murahwa said his company is grateful for council to allow it to operate in the city.

Varun Beverages are the manufacturers of popular soft drinks such as Pepsi, Mirinda, 7up and several brands of energy drinks.

"We are also grateful for what the city has done for

us right from the time that we started in this country. "I remember when we started back then in 2013, the economy then was not as good as we are seeing today, there were a lot of challenges but the city decided to accommodate us.

"We started running around, eventually we found a place to construct and since then it has been growth, after growth, after growth. We are now looking at the fifth and sixth production line that we are putting in place.

"This would not be possible if the city council was not making this place hospitable," said Murahwa.

He said the ease of doing business with the council is commendable and he would not hesitate to recommend that more companies join in.

"There is a time when we were being told that it is not a wise thing to invest in Zimbabwe but we were adamant because we knew that we were in safe hands. So when it comes to things like a basketball kit that is being donated today, it is nothing compared to the love and support that we have received from the council," he said.

Low budget performance affects capital projects

By Bothwell Petro

COUNCIL is failing to procure capital goods because residents are not paying bills for services rendered, Head of Budgets Mrs Taka Musere has said.

Mrs Musere was speaking to stakeholders during a virtual second quarter council budget review programme held on Wednesday.

She said there is a payments puzzle as residents and council argue over what must come first service or payment.

"In analysing the performance, in view of the inflows, we have a payment conundrum where residents are saying council must deliver first for us to pay so that is the contentious issue because council is saying residents are not paying so we are not able to give service," she said.

She however said there were improvements in terms of collections after the lockdown in January and February although they were not enough for council to embark on massive capital projects.

"There is a gradual increase as we move from March to June and it is only in June where we managed to reach the ZWL\$1-billion-dollar mark. This is way below the potential of the city which is around ZWL\$2,4 billion per month," she said.

"There has been a steady progression from the period where we moved out of the lockdown and we are hopeful that we increase the momentum of revenue collection. We anticipate that if we go ahead with the progression, we will reach the 60 percent mark around September,"

she said
has received ZWL\$ 4 Billion from January to June.

Musere said grants from Government have almost been insignificant as council was supposed to get close to ZWL\$ 1,1 billion under Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer but has only received ZWL\$ 8,5 million. dollars.

"We received a grant from Zimbabwe National Roads Authority (ZINARA) amounting to ZWL\$44 million and also a health grant amounting to ZWL\$44 million but the we are hopeful that through engagement with Government, more money is coming.

"In July an additional ZWL\$15 million came and more money should be coming under devolution.

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Low budget performance affects capital projects

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She said council was hopeful that revenue collection initiatives that it had started were going to bear fruits.

“Our predominant revenue streams, that is water recollection, are grossly underperforming, putting us in the red,” she said.

Musere revealed that council does not budget for a surplus or deficit.

“So whenever we do not get the budgeted funds, it means that there is a shortfall, or a funding gap.

“As the inflows were increasing from March, the funding gap was also decreasing but the deficit means that all those revenues should have been targeted for service delivery but that is lacking because the inflows are not coming through.

“We hope that as we progress and our collection efficiency increases the funds will be channelled towards service delivery so that the residents can feel the impact,” she said.

“The city is unable to fund these expenses which talks negatively to service delivery.

“The city is also failing to undertake meaningful repairs and maintenance because of the limited inflows where you see that the repairs as from compared to the proportionate budget is very little.

“Also capital acquisitions from own funds because the inflow coming to the city are limited. The capital acquisitions are also marginal as well as capital acquisitions from grants as I highlighted that Inter Governmental Fiscal Transfer have not been coming at the rate at which we had anticipated,” she said.

She encouraged residents to pay so that they can enjoy services.

“We are saying to the residents lets joins hands in rebuilding the city that we all want. “You play your part by paying rates and we give you the services that you want,” she said.

Harare water in partnership with NMRM

Staff Reporter



Harare Water Quality Division is partnering the National Microbiological Reference Laboratory in carrying out a study to identify antimicrobial resistant pathogens in the city's sewer water especially targeting Salmonella typhi.

Identifying antimicrobial resistance

pathogens is of very high medical importance as it enables the pharmaceutical industry to develop antimicrobials that are effective to all the pathogenic microorganisms that are found in the environment.

In an interview City of Harare Microbiologist Gladys Manyembere said they will be mainly targeting Salmonella typhi, although the study is not going to ignore other pathogens of public health importance that might come out in the project.

“We are going to bring out more information on Salmonella species that we isolate from our waste water reservoirs. It is very critical to check on the antimicrobial resistance pathogens that maybe found in our aquatic environments because that is where all the waste goes to,” she said

“We are going to utilise the results that we get from this project to contribute to the medical field particularly the pharmaceutical industry for them to develop antimicrobials that are effective to circulating pathogenic organisms that we going to find in the environment.

“This is more of a pro-active action rather than a reactive action so that we would reduce the time that is required to do an analysis in the lab using results from patients that would have been admitted in hospital.

This will reduce the time of producing antibiotics when we have outbreaks,” she said.

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Harare water in partnership with NMRM

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Ms Manyembere said the study was not only local but international as the city will get international recognition as Harare Water Quality Assurance Laboratory.

She said the recognition will augur well with the city's dream of

achieving A World Class City Status.

“For the study we also got the benefit of capacitation of our laboratory.

We received equipment from the National Microbiological Reference Laboratory which include

desktops, glassware and other consumables worth over US\$20 000.

“This collaboration comes with training so we are going to improve on our testing and competency”.

Keep your city clean



Sunshine City



Shot in the arm for Harare City Hornets

Bothwell Petro



Harare City Hornets have received a huge boost ahead of the new basketball season after soft drink giant Varun Beverages donated kits worth ZWL\$100 000 to both the men and women teams.

Varun beverages pledged to supply drinks and refreshments for the clubs during games.

The men's team are the reigning Harare Basketball Association (HBA) champions having won the championship in 2018-19 season and were also leading the charge towards returning to glory when the season was cut just after the halfway mark in 2019-20.

The ladies have become an overnight success story who rarely taste defeat on the

Zimbabwean basketball landscape.

The girls are the reigning HBA and Zimbabwe Basketball Association (ZBA) champions and were on the verge of competing in the African Championships when Covid-19 brought a halt to all sporting disciplines in 2020.

To their credit, Harare City Hornets management have managed to retain most of their best players and are looking forward to a new season despite close competition from the likes of JBC, Raiderz and Cameo.

Speaking during the handover of the kit, Varun Beverages Vice President Mr Fungai Murahwa said his organisation is proud to be associated with the 'sting of excellence' as part of its corporate responsibility programme.

"The only club that I know and I want to support Hornets. For us as varun beverages, we find that we are honoured by Harare City Hornets through them approaching us saying they need our help.

"They gave us a lot to carry and

we found that if we were to carry that load, at least we will be counted among those that are behaving well as corporate citizens and those that are enjoying in supporting local sport.

"I want to believe that if what has been said here is true that we have set the pace, I want to believe that more people can come in and support sport, not just basketball but any other sport in the country," he said. Speaking during the same event Acting Mayor Cllr Musarurwa Mutizwa said supporting sport will help remove idleness among the youths.

"The reason why government has put up a whole Minister of Sport and Recreation is because sport is service delivery.

"We want to remove idleness amongst our youths, so there is a lot of drug abuse out there.

"There is a lot of drug abuse in the city, mutoriro, zed and all other hard stuff thagt our youths are taking.

"That can be eradicated by the sports that we are introducing because our youths would be having something to do," he said.



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Road rehabilitation program under ERRP2

