



CITY OF HARARE

# SUNSHINE NEWS

WEEK ENDING 28 MARCH 2026

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**CITY OF HARARE AND SWISS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEET TO REVIEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTHCARE INVESTMENT**

**CITY OF HARARE COMMEMORATES WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ZIDETHA AND ROTARACT AVONDALE CLUB**

**PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT: AS JOINT ANTI-LITTER OPERATION NABS 370 OFFENDERS**

**KARATE STARS SHINE AT HISTORIC KARATE-ONE YOUTH LEAGUE TOURNAMENT**

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## Mayor Mafume meets investors to discuss opportunities

By Richard Gandari

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Jacob Mafume, recently met with a business delegation from the MBH Power Group, a Total Energy Solution Company headquartered in Singapore, with business interests in Asia, Africa and over 25 countries around the world.

The company's co-founder B.R. Mukhi in the company of his corporate executives, spent time with the Mayor exploring investment and strategic partnership opportunities in the City of Harare.

Mayor Mafume expressed optimism in the many opportunities available for investors keen to harness Harare's conducive business environment while also benefiting residents.

"Harare City is teeming with countless business opportunities in a safe and friendly environment in which the investor thrives while the City's residents benefit from world-class goods and services," Mayor Mafume said.

He informed the visiting business delegation that his office door is ever open for private-public partnerships (PPPs) that result in improved service delivery and skills transfer to locals.

The City of Harare has registered successful PPPs in key service areas such as health, water, and refuse collection.



*Mayor Jacob Mafume (right) and MBH Co-founder, B.R. Mukhi (left)*



*Part of the MBH delegation listening to submissions by the Mayor*



*The Mayor (centre) poses for a group photo outside Town House*

## City of Harare and Swiss Development Agency officials meet

By Richard Gandari

Sports and Arts Committee Chairperson, Cllr Stanley Manyenga, acting for the Mayor, Health, Disaster, Risk Management and Public Safety Committee Chairperson, Cllr Jane Bhingari, and City Health Director, Dr Prosper Chonzi, on Tuesday met with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) officials at Town House.

The meeting was convened to review the progress of the ongoing partnership between Harare City Council and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), assess the utilization of the initial SDC funding, and explore potential areas for future collaboration.

The Acting Mayor expressed gratitude to SDC for its continued partnership.

“We are very grateful for this high-impact partnership and SDC is likely the City’s largest development partner,” he said.

Cllr Manyenga highlighted the importance of the support in improving the health and well-being of Harare’s residents and expressed hope for future synergies.

SDC Head of the Africa Division, Ambassador Valerie Liechti, thanked City of Harare for the collaboration and reaffirmed SDC’s commitment to working with the City.

“Health is a priority area for the Swiss government and we place great importance on



*Cllr Manyenga (right) and Ambassador Liechti during the meeting*



*From left to right: Cllr Bhingari, Dr Chonzi, and Head Health Services Planning and Administration, Mr Richard Chigerwe*

mutual engagement,” Ambassador Liechti said.

She also acknowledged that SDC’s budget is currently under strain due to global conflicts but wished HCC success in its health initiatives.

In his keynote remarks, City Health Director, Dr Prosper Chonzi expressed appreciation for SDC’s financial contribution of US\$835,230 and noted the City’s desire to scale up the partnership.

He revealed the City’s plans

to extend the operating times of polyclinics to provide 24-hour service.

Given prospects of donor withdrawal or reduced funding, Dr Chonzi emphasised the City’s shift towards domestic resource mobilisation through innovative and sustainable initiatives such as the Community Health Equity Fund (CHEF).

SDC Head of Cooperation, Mr Stefano Berti, and senior City of Harare officials also attended the meeting.



## 23,000 SMART WATER METERS INSTALLED IN HARARE

By Staff Reporter

The City of Harare and its partners have so far installed over 23 000 smart water meters in Harare as residents embrace the new phenomenon, which will go a long way in improving water production and delivery in the city.

The meters are helping households better manage their water consumption while improving monitoring and efficiency across the city's distribution system.

The rollout is expected to accelerate following the arrival of additional meters.

The City has so far received 60 000 smart water meters ready for installation with the aim of installing up to 320 000 meters by the end of the first phase of the installation period.

Complementing the metering programme is a large-scale pipeline rehabilitation and replacement initiative.

A significant portion of Harare's water network still relies on aging asbestos cement pipes that have reached the end of their lifespan.

These pipes are being replaced with modern PVC pipes, which are safer, more durable, and better suited for long-term water distribution.

The project aims to replace approximately 500 kilometres of aging pipelines, strengthening the reliability of the water supply network.

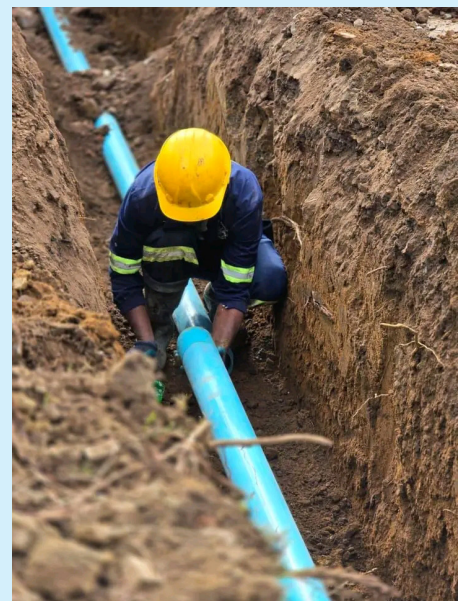
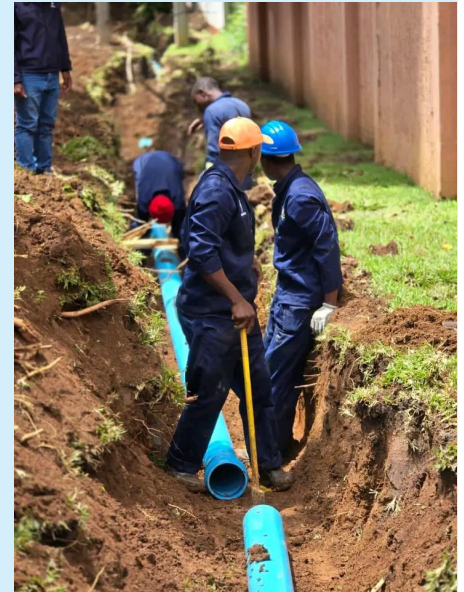
The replacement of pipes works in tandem with the installation of smart meters, ensuring that leakages are reduced while the efficiency of the entire water system improves.

Another key component of the partnership involves increasing the capacity of Morton Jaffray Water Treatment Plant, Harare's main water treatment facility.

Investments are being directed towards expanding the plant's treatment capacity to 520 megalitres a day, enabling the City to better meet growing demand for water.

This model has already shown great success in smaller towns such as Karoi, Guruve and Gokwe, where smart meters have improved water management and service delivery.

By encouraging responsible water use and improving accountability, smart prepaid meters are helping communities make the most of a scarce and valuable resource.



*Smart City: PVC pipes and smart meters set to revamp water supply*

## CITY OF HARARE COMMEMORATES WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY

By Bornwise Mtonzi

The City of Harare, in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Dental Association, Zidetha, Harare Institute of Public Health, Chef Community, and Rotaract Avondale Club, recently commemorated World Oral Health Day at Tariro Clinic in Hopley.

Under the theme “A happy mouth is a happy life,” individuals with dental problems benefited from free health services, promoting oral health awareness and access to essential care.

Ward 35 Councillor Everjoyce Kamusikiri praised the initiative, saying, “I would like to thank Council for all its efforts of bringing medical assistance in my ward.

“This programme will assist a lot of residents, as such medical assistance is not cheap and most residents here cannot afford.”

Dr Wilson Chari, President of Zidetha, emphasized the importance of oral health, urging residents to brush their teeth regularly and have them checked frequently.

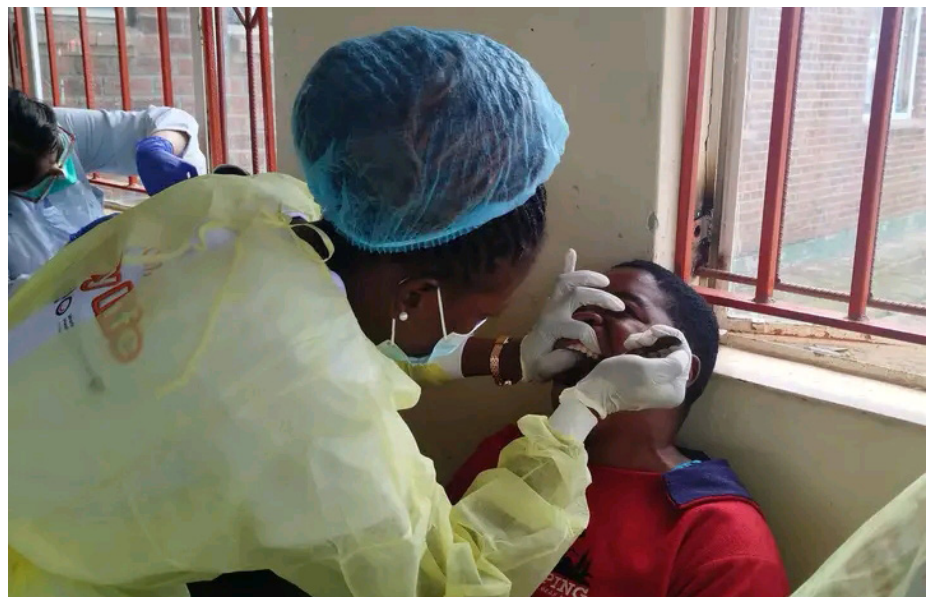
“As Zidetha we will continue to support programme like these as you know that a good life starts with a good health.

“Our goal as doctors is to

see people happy and to do that it starts with good health in our mouths,” he said.

The programme was funded by the Avondale Rotaract Club.

This initiative highlights the City of Harare’s efforts to improve healthcare services for its residents.



*Dental medical practitioners performing various inspections, corrective procedures and tooth extractions during the event*



*Ward 35 Cllr Everjoyce Kamusikiri (centre) engaging with stakeholders*

# Joint anti-litter operation nabs 370 offenders

By Staff Writer

A joint operation between the Environmental Management Agency, Harare Municipal Police, Geo Pomona, and the Zimbabwe Republic Police, has led to the arrest of 370 offenders between February and March 2026.

The operation is targeting public conveyances without bins, shops without bins, litterbugs and those practicing illegal dumping in Harare's industrial and residential areas.

Out of the 370 prosecuted during the period under review, 13 had no bins and 357 were litterbugs.

The operation which is being conducted during day and night, seeks to curb pollution and promote compliance with environmental regulations.

Night operations and early



*Law enforcement officers at a roadblock along Lomagundi Road*

morning exercises started on 16 March 2026 and are ongoing, targeting environmental crimes such as illegal dumping, especially by maize roasters who leave their unwanted material at undesignated places.

Days are numbered for perpetrators of clandestine dumping,

littering and pollution in residential areas, under the cover of darkness.

The City of Harare and its regulatory partners, encourage residents to maintain cleanliness through proper waste management and to report any environmental law breakers.

## Sunshine News

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# Budding writer donates storybooks to City libraries

By Richard Gandari

Budding writer Lillian Myezwa recently donated 150 copies of her children’s books at Mount Pleasant Library last Friday.

Addressing City library officials and community members at the event, the diaspora based author disclosed how her writing was motivated by the desire to expose her two children to Shona, their vernacular language through literature.

“I wanted my children to never lose their grasp on Shona, but couldn’t find any literature for them where I’m based abroad.

“I then decided to compose these Shona storybooks, which I went on to publish for the benefit of other Zimbabwean children out there and back home,” Lillian said.

Besides writing, she is the founder of Simai Creations, a publishing imprint, producing and distributing her books.

Accepting the donation, Senior Librarian, Ms Rosebud Maninge, praised the author for the much needed literature currently in short supply across the City’s libraries.

“Our City libraries are in dire need of books in Shona, Ndebele, and other local languages.

“We are going to equally distribute these donated copies across our libraries for the benefit of young readers,” said Ms Maninge.

She urged parents and teachers to promote the use of local languages, and refrain from taking English proficiency as a measure of a child’s intelligence.

Ms Maninge also stated that books in vernacular are crucial for early language development and preserving cultural identity.



*Author and Simai Creations founder, Lillian Myezwa*



*Senior Librarian, Ms Rosebud Maninge*



*City library and community members expressing their views on books*



## Honouring a Pioneer: The remarkable life of Edith Opperman



By Sani Mbofana

Harare, Zimbabwe - A personal connection drew me to the story of Edith Opperman, the pioneering midwife whose name is synonymous with excellence in maternal care in Harare.

My two sons, Byron and Brendon Tawanda, were born at the Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital in Mbare, making it a place close to my heart.

A chance meeting with Pilly Moyo, a direct descendant of Edith Opperman, deepened my interest, and I set out to uncover more about this extraordinary woman.

Edith Opperman was a trailblazer - the first African-trained midwife in the country, making it fitting that the hospital was named in her honor.

The Mayoress of Harare, Alderman Ruth Taylor, officially commissioned the revamped hospital and announced the city's decision to name it after Edith Opperman, recognizing her outstanding contributions.

Born in 1910 in Kroonstad, South Africa, Edith Opperman overcame adversity to pursue her calling as a midwife.

She arrived in Salisbury (now

Harare) in 1932, drawn by the opportunity to serve the community, and began working as a domiciliary midwife for the Salisbury Municipality.

Her dedication and compassion soon led to the establishment of a small maternity hospital in Mbare, which grew to become a 20-bed facility under her leadership.

For 38 years, Edith Opperman served as a beacon of hope for countless mothers and newborns, earning international recognition, including the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) award in 1959.

Edith Opperman's legacy extends far beyond the hospital that bears her name.

Her unwavering commitment to delivering care with kindness, dignity, and compassion has inspired generations of healthcare professionals.

As Pilly Moyo shared, "Edith Opperman devoted her life to serving mothers and newborn babies. Midwifery was not simply her career; it was her calling."

Edith Opperman retired in 1970 and returned to South Africa in 1990, where she passed away in 1995.

Her remarkable life serves as a testament to the power of selflessness, dedication, and service to humanity.

The Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital stands as a living tribute to her enduring legacy, a reminder of the impact one person can have on the lives of many.



Edith Opperman 1969



*The Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital in Mbare*

# Karate stars shine at historic Youth Tournament

By Sani Mbofana

The City Sports Centre in Harare is playing host to a thrilling 'Karate One Youth League - Harare 26' event, a historic first for Africa as it marks the inaugural World Karate Federation (WKF) Youth League tournament on the continent.

The event, being held from March 26-28, 2026, brings together over 200 athletes from 35 countries, showcasing young talent from around the world.

Cllr Stanley Manase Manyenga representing the Mayor graced the official opening of the tournament, praising organisers for choosing Harare as the host city.

"Harare is the place" for such events, he said, highlighting the City's vibrant sports culture.

The event features participants from countries like Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Namibia among others from Southern Africa, competing in categories such as Junior Kata Male, Junior Kata Female, and various Kumite weight classes.

The tournament is a stepping stone for young karatekas towards elite WKF competitions and offers international ranking points.

The successful hosting of the Karate One Youth League aligns with Harare City Council's sports development policy, driven by his Worship the Mayor Cllr Jacob Mafume and Cllr Manyenga's Sports Committee as its Chairperson.

The Council aims to promote sports excellence, youth development, and international partnerships, and this event ticks all those boxes.

"Events like these put Harare on the global sports map and provide

opportunities for our young athletes to shine," said Cllr Manyenga, emphasising the Council's commitment to sports growth.



*Cllr Stanley Manyenga*



*Zimbabwe National Karate Federation (ZNKF) Secretary General, Cllr Kudzai Kadzombe (left) and ZNKF President Mr Joe Rugwete*