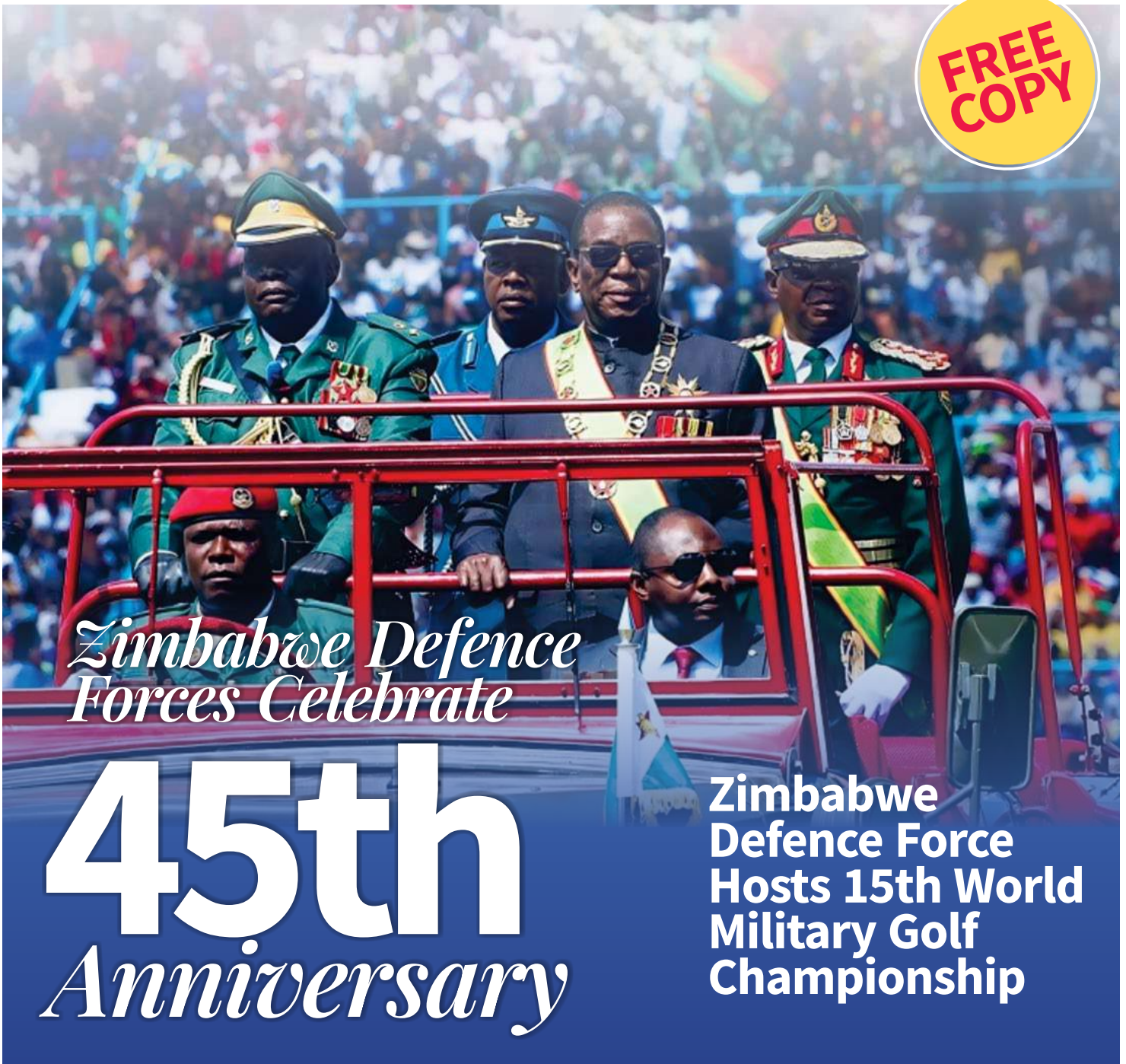


# ZDF



**ZIMBABWE DEFENCE FORCES** *Magazine*  
GUARANTEERING PEACE AND STABILITY FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF VISION 2030

*Issue No. 1 2025*



*Zimbabwe Defence Forces Celebrate*

# 45th Anniversary

**Zimbabwe Defence Force Hosts 15th World Military Golf Championship**

**07**

Victoria Falls Hosts Zimbabwe-Zambia Joint Permanent Commission

**15**

Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces Hosts EII Breakfast Meeting

**28**

The Demining Story: ZIMAC Brings Hope for Communities



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## Feedback

For your feedback link up with the Editor  
**Zimbabwe Defence Forces**  
 P.O.Box 7713 Causeway,  
 Harare

+263 4 250042 / 706705  
 +263 8688007596

*The Editor reserves the right to publish your feedback. Correspondence must bear details of the originator.*



# Editorial

**PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE  
COMMANDER ZIMBABWE DEFENCE FORCES,  
GENERAL PHILIP VALERIO SIBANDA**

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Warrant Officer Mazivofa Edmore

## **PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Flight Sergeant Mutyaso Dadirai  
Sergeant Mudzimurega Edson  
Sergeant Munana Allen

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## **DESIGN AND LAYOUT**

The Business Diary  
Wellington Ziduche

## **ADVERTISING AND SALES**

The Business Diary  
Catherine Muchairi  
Nyasha Chagadama  
**Address:** Ground floor Bard house  
69 Samora Machel Ave Harare  
Tel: (0242)706404,706403  
0715293333,0781333525, 0781333526

## **PUBLISHER**

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# Editor's Note

**A warm welcome to all our valued readers.**

**T**he Zimbabwe Defence Forces Magazine makes a welcome return after a four-year hiatus. This edition reflects the ZDF's commitment to its core mandate of safeguarding Zimbabwe's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interests, while upholding the constitution. The publication further highlights the organisation's vision and mission which are collectively anchored on the commitment to provide a versatile defence capability and contributing to international peace and security. Guided by the theme "Guaranteeing Peace and Stability for the Attainment of Vision 2030," the ZDF's focus remains that of fostering a secure environment conducive for national development and regional stability.

In that regard, this Edition carries a wide range of stories, which showcase the ZDF's evolving capabilities, regional engagements, and community support initiatives. From hosting the Zimbabwe-Zambia Joint Permanent Commission to successful participation in the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, it is clear that the ZDF is actively engaged in its primary and secondary roles.

Internal developments such as promotions and appointments signify a continuity in strong leadership which is a hallmark of the ZDF over the years since its formation in 1980. Discipline and professionalism in the ZDF has seen it being a force to reckon with in the region and beyond.

Other featured articles delve into the ZDF's participation in peacekeeping missions, such as the experience of a military observer in South Sudan, and our efforts in demining, which bring hope and safety to communities and open up land for economic development. On a sad note, we pay tribute to one of the eminent female commanders, the late Air Vice Marshal Winnie Cabby Mandeya whose legacy as a pioneering female commander exemplifies loyalty and patriotism.

The magazine also brings to focus less familiar but vital professions such as military morticians, fostering greater understanding and respect. The magazine also explores societal issues such as drug and substance abuse, emphasising the importance of awareness and prevention. Our cultural and sporting achievements, including hosting the 15th World Military Golf Championship and participation in regional sporting competitions such as the recently held Confederation of Southern Africa Netball Associations Championships in Namibia, demonstrate the multidimensional role of the ZDF and commitment to international and regional cooperation.

The edition also highlights some topical and interesting issues such as conflict resolution techniques and thought provoking takes on alternative sources of energy to add a different flair to the publication and generate some critical thinking among readers. Through articles such as 'The Rhythm that Moves Them' and "A Permanent Marriage to Duty" the publication takes us on a military journey and experience that has defined the force for the past 45 years.

As we look ahead, this edition reaffirms the ZDF's dedication to providing a versatile and sustainable defence capability, serving the country with professionalism, integrity and dedication. Together, we continue working towards a peaceful, stable Zimbabwe that is well-positioned to achieve Vision 2030.

**Happy Reading!!!**



## Zimbabwe Defence Forces Celebrate 45th Anniversary

► ZDF Magazine Reporter

**The 45th anniversary of Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) Day was commemorated on 12 August 2025, with nationwide celebrations being held across all the country's ten provinces. The main celebrations took place at Rufaro Stadium in Harare. Festivities included performances by local music artists and impressive displays by the ZDF, such as parachute jumps and a historical re-enactment of the forces' evolution.**

The highlight of the celebrations

was a keynote speech by the Commander-in-Chief of the ZDF, President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa. In his address, President Mnangagwa emphasised Zimbabwe's liberation heritage as a foundation for the force's strength and discipline. He underscored the importance of the ZDF's role in maintaining peace, security, and socio-economic development. "Our rich liberation war heritage must, therefore, embolden you, as the current crop of the Defence Forces, to remain a formidable, dependable and disciplined force. You remain beacons of our nation's peace, security and socio-economic development.

This is well stated in this year's commemoration's theme, which says, and I quote "Zimbabwe Defence Forces: Guaranteeing Peace and Stability for the Attainment of Vision 2030," said President Mnangagwa.

President Mnangagwa called on the force to expand beyond protecting sovereignty from external threats to address emerging challenges such as economic instability, climate change, cyber-attacks, pandemics, and terrorism. He praised the ZDF's initiatives in providing military aid for civil power, border control, and combating drug abuse, as well as their vital role in disaster response. "The fast-paced and multi-pronged, global developments require that the Zimbabwe Defence Forces spreads beyond the traditional role of defending our national sovereignty and territorial integrity from external military threats. I, therefore, challenge the Defence Forces to continue increasing their

capabilities around a wider range of threats, that relate to economic instability, climate change, cyber-attacks, pandemics and terrorism. "In this spirit, I applaud the various initiatives being undertaken by our Forces to provide Military Aid to Civil Power. This includes, activities with regards to border control and the combating of drug and substance abuse.

"The role of the ZDF in addressing climate change, and disaster preparedness, is worth commendation. During the last rainy season, the involvement of our Forces in search and rescue operations to assist villagers affected by floods brought speedy relief, to affected communities," he said.

The President commended Zimbabwe's active participation in international peacekeeping, with troops serving under SADC, the African Union, and the United Nations in countries such as South Sudan, Abyei, and the DRC. He also stressed the importance of ongoing training and international cooperation, noting the partnerships with countries like China, Russia, Pakistan, and others.

"We continue to work for the peaceful resolution of international disputes and to support the SADC, African Union and United Nations initiatives, in this regard. To date, members of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces are deployed for Peace Support Operations under the auspices of SADC, the African Union and the United Nations, in various international peace and security initiatives. These are stationed at the UN Headquarters in New York as well as at the United



“

**All of us have a role to play in building our motherland, Zimbabwe, including the Defence Forces and members of the Security Sector, as a whole.”**

Nations Missions in South Sudan; Abyei, Central African Republic; the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia.

"To be able to effectively execute its roles, both internally and with regards to international obligations, it is critically important that the ZDF maintains robust training and capacity building programmes. In this regard, Zimbabwe remains ready to expand mutually beneficial relations in the field of military and defence cooperation, in keeping

with our Engagement and Re-engagement Policy.

"It is commendable that ongoing Training Exchange Programmes are widening and deepening the skill sets within the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, towards enhanced organisational proficiency, regional inter-operability, combat efficiency and exposure to varied equipment and technology.

"Zimbabwe appreciates the bilateral defence and security cooperation with the People's Republic of China; Russian Federation; Pakistan, India, Greece, Malaysia, Egypt, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana, Malawi, Eswatini and Lesotho, among others. The Zimbabwe Defence Forces has also hosted a number of foreign military student delegations on study tours.

"Additionally, the Zimbabwe Defence Forces is set to host the SADC Peace Support Operations



Field Training Exercise, SADC Maritime Exercise, as well as the SADC Aviation Exercise. All these attest to the growing ties and strong solidarity between the ZDF and other friendly Forces, across the globe," said President Mnangagwa.

He also noted significant progress in Zimbabwe's demining efforts and commended the ZDF for undertaking community projects, including schools, clinics, and infrastructure development across the country.

"We have made significant strides towards becoming a mine-free country as only 4% of the original 850km of minefields remain infested. My gratitude is also extended to development partners and international humanitarian demining organisations, for the

financial and material support extended to the programme. On its part, Government will continue to capacitate the Zimbabwe Defence Force's National Mine Clearance Unit.

"All of us have a role to play in building our motherland, Zimbabwe, including the Defence Forces and members of the Security Sector, as a whole. It is exemplary that our Defence Forces continues to undertake Social Responsibility projects which are having a transformational impact on our people at the community level.

"The 2025 Zimbabwe Defence Forces Community Assistance Week, which preceded these commemorations saw the hand-over of various community projects undertaken by the Defence

Forces, throughout the country. Others are at various stages of completion, including twenty-nine projects in the education sector and four clinics in the health sector, respectively. I extend my Governments' gratitude to the business community and other well-wishers, whose generous support is ensuring the success of these projects," he said.

President Mnangagwa praised the resilience, professionalism, and patriotism of the ZDF and expressed gratitude for their role in defending the nation's sovereignty, promoting peace, and fostering national unity.

The event was attended by the Vice Presidents of the Republic of Zimbabwe, cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and several government officials.

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## Victoria Falls Hosts Zimbabwe-Zambia Joint Permanent Commission

► ZDF Magazine Reporter

**Z**imbabwe and Zambia held the 34th session of the Zimbabwe-Zambia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS) in the resort town of Victoria Falls from 01 to 03 March 2025. The session saw the two nations reaffirming their commitment to enhancing long standing bilateral relations and discussing on the proliferation of sophisticated weaponry among non-state actors and the impact of climate change on regional stability.

The Minister of Defence, Honourable Oppah Muchinguri-

Kashiri highlighted that the two countries are committed to intensifying cooperation in combating drug and substance abuse and also emphasised the commitment to joint efforts in tackling emerging threats, including cybercrime and the spread of misinformation via social media.

“We have seen an influx of drugs into both Zimbabwe and Zambia. To address this, we have agreed to exchange information and best practices between our respective agencies. This joint effort will allow us to effectively combat this menace. We are focusing on enhancing cooperation in cybercrime investigations and information sharing. This meeting

sends a clear message to our citizens that we are operating at the highest levels. It also serves as a warning to those who spread fake news, which can incite conflict between our nations. We have agreed to raise awareness about this issue and address it head-on,” she added.

Furthermore, the Commission resolved to utilise advanced technology, such as drones, in addressing challenges such as poaching and smuggling.

“We have agreed to conduct joint patrols, particularly at illegal border crossings. We will leverage modern technology, specifically drones, to enhance our surveillance and enforcement capabilities. We cannot physically man every inch of the border, so technology is essential,” she stated.

Key representatives from both countries expressed a resolve to work together across a range of critical issues. The Secretary for



Defence, Cde Aaron DT Nhepera hailed Zambia for the crucial role it played in the liberation of several Southern Africa nations.

“Many Zambians sacrificed not just their resources, but even their lives in support of the liberation of Zimbabwe from the shackles of colonialism. This solidarity, built on shared goals and aspirations of freedom from colonialism and regional prosperity is appreciated. For this, Zimbabwe remains eternally grateful.”

Cde Nhepera said the 34th session of the Joint Permanent Commission was driven by a shared desire for lasting peace and security, inspired by the enduring historical, political and socio-economic ties between Zimbabwe and Zambia.

At the session, Zimbabwe and Zambia also signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on Military Cooperation and Training which will include Directing Staff exchange programme. The memoranda will see Zambia and Zimbabwe Defence Forces collaborate



Many Zambians sacrificed not just their resources, but even their lives in support of the liberation of Zimbabwe from the shackles of colonialism. This solidarity, built on shared goals and aspirations of freedom from colonialism and regional prosperity is appreciated. For this, Zimbabwe remains eternally grateful.”

in training and securing their common border.

The Second MOU will enable various groups of the Defence and Security establishments of the two countries to conduct benchmarking visits.

The JPCDS is tasked with addressing a range of mutual security concerns, including transnational organised crimes such as smuggling, human and drug trafficking, illegal migration, cybercrime, and terrorism.



# Ken Sharpe: The Visionary Redefining Harare's Luxury Landscape

► Staff Reporter

**E**very facet of life has its own set of revolutionaries. Some get recognized while others remain in the shadows only to know of their immense life contributions when their eulogies are read or recited posthumously.

As Jah Prayzah sang in one of his latest offerings “ndipei maruva angu ndichiri mupenyu” – this article seeks to give Ken Sharpe his flowers while he is still alive. For decades, Harare’s northern suburbs have been the exclusive domain of luxury living, standing unchallenged as the epitome of prestige and wealth. The city’s elite built their homes in Borrowdale, Gletwyn, The Grange, Highlands, Helensvale, and Glen Lorne, while the western suburbs remained overlooked, perceived as secondary in the grand tapestry of urban development. Ken Sharpe has decided to defy that long standing tradition and narrative.

He is breaking geographic barriers and getting people to talk. The boldness and confidence are striking. The mastmind behind WestProp Holdings is not merely constructing buildings—he is leading a revolution in Harare’s real estate. He is going East, West, South and North with his massive real estate business making sure Harare has oases of luxury. At the heart of his bold vision lies The Hills Luxury Golf Estate, a \$300 million development that will transform the historic Warren Hills Golf Course into Zimbabwe’s first ultra-luxury golf estate outside the north. Traditionally dismissed in favor of Harare’s exclusive enclaves, the western suburbs now find themselves at the center of an audacious transformation, proving that luxury knows no boundaries—it follows vision and innovation. Sharpe’s project challenges an outdated perception—that wealth, beauty, and exclusivity belong to the north. He dares to bring ultra-luxury villas, penthouses, and a world-class community to the west, proving that prosperity is not bound by geography but by ambition.

At its core, The Hills is a game-changer. This 127-hectare estate is anchored by a USPGA Championship-standard golf course, a first in Zimbabwe, designed by world-renowned architect Peter Matkovich. The course, set for completion by end 2026, will not only provide residents with a world-class golfing experience but also attract international tournaments and prestigious events, elevating Zimbabwe’s profile on the global stage. Beyond golf, The Hills embraces modern smart-city infrastructure, integrating luxurious residences, shopping malls, office spaces, recreational areas, and a country club into a self-sustaining ecosystem. This vision ensures that residents live in comfort, security, and



convenience, rivaling the finest developments in Africa. This is not just another development—it is an investment in the future, a blueprint for economic transformation, and a statement of progress.

Investors who recognize the trend before it dominates will stand to benefit from high returns, as The Hills emerges as the new gold standard of Zimbabwean luxury living. As Sharpe notes in his various discussion forums and on his socials – there are long term investment benefits in The Hills Luxury Golf Estate. Some of the benefits include: high property value appreciation: Luxury golf estates consistently experience higher growth rates in real estate markets worldwide. The Hills is expected to outpace conventional residential developments in Harare. The project has dedicated 80 percent of its land to greenery, rehabilitating wetlands, and planted hundreds of indigenous trees, fostering eco-conscious urban development. With shopping malls, office spaces, and leisure facilities integrated into the estate, The Hills will create thousands of jobs, generating sustainable business opportunities in the western suburbs.

Sharpe is not just building homes—he is shattering limitations, unlocking potential, and proving that progress waits for no one. The Hills Luxury Golf Estate stands as a monument to transformation, and those who invest in this groundbreaking vision today will reap the rewards of tomorrow. He is also reliving what the bible says in Mathew 7 verse 7 to 8 which says “Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you. “For everyone that asketh, receiveth, and he that seeketh findth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened”. Those that are close to Sharpe will always testify that the man always prays to the Lord asking for guidance and blessing.





## African Union Optimistic of Zimbabwe's Demining Efforts

► [Sheron T Bandawa](#)

**The African Union has expressed optimism on the success of Zimbabwe's demining efforts following its latest assessment of the country's demining operations.**

This came out during a field visit to the National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) demining operations in Chiredzi District by a delegation from the AU Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security. In an interview after the field tour, the head of the visiting AU delegation, Ambassador Limam EL Jalil noted that Zimbabwe has made positive steps in its efforts to achieve the goal of a landmine free country. "Here we find that Zimbabwe has the expertise and

they are doing a good job in demining. What they only need is mobilising funding to finish clearance in affected areas," he said.

The Commander Zimbabwe Engineers Corps, Colonel Simbarashe Zhou highlighted that the Unit has high expectations as a result of the AU delegation's field visit to the NMCU.

"My expectation is that as the AU delegation is coming in for the second time and have been briefed at both national and military level, they now have a full package of the requirements which will capacitate

“

Here we find that Zimbabwe has the expertise and they are doing a good job in demining. What they only need is mobilising funding to finish clearance in affected areas.”



us to quickly clear the remaining positions of mined areas," he said.

Col Zhou also emphasised the need for the corporate world to assist in national demining operations in Zimbabwe so as to achieve a landmine free country, primed for economic growth and prosperity. Zimbabwe has for a long time been undertaking demining operations to rid the country of the lethal remnants of war which have inhibited the productive use of vast tracts of land.

However, progress has been relatively slow due to lack of funding and other resources.

The delegation's visit to Zimbabwe was meant to make considerations on how the Union can assist the country in its effort to achieve a mine free status. As part of their visit, the AU delegation made a courtesy call on the Minister of Defence, Cde Oppah Muchinguri Kashiri, received updates on mine action operations in Zimbabwe, met with demining operators and officials from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

The delegation was accompanied by Zimbabwe's Defence Attaché to Ethiopia, Brigadier General Ernest Shamhu and comprised of Ambassador Limam EP Jalil, from the Mine Action Focal Point, Lina-Imran



who is an Officer in Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration, Peter Otim who is a Senior Common African Defence and Security Expert.

AU is a continental body that consists of all 55 countries in Africa with its main goals being to promote economic, social, and political integration among African states and to achieve peace, security, and stability on the continent.

The AU has played a crucial role in promoting African integration, peace, and development.

It has also been involved in conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts in various countries.

# Lieutenant General Matatu Assumes Command of Zimbabwe National Army

► Knowledge Chauke

**L**ieutenant General Emmanuel Matatu took over command of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) from Lieutenant General (Retd) Anselem Nhamo Sanyatwe at a handover and takeover ceremony that took place at Charles Gumbo Barracks in Harare on 11 April 2025.

Speaking at the handover and takeover ceremony, the Chief Witnessing Officer, Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF), General Philip Valerio Sibanda described the two Generals as officers of high calibre and unquestionable loyalty to the army and country.

“The two Commanders whose changeover of command we are witnessing today are high calibres of Generals of unquestionable loyalty and reputation. Their dedication to duty is beyond reproach. Both of them are founder members of the ZDF. The two Generals were attested into the ZNA at its inception in 1980. Since then they served with undeniable loyalty, honour and dignity in various capacities in the government and ZDF” he said.

General Sibanda further implored Lieutenant General Matatu to be vigilant and professional in discharging his duties.

“I therefore call upon you, the



*Lieutenant General Matatu*

incoming Commander of the ZNA to pay particular attention to principal leadership that is responsive to the dictates of the current operating environment and to be highly vigilant and professional. I implore you to provide quality leadership to the communities that you will be interacting with during your tenure of office. I refer you to the critical role you play as the security focal point throughout our country,” he said.

Lieutenant General (Retd) Sanyatwe who is now Minister of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture emphasised that change of leadership or command does

not mean the end of responsibility to protect and serve Zimbabwe but strengthens continuity.

“While my time as your Commander has come to an end, the mission will continue. The responsibility to protect and serve Zimbabwe does not end with a change in leadership or command. Accordingly, I implore you to carry the torch forward, and I have no doubt that the next chapter which now begins with the coming in of my brother, Lieutenant General Matatu will be filled with even greater accomplishments and continue to raise our national flag high and even to greater heights. As the Shona adage goes, ‘ushe

madzoro hunoravanwa, it is indeed time to hand over the baton to the incoming Commander. As I do so, I am confident that with your usual support, the ZNA will continue to excel in all its assigned tasks” he said.

The outgoing Commander expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Defence, the ZDF and the corporate world for their unwavering support during his time. “Allow me to thank the Ministry of Defence, ZDF Headquarters staff and Service Chiefs for their unwavering support. To the distinguished members of the corporate world and captains of industry, thank you very much for supporting the Zimbabwe Nation Army programmes. Your support is not only inspired by corporate responsibility, but indeed the belief that ZNA is your force and that we are family” said Lieutenant General (Retd) Sanyatwe.

Incoming Commander ZNA, Lieutenant General Emmanuel Matatu extended his gratitude to the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Commander-in-Chief of the ZDF, His Excellency, Cde, Dr ED Mhangagwa for entrusting him with such huge responsibility to command the Army.

“First and foremost, allow me to extend my sincere gratitude to the Commander -in -Chief of the ZDF for entrusting me with this responsibility of command of the Army. I do not underestimate the magnitude of this responsibility that the Commander-in-Chief has found the trust and confidence in me, for such a task is a great honour for me. I shall remain committed to uphold a high standard of integrity,

dedication to duty and selfless service as we shall continue with the task of the defence of the nation,” he said.

Lieutenant General Matatu further hailed the outgoing Commander for his exceptional leadership and dedication during his two-year period in command.

“I would also like to take this moment to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the outgoing Commander Lieutenant General

“

**As we embark on this new chapter together, I want you all to know that communication channels will always be open. I encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas and concerns with me through formal channels. Let me say here that our communication should use formal channels, let us avoid unofficial channels and media as these often mislead us and create havoc.”**

(Retd) Sanyatwe who has been at the helm for the past two years. Thank you for your exceptional leadership and dedication during your time in command. Indeed, you set a high standard for all of us and I hope to build upon the solid foundation you established during your tenure as Commander. The ZNA has a long history, built on the courage, resilience, sacrifice and professionalism of those

who have come before us. Today I accept this responsibility, I call on all officers, men and women of the ZNA to honour the legacy, and pledge to continue with their good work that has made the ZNA and nation proud. I will strive not only to achieve excellence in military operations, but also to inculcate a sense of unity, respect and accountability within our rank and file,” he said.

Lieutenant General Matatu urged officers, men and women to be guided and uphold the constitution as they execute their duties in the ZNA.

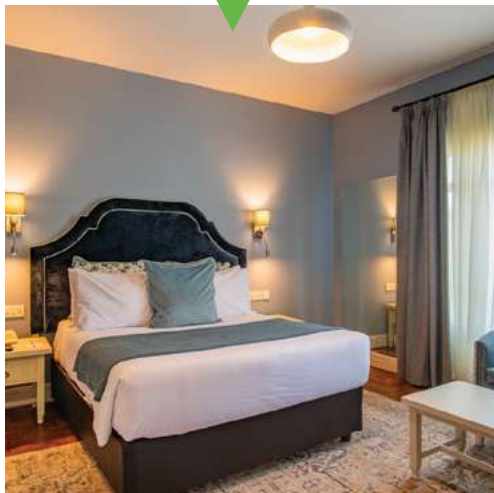
“In everything that we do, let us be guided by our mandate as prescribed in the Constitution of Zimbabwe Section 212, related provisions and the Defence Act Chapter 11:02. Let us focus on this and be prepared to play our part in defence of the nation or for other tasks we may be called upon to do. Let us remain professional,” he stated.

The Incoming Commander challenged ZNA members to continue using formal communication channels in the organisation so as to avoid misinformation which may mislead as well as cause alarm and despondency.

“As we embark on this new chapter together, I want you all to know that communication channels will always be open. I encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas and concerns with me through formal channels. Let me say here that our communication should use formal channels, let us avoid unofficial channels and media as these often mislead us and create havoc,” he stated.

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# Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces Hosts EII Breakfast Meeting

► Warrant Officer (Class 2)  
Pedzisai Chaeruka

**The Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces (CDF) and Patron of the Executive Interaction Initiative (EII), General Philip Valerio Sibanda hosted a Breakfast Meeting with the corporate world at the Newlands Country Club in Harare. The meeting aimed to deliberate on the trajectory of the EII and discuss key issues, including proposals for new membership guidelines, calendar events for 2025 and plans for the organisation.**

In his address, the Patron highlighted the history of the EII, which was established in 1994 to promote collaboration between the military and the business community. He emphasised that the EII provides a platform for military cadres to meet with captains of commerce and industry to share and appreciate each other's critical roles in the country's economic development. The Patron also spoke about the EII's humble beginnings and how it has evolved into a vibrant interactive platform. The Patron outlined the calendar of events penciled for this year with a three day outing at on one the country's major tourism resort being the main highlight. Manicaland

Chapter becomes the second Chapter to host a golf tournament after Bulawayo hosted a similar tournament in 2024.

The Secretary National Organising Committee, Eugene Mlambo made a presentation explaining the modalities and processes for membership into the organisation. The EII aims to transform into an exclusive networking and collaborative platform, with individual business leaders and entrepreneurs being handpicked by the EII Committee.

This event marked a significant step in strengthening ties between the military and

the corporate world. With its rich history and commitment to collaboration, the EII is poised to continue playing a vital role in promoting economic development and cooperation in the country.

The breakfast meeting was a success, thanks to the support of sponsors, including Exodus and Company, Brodhaven Construction, Masimba Holdings, Fossil Contractors and Business Executives. The Co-Treasurer of the National Organising Committee, Thabani Dhliwayo, thanked the Patron and sponsors for making the event a success.





## Housing Projects Bring Relief to ZDF Members

► [Sheron T Bandawa](#)

**A**ccess to decent accommodation and secure working environments are crucial for nurturing a capable military, that can effectively uphold and defend the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Decent accommodation and amenities provides a supportive environment that enables the men and women in uniform to carry out their duties effectively and with confidence.

The Dzivarasekwa and Imbizo Institutional Housing Projects have significantly eased the living conditions of Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) members. The projects have gained momentum in recent years, thanks to the collaborative efforts by the Ministry of Defence, the ZDF Construction Regiment, and local private companies.

His Excellency, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Cde Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa commissioned the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Dzivarasekwa housing project

on 04 December 2024. The Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces also handed over a fleet of 54 Ford Ranger utility vehicles to the ZDF during the same event.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony of houses in Dzivarasekwa, President Mnangagwa said the Second Republic will work hard to ensure affordable accommodation for every citizen.

"In line with Vision 2030, the Second Republic under my leadership is facilitating the provision of housing which is a basic and fundamental need to human comfort hence today we celebrate yet another milestone that is more than brick and mortar and also a show of my government's unwavering commitment to provide modern,

safe and affordable housing for both public sector employees as well as citizens in general," he said.

The President reiterated that the availability of institutional accommodation is vital for maintaining operational efficiency including enabling the defence forces to coordinate quickly and efficiently and react in cases of emergencies and disasters.

He highlighted that the Zimbabwe Defence Forces are given a priority as they play a vital role in the interests of the nation of Zimbabwe.

"The prioritisation of members of the Defence Forces is because they serve and advance our national interests as well as defend our independence, our sovereignty and the territorial integrity of our beloved motherland of Zimbabwe," said President Mnangagwa.

Vice President General (Retired) Dr Constantino Guvheya Dominic Nyikadzino Chiwenga noted

that the ceremony signified the government's commitment to ensure good living conditions for the citizens including members of the ZDF.

"Today's ceremony is not merely about buildings. It exemplifies our commitment in creating sustainable, affordable and modern living spaces for all Zimbabweans including our Defence Forces."

"I am therefore happy to say to His Excellency that these housing projects and more to be constructed stand as a testament to your administration's dedication to creating sustainable communities and enhancing the quality of life for members of the Defence Forces," he said.

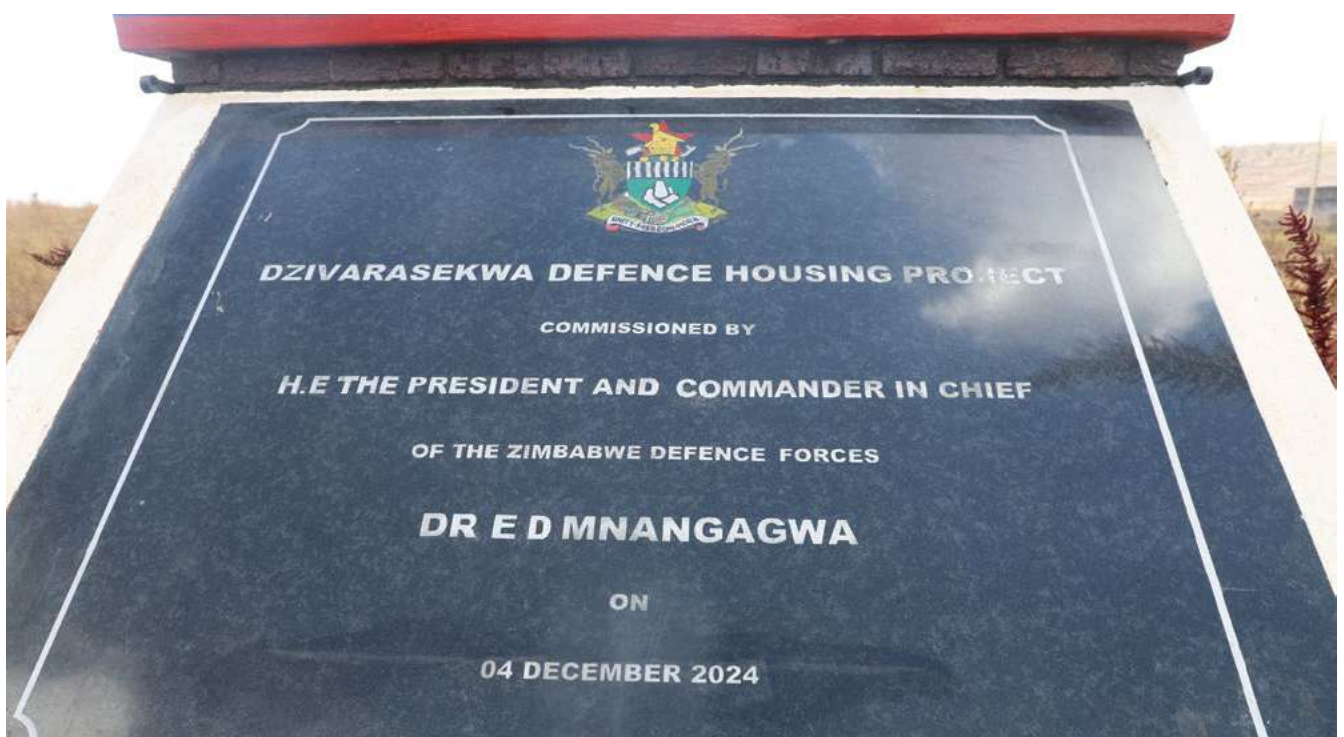
The Minister of Defence, Honourable Oppah Chamu Zvipange Muchinguri Kashiri hailed the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces for attending to the needs of the members of the Defence Forces

and making sure that the Second Republic addresses infrastructural issues as the country moves towards Vision 2030.

"You have amply demonstrated by taking time off your busy schedule to officiate this auspicious event. Indeed, your unappalled propensity for infrastructural development for the country is an indelible mark of the Second Republic under your astute and visionary leadership," she said.

Commander Defence Forces, General Philip Valerio Sibanda highlighted that members of the Defence Forces appreciated the housing projects and the support they continue to get from the government in a bid to improve the welfare of the members.

The President commissioned 220 housing units under the Dzivarasekwa and Imbizo Institutional Accommodation in December 2024. He also said that a total of 8 430 housing units will be constructed under this project.



# ZDF Participates in 2025 Zimbabwe International Trade Fair

► Edmore Mazivofa

**The Zimbabwe Defence Forces participated at the 65th edition of the annual Zimbabwe International Trade Fair which was held in Bulawayo from 21 to 26 April 2025. Held under the theme “Industrialisation: Crafting an Integrated Economic Landscape,” the event attracted thousands of exhibitors from SADC, Africa, Europe and Asia and underlined its status as one of Africa’s premier trade showcases.**

The ZDF exhibition comprised of oral and visual presentations on recruitment, training, operations and community assistance programmes. It also included static displays of arms, aircraft, an armoured car and an armoured personnel carrier. A new addition to the stand was abseiling that attracted interest especially among the youths. The stand proved popular with visitors who were keen to know more about the ZDF and get a feel of the hardware on display.

This year’s show was officially opened by Mozambique President, His Excellency Daniel Chapo on 25 April 2025. President Chapo inspected the Guard of Honour mounted by the Zimbabwe National Army and presented prizes to winners. Earlier on, President Chapo had a tour of the ZITF stands which took him through the ZDF stand among others.

In his speech during the Official Opening Ceremony, President



Chapo said Zimbabwe is endowed with vast natural resources and pledged his country’s commitment to boost trade between the two countries.

“Zimbabwe boasts of vast natural resources such as forests, arable land, minerals and best tourist attractions such as Victoria Falls which all contribute to economic growth. Our contribution to this year’s edition of the ZITF represents our resolve to boost trade between Mozambique and Zimbabwe especially transport, logistics and infrastructure.

“Our relationship dates back to the liberation struggle, we are one and the Beira railway, road and pipeline binds us as they contribute to our trade. Unity is strength, ZITF is the stage to show our economic potential and services from all sectors,” added President Chapo. ZITF Board Chairman, Mr Busisa Moyo said this year’s edition brought together a diverse mix of local and international exhibitors, investors and policymakers, setting the stage for transformative economic dialogue and collaboration.

According to the ZITF 2025 Conferences and Dialogues

Report released after the event, to compliment sectorial policies and financial instruments, a set of cross cutting strategic resolutions were reached. These are critical for embedding innovation, connectivity and accountability across Zimbabwe’s industrial landscape towards Vision 2030. Some of the defence specific resolutions were the finalisation of the Zimbabwe-India Defence Memoranda of Understanding to enable joint exercises, training exchanges and equipment co-development, the scaling up of Central India University Trainer Programme to train 500 more civil and defence personnel and partner Indian technical universities to expand Zimbabwe’s University Technology Centres. Another resolution was to boost Zimbabwean student intake from 5000 to 7500 by 2026 via enhanced scholarships and streamlined visas. The ZDF was awarded a Bronze Medal Award and Certificate for coming third in the 2025 Best Zimbabwean Enterprise category and certificate of participation as an exhibitor at the ZITF Blue Sapphire Edition.



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## ZDF assumes Chairmanship of the SADC MHS-WG

► Nelias Shiri

**The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Military Health Services- Working Group (MHS-WG) has called upon its regional member states to expedite medical innovative solutions to curb mental health challenges that lead to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide within the military community. This call was made during the Annual General Meeting of Chiefs and Director Generals of Health Services held in Harare in April 2025. The meeting was aimed at strengthening military health systems and finalising a unified military doctrine within the SADC region.**

Officially opening the three-day programme, the Chief of Staff Services Personnel and Logistics, Major General Josphat Kudumba, urged the SADC military health experts to develop health innovative strategies to alleviate the rise of mental health challenges to enhance the effectiveness of military operations.

“A crucial area that we must focus on is mental health support for our military personnel. The psychological toll of service is often overlooked, yet it is as vital as physical fitness. Our military personnel face unique stressors, not sparing deployments, combat situations

and the pressure of military life. As responsible leaders, we must prioritise mental health initiatives, ensuring that our service members have access to necessary resources and support system. We must also commit to integrating mental health programs with our health doctrines, offering comprehensive support that includes resilience training, counselling services and peer support initiatives,” stated Maj Gen Kudumba.

He also commended the SADC MHS-WG for boosting regional cooperation in military medicine, improving response to infectious diseases and modernising medical equipment used in military operations.

“As we delve into our agenda, we will explore vital topics such as research and development in military medicine, combatting infectious diseases that affect our troops and the importance of medical equipment that meets the rigorous demands of our operations. Each of these discussions will empower us to innovate and implement solutions that ensure our forces are healthy, fit and ready to fulfil their duties,” Maj Gen Kudumba added. Mental health has become a regional security threat and has become a major social concern in most countries and has the potential to derail the success of military operations. The prevalence of substance

“A crucial area that we must focus on is mental health support for our military personnel. The psychological toll of service is often overlooked, yet it is as vital as physical fitness. Our military personnel face unique stressors, not sparing deployments, combat situations and the pressure of military life.”

abuse is on the rise in SADC military community with projection estimating a 40 percent increase in military personnel who use substances between 2025-2035. This represents the largest increase globally, with sub-Saharan Africa projected to have the highest increase when compared to other regions of the world.

The Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) Health Service Director Brigadier General Godfrey Ndumiyawo Mutsete assumed the Chairmanship of the SADC MHS-WG from the outgoing Chairperson, Brigadier General Jackson Kasela of Zambia Defence Forces during the event.

# Zimbabwe National Defence University Participates in National Research and Innovation Competitions

► Botham Kanemutsimhu and Dengu Wellington

**The Zimbabwe National Defence University (ZNDU) continues to grow through leaps and bounds and in recent years has competed with other established universities in the prestigious National Engineering Students Awards in Research and Innovation (NESARI) competitions. The competitions are conducted annually and sponsored by the Zimbabwe Institution for Engineers (ZIE) and the local industries including the defence forces.**

The NESARI is a competition where Engineering students from various local universities including the ZNDU are given topics by industry to research on and proffer solutions to problems. The competitions are held in November or December of every year. This resonates with the Education 5.0 philosophy where focus is on production of goods and services that address national problems through innovation and industrialisation. The Universities that usually participate in the competitions are University of Zimbabwe (UZ), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bindura



*National Defence Course participants touring the Harare Institute of Technology Innovation hub as part of their studies.*

State University of Science Education (BUSE), Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT), Midlands State University (MSU), Lupane State University, Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) and Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences (MSUAS).

In an interview the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (FE) at the ZNDU, Group Captain Dr (Eng) Peter Manyere said participation by the ZNDU at the competitions was a milestone achievement for the University where students embraced modern technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AIs), to push forward National Development Strategy (NDS) goals for the achievement of Vision 2030.

“The ZNDU is deemed as one of the youngest universities it competes with. The ZNDU joined the NESARI competitions in 2023 and has so far participated for two years, scooping various awards particularly in the Avionics Category. In 2023, the ZNDU students in Aerospace Engineering produced a prototype machine of an on-board aircraft device that records flight data automatically to enhance flight safety. We believe that for Vision 2030 to be achieved, Science, Technology and Engineering supported by AI must take a lead”, said Dr Manyere.

In 2023, which was the first year for ZNDU to participate in



The ZNDU is deemed as one of the youngest universities compared to other universities it competes with. The ZNDU joined the NESARI competitions in 2023 and has so far participated for two years, scooping various awards particularly in the Avionics Category.”

the NESARI competitions in the Avionics Category, the students who participated in these competitions were Mthulisi Khumalo, Fidelis Mnyanyiwa and Shingirai Muza with the research topic **“Design and manufacture of an on-board flight data recorder for an SF260 Aircraft.”**

The team scooped a first prize in the category out of eleven state universities. Overall, ZNDU came out second. The students got prize money, three shields, one of which was a floating trophy.

The 2024 competitions saw the ZNDU competing in the Avionics and Power Supply Systems category. The research topic was: “Design and development of a commercial solar charging

station for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) using Microwave Power Transmission”. The students who represented the University were Densely Majoki, Obert Mhakayakora, Witness Goremusandu, Dean Nasho and Dylan Nyariri all from the Faculty of Engineering. The team came on second place in the category and ninth overall. There are plans to participate in the 2025 competitions with preparations now at an advanced stage. The University encourages all students to take research seriously and come up with innovations that can be developed and be commercialised for the benefit of the country.





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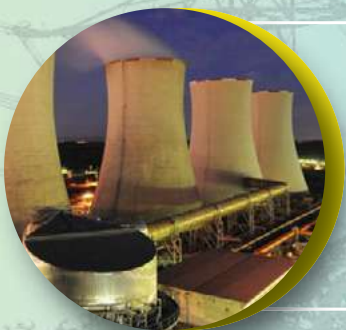
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# My Experiences as a Military Observer in South Sudan

► Warrant Officer (Class Two) Ndlovu Gesha

Serving as a military observer in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was both a profound privilege and a significant responsibility, one that deeply shaped my worldview and understanding of gender dynamics in conflict zones. It was an experience I could never imagine given my humble background where I grew up in Kezi, Matobo District. It is indeed ironic that the war ravaged and hostile environment of South Sudan provided a setting for my enlightenment and provided me with an opportunity to make a difference in the world, in my small way.



During the initial stages of my deployment on the mission in Rumbek Team Site (Lakes State), I must admit it was quite a struggle to adapt to the new environment. The language, the climate, the food, other elements of the local culture and other factors all contributed to the initial difficulties and for a moment, I wondered whether I was at the right place. This however changed when I got used and I suddenly became enthusiastic about the challenge that lay ahead. Meeting new people from other countries and the prospect of experiencing something different spurred me on. I was the focal point for gender issues. Our team had 18 members from different nationalities namely Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, Rwanda, Romania, Tanzania, Thailand, and lastly Zimbabwe. It was quite an experience being among such a diverse group but I am grateful it afforded me an opportunity to appreciate cultural differences more.

In my role as the focal point for gender issues, I

engaged with critical topics such as Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Child Protection. Each interaction, each workshop, and each narrative shared illuminated the urgent need for inclusive practices and policies, allowing me to not only witness change but actively contribute to it.

My responsibilities also included integrating gender perspectives into every facet of UNMISS operations in our Tactical Area of Responsibility. Collaborating with military personnel, civilian staff, and local communities was a revealing journey that allowed me to assess the diverse needs and challenges faced by the populations we served. In these assessments, I often felt the weight of responsibility, knowing the potential impact our mission strategies had on the lives of vulnerable individuals. Helping facilitate conversations that raise awareness around gender issues showed me the courage and resilience of those affected by conflict.



One of my primary tasks was to confront Conflict-Related Sexual Violence directly. This role was both challenging and enlightening. I organised training sessions for military personnel to enhance their understanding of CRSV, emphasising the importance of protecting vulnerable populations and the critical nature of appropriate reporting. In this regard, instilling a culture of zero tolerance for violence against women and girls became not just a responsibility but a passionate mission for me. It was gratifying and immensely rewarding to witness personnel shift their perspectives during these sessions, affirming the progress we made together as a team.

Addressing Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse within the mission remained a priority and to that end I organised workshops that created safe spaces for discussions about acceptable conduct. It was empowering to remind every member of the team that we were united in our commitment to uphold these standards and that

“ As I reflect on my experiences in UNMISS, I have come to understand vital lessons that will shape my future endeavours. Firstly, engaging both men and women in discussions about gender issues is essential for fostering a culture of respect and equality.

each voice mattered in this fight for dignity. Promoting the participation of uniformed women peacekeepers was also a central theme of my journey. As I championed this cause, I facilitated mentorship programmes that empowered aspiring female peacekeepers, hoping to impart to them the skills and confidence to navigate their roles successfully. We also delivered presentations to the field office and these became a platform to share the unique perspectives women bring to peacekeeping efforts,



...serving to reinforce the collective effectiveness of our mission. Each interaction reminded me that representation matters, and the impact of diversity in peacekeeping roles cannot be overstated.

Communicating important gender issues was also crucial, and I took great care in developing materials for presentations that resonated with military personnel. Topics such as understanding gender dynamics, preventing sexual violence, and embracing cultural diversity fostered engaging discussions and raised awareness on how each of us could contribute to an inclusive mission environment. The intensive nature of these conversations often left me reflecting on the broader implications of our work, revealing how interconnected our efforts were with achieving sustainable peace.

As I reflect on my experiences in UNMISS, I have come to understand vital lessons that will shape my future endeavours. Firstly, engaging both men and women in discussions about gender issues is essential for fostering a culture of respect and equality. Secondly, education and awareness-raising are critical to addressing and preventing GBV and SEA. Most importantly, building partnerships with local communities enriches our interventions, ensuring the needs of the population are met, while recognising cultural diversity enhances our communication and implementation of these initiatives.

Reflecting on my time as a military observer in UNMISS fills me with a sense of purpose and resolve. The profound impact that dedicated individuals can make in promoting gender equality and addressing violence against women and children in conflict zones continues to inspire me. My commitment to these issues will shape my career and advocacy efforts as I strive to empower future generations. I am forever grateful to my commanders in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces for this rare opportunity to learn and make a contribution towards a better world. Through sharing these experiences, I hope to inspire others to recognise the critical role of gender and cultural diversity in peacekeeping. Together, we can create a safe and inclusive environment for all personnel, building a stronger, more equitable future in peacekeeping and the communities that we serve.



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# The Demining Story:

## ZIMAC Brings Hope for Communities

► Edmore Mazivofa

The cracking sound of twigs coupled with Christmas beetle melodies disturbs the silent atmosphere in the jungle as octogenarian Chiwoniso maneuvers in the thick forest. Her face dripping sweat on the hot summer day, she searches, her visibly cracked fingers showing the hard times spent on this earth. A weaved small bucket is hung on her right side, her left hand fingers coiling on some brown morels mushroom. From these early rains, flowers from the savanna undergrowth have come in different shapes, sizes and colors.

Her cracked feet carefully choosing where to step in the wet fertile compost soil. The sound of a pied crow brings her back to reality as it startles her and flies on the tree above her. More morels are right there, she needs a step further to get them. She walks again carefully avoiding branches and twigs as if they matter most. She applies pressure on her footing to get her balance, unknown to her, the spring load striker of the landmine hits the stab detonator inside, and the mine charge detonates creating a blast shock wave of hot gases, which sends a huge compressive force upwards. The deafening sound of the explosion on her feet generates a blanket of dust that settles after ninety seconds making her lose a leg in the process. An anti-personnel landmine planted over 40 years ago has exploded beneath her feet!!!

A tragic reminder of the brutal remnants of war still lurking in Zimbabwe's landscape. This is an anecdote of Zimbabwe's struggle to clear landmines planted over four decades ago.

Zimbabwe is among over seventy-eight countries worldwide burdened with landmines, and efforts to eradicate them have been ongoing. The mines were laid between 1974 and 1979 by the Rhodesian regime during the Liberation War, primarily along borders to



prevent freedom fighters from crossing into Zimbabwe. The country harbours seven main minefields: from Victoria Falls to Mlibizi, Kariba, Msengezi to Rwenya River, Lusulu, Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill, Burma Valley, and Rusitu to Muzite Mission. There are also many other unexploded ordnances across the country that are a terrible legacy of war, years after it ended. While they are underground and out of sight, the landmines continue to kill and injure innocent people. Their very



*Landmine victims*

presence hinders development and prevents families and communities from fully utilising their land.

The Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre has been at the forefront of Zimbabwe's demining efforts by coordinating, monitoring and executing programmes of action that are collectively aimed at ridding the country of these remnants of war. The organisation supervises all mine clearance activities in the country by demining organisations in accordance with set standards and Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Convention. The demining organisations operating in the country are Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling, which translates to Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development (APOPO), Mine Advisory Group (MAG), Hazardous Area Life-support Organization (HALO) Trust, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and National Mine Clearance Unit. The efforts by the demining organisations are on-going although there are some funding challenges.

At the recently held Zimbabwe National Stakeholders Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining and Victim Assistance, ZIMAC thanked donors for their effort and expressed hope that the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 target, where all landmines in the country will have been cleared, will be reached. Speaking at the same event, the Minister of Defence, Honourable OCZ Muchinguri-Kashiri, reaffirmed the government's commitment, emphasising strategic prioritisation of critical sites to facilitate trade and movement. She also highlighted the importance of the upcoming Disability Policy (2021) and the Disabled Persons Bill, which seek to protect the rights of those maimed by landmines. "In the process of landmine clearance in Zimbabwe, the

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In the process of landmine clearance in Zimbabwe, the government prioritised areas of strategic importance such as Kariba Power Station and border crossing areas to facilitate cross border trading as well as grazing land for livestock. The same goes with the National Disability Policy (2021) and the Disabled Persons Bill that we hope to see soon enacted which will provide for the rights of persons with disabilities that are maimed by these landmines.”

government prioritised areas of strategic importance such as Kariba Power Station and border crossing areas to facilitate cross border trading as well as grazing land for livestock. The same goes with the National Disability Policy (2021) and the Disabled Persons Bill that we hope to see soon enacted which will provide for the rights of persons with disabilities that are maimed by these landmines,” said the Minister of Defence.

A tour of some villages around the affected areas revealed that people were forced to share small pieces of available arable land for agriculture. Freedom of movement is still restricted for humans and livestock

alike. However, it is not all gloom and doom as significant progress is being made towards the clearing of the mines.

Statistics from ZIMAC indicate that over 90% of land mined has been cleared, with hopes of fulfilling the target set in the National Mine Action Strategy (2018-2025).

On the southern part of the country in Chiredzi, APOPO cleared the Cordon Sanitaire minefield that includes the Sengwe Wildlife Corridor in the Gonarezhou and Kruger National Parks. This corridor is a designated area aimed at allowing free movement of wildlife between the two wildlife reserves. This project improved livelihoods, conservation, and promotes ecotourism. The cleared land has improved the affected communities' access to basic services and increased cross border trade. The project will also help the free movement of wildlife within the Great Limpopo Trans frontier Park spanning the borders of Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe thereby increasing tourism activities as the wildlife in the area can be viewed by both local and international tourists.

For Chief Kenias Mkachana of Chiredzi, the clearing of the minefields in his area is a welcome relief.

"The landmines problem was a thorn in the flesh in my area, they had occupied most of the farming and

grazing land, I have fifteen landmine victims in my area and the ongoing demining process is a relief to me and my people."

Clearance of the 88 square kilometres Victoria Falls-Mlibizi minefield was completed in 2005 and there are already tourism activities in the cleared land.

In Sheba Forests to Leacon Hill, there are plantations that had not been harvested for the past fifty years due to the presence of landmines in the area. Now they are being harvested thanks to NPA who cleared the 55 km stretch and handed it over for use by the local community.

"We are glad we have completed this stretch, the plantations are now being harvested, cattle can now graze and people can move freely around this area. We have significantly upgraded the livelihoods of the local communities," said Memory Muchepfa, the Community Liaison Officer at NPA.

Zimbabwe inherited over a million landmines laid by Rhodesian security forces during the Liberation War. These minefields originally covered over 700 kilometres along the Zambian and Mozambican borders with Zimbabwe. Efforts to clear these mines began soon after independence and Zimbabwe has been a party to several treaties and protocols on landmines clearance and ban in the world.



ZNA deminers conducting demining operations

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# Demystifying the Military Mortician Profession

► Judge Jarachara

In the military, soldiers are often celebrated as heroes, their achievements marked by medals, accolades, and badges. These symbols of valor are proudly displayed on their chests as evidence of their bravery and service. Yet, far from the limelight and fanfare, there exists a quiet, often overlooked profession within the ranks, military morticians.

The timeless proverb that says, “Do not judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes,” resonates deeply with the lives of military morticians, who sometimes endure societal stigma and misconceptions. Yet, through their hands, they prepare the corpse, and through their hearts, they prepare the soul for its final journey. A military mortician carries the weight of not just his responsibilities, but also the emotions and memories of those he serves.

This publication spoke with Lieutenant Colonel Vudzaishe Mabuto, the Deputy Chaplain General and former Staff Officer Grade One at the VVIP National Parlour at Charles Gumbo Barracks in Harare who explained the critical role morticians play in the Zimbabwe National Army and the nation at large. “Morticians ensure the dignified handling and preparation of deceased soldiers and dignitaries. Their work goes far beyond what people see at funerals. They remove bodies from places of death, prepare them for burial, provide pre- and post-emotional counselling to the bereaved, and even assist in forensic post-mortems when foul play is suspected. All of this is done with utmost respect

for cultural, ethnic, religious, and individual beliefs,” Lieutenant Colonel Mabuto said.

During wartime, these unsung heroes are on the frontlines alongside their fellow soldiers. They perform the same duties they do in peacetime, no matter how dire the circumstances.

“The mortician profession is sacred. In the military, it exists to give soldiers a befitting and dignified send-off, celebrating and appreciating their service to the nation. In war, we are everywhere in the battle theatre. We use body packs to transport casualties back to headquarters, where morticians take over. We handle temporary burials during active combat, semi-permanent burials in mass graves, and permanent burials at the soldier’s final resting place,” he said.

The Staff Officer Grade One at the VVIP Northern Region Parlour, Lieutenant Colonel Muranda, highlighted the immense responsibility of handling the remains of high-ranking officials.

“Dealing with the deceased is a profound task that society often undervalues. To succeed in this profession, one must be both a mortician and a counsellor. You must empathise with the bereaved



*The ZNA Funeral Parlour at One Commando Regiment*

and understand their pain. At the VVIP parlour, we handle the funerals of government officials, often presided over by the President. These are national events, conducted with the utmost sensitivity," he elaborated.

However, morticians are frequently misunderstood and stigmatised. Some people view them as "unhinged" or "evil," while others believe they rely on substances to cope with their duties. These misconceptions are not only unfair but also deeply demeaning to the dedicated professionals who serve in this critical role.

Lieutenant Colonel Albert Ncube, Southern Regional Staff Officer Grade One demystified this misconception and shared how his experiences have shaped his understanding of the profession.

"I have worked in various capacities within the corps, from Unit Chaplain to Formation Chaplain, and now as SO1 at the VVIP parlour. These roles have taught me that being a chaplain is a high calling, one that requires compassion and dedication. The myths surrounding our profession are perpetuated by those who do not understand its importance. Morticians are professionals like any other, yet society often mocks

or belittles their work," said lieutenant Colonel Ncube. Sergeant Webster Taruverenga, who has served in the ZNA Chaplaincy for a long time and officiated numerous funerals and interment ceremonies emphasised the importance of understanding cultural and traditional beliefs when conducting funerals and handling the deceased.

"Engaging with traditional leaders, family heads, and the community is crucial," he said. "We must respect the protocols and traditions of those who have lost a loved one. This is especially important in our African context, where funerals are deeply rooted in cultural practices. Being aware of these realities in turn shapes how we handle the deceased," he explained.

The Chaplains Directorate under which morticians fall, is an integral part of the Zimbabwe National Army. The Directorate runs two parlours, one in Harare and another one in Bulawayo. These play a critical role in ensuring that deceased members are taken to their final resting places with dignity. The Zimbabwe Defence Forces parlour at Charles Gumbo Barracks is particularly important as it handles prominent people such as national heroes before their burial.

# A Tribute to the Late Air Vice Marshal Winnie Cabby Mandeya (Retired)

► Warrant Officer (Class 1) Gilbert Pedro Chirembwe

The echoes of a life dedicated to service resonated across the Zimbabwe Defence Forces as the nation mourned the passing of the first female Air Vice Marshal in the Air Force of Zimbabwe Air Vice Marshal (AVM) (Retired) Winnie Cabby Mandeya.

AVM (Retired) Mandeya, whose Chimurenga name was Cde Cabby Rujeko-Rwehondo, was a medical specialist from the days of the armed struggle. She stood out amongst the first female senior officers in the Air Force of Zimbabwe who excelled in their line of duty leading to her promotion to an Air rank in July 2022. The gallant daughter of the soil passed on 27 April 2025 after succumbing to cancer.

She was 64.

AVM (Retired) Mandeya was accorded national heroine status for her contributions during and after the liberation struggle and was laid to rest at the National Heroes Acre on 01 May 2025.

In his speech during AVM Mandeya's burial, the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Cde Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa described AVM Mandeya's life as an emblem of patriotic service and national dedication.

"Having worked under my direct and indirect supervision in various capacities over the years, I can testify that she was a bold, fearless, charismatic and patriotic cadre. Dating back to the days of the liberation struggle, she was unwavering in her commitment and dedication to our country — loyal, trustworthy and a dependable pair of hands."

The President detailed the late national heroine's career, from her early involvement in the liberation war in Mozambique at Junda and Nyadzonya camps, up to her rising through the ranks of the Air Force of

Zimbabwe from where she ultimately retired as Air Vice Marshal in August 2022.

"She never exuded an unbridled sense of entitlement, but always diligently served in the roles assigned to her. Her professional dexterity and versatility saw her assigned to the role of Director Civil Military Relations, and Director General Service Personnel at the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Headquarters."

President Mnangagwa emphasised the broader meaning of such a legacy, urging Zimbabweans, especially women in the security sector to emulate AVM Mandeya's values.

Speaking at a funeral parade that was conducted to give the Air Officer a befitting send off at Manyame Air Force Base, Air Marshal Jacob John Nzvede expressed his heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the Mandeya family on the loss of their beloved daughter. He narrated how the late Air Officer carried herself, praising her professional and social conduct that endeared her to those she worked with across Services.

One senior officer who served with her at the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Headquarters had this to say, "When she was Director General Service Personnel (ZDF HQ), I was one of those who worked closely with her. She was not only an exemplary and jovial leader, she was humble in her ways and effective."

Born on 14 July 1960 in Rusape, Makoni District, AVM Mandeya (Retired) joined the armed struggle

in September 1975 at a tender age of 15 whilst at Mutambara High School. She briefly stayed at Junda and Nyadzonya in Mozambique and later went to Tanzania where she successfully completed her basic military training at Nachingweya.

After military training, she was deployed in Gaza Province where she operated from until 1978 when she was selected for a medical course which covered basic obstetrics and gynecology, basic nursing and basic pediatrics. Her acquired qualifications came at a time when the escalation of the armed struggle meant there were more cadres that required field treatment and attention. It was in these trying times that her dedication and resilience defined the career path she would pursue in later years.

When Zimbabwe gained its independence, she joined the President's Department and actively participated in the 1981 Missing Persons Commission of Inquiry. Military incursions into neighbouring countries like Botswana, Zambia, Angola and Mozambique by



**A woman of firsts, AVM Mandeya (Retired) was also the first woman Base Adjutant in the Air Force of Zimbabwe, first woman to be sent to attend a Command Staff Course outside the country, first woman Directing Staff at the Zimbabwe Staff College, first woman to be appointed the Director Civil and Military Relations, first woman Deputy Commandant at the Zimbabwe Staff College.**

Rhodesian forces led to many civilian casualties and disappearances. The Commission succeeded in helping families locate their missing relatives; dead or alive. The late Winnie was then transferred to Air Force of Zimbabwe on 01 July 1984 as a Corporal. Through hard work and her exemplary service, she was selected to undergo a Potential Officers' Course where upon completion she was commissioned to Air Lieutenant on 09 December 1994. Subsequent promotions to Flight Lieutenant on 02 May 1996, Squadron Leader on 21 November 2001, and to Wing Commander on 06



October 2004 followed. Her performance in the various portfolios she was assigned to saw her promoted to Group Captain on 07 June 2010, and Air Commodore on 05 December 2019. Upon retirement on 01 August 2022, she was promoted to Air Vice Marshal as a way of recognizing her immense contribution in the liberation struggle and dedication to serving the nation.

A woman of firsts, AVM Mandeya (Retired) was also the first woman Base Adjutant in the Air Force of Zimbabwe, first woman to be sent to attend a Command Staff Course outside the country, first woman Directing Staff at the Zimbabwe Staff College, first woman to be appointed the Director Civil and Military Relations, first woman Deputy Commandant at the Zimbabwe Staff College.

As the Zimbabwe Defence Forces bids farewell to Air Vice Marshal Mandeya, Officers, Men and Women who served alongside her remember a leader, a mentor, and a dedicated Air Officer, whose contributions have left an indelible mark on the Zimbabwe Defence Forces. Her legacy of military service, humility, professionalism, and unity will continue to inspire generations of Officers, Men and Women in years to come.

The decorated Air Vice Marshal and national heroine is survived by her son Munyaradzi Valentine Mandeya.



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# The Shocking Reality of Drugs and Substance Abuse:

## A Cry for Awareness



► Major Merlington Chinondo,  
Registered Social Worker

**Imagine this: a young man dreams of becoming a soldier, ready to defend his nation. But one reckless decision of using drugs sometime in life disqualifies him. Rigorous drug tests don't lie, and for soldiers, drug abuse means an automatic end to their careers, a return to their villages in shame.**

Consider this horrifying story: a man, under the influence of drugs, was seen ripping open his stomach. What could drive someone to such madness? This shocking reality shows how drugs rob life of its value, leaving people lost and broken.

The above are just but two real life examples of how drugs can annihilate dreams, damage futures, and destroy lives.

Drug abuse is not just a personal choice it is a societal crisis. It is tearing families apart, leaving people physically and mentally broken, and turning vibrant young individuals into hollow shells. The most tragic part? Many people, including our youth, do not fully understand the devastating consequences of drug abuse until it is too late. From a security perspective, a drug free and healthy population is better poised to fight and defend itself from adversaries than one ravaged by drug addiction.

### **A Society Losing Its Way**

Our fallen heroes, who fought



to build a better future, must be grieving as they watch their nation crumble under the weight of drug abuse. Instead of working to uplift our communities, many people now walk through life like “worthless zombies,” consumed by addiction. Drugs do not just cost lives; they bring with them a wave of diseases. From liver and kidney damage to heart failure, brain damage, cancer and mental illness. The list is endless. Some of these conditions are incurable, and treatments are unbearably expensive.

### **The Danger of Drug Exposure to Children**

Drugs are creeping into the lives of even the youngest among us. Some children at Early Childhood Development stages are exposed to videos of drug use on social media whilst playing games on their

parents’ phones. These innocent minds are being poisoned, and as they grow, they are likely to imitate what they see.

For instance, a young girl was recently seen smoking for fun while her friends chanted songs around her. What seemed like a moment of fun can actually lead to a dangerous cycle. Those friends may also take their turns to do the same. What is worse, the damage from drugs for girls can pass down through generations, leaving unborn babies at risk. We need children to invent the best chimneys for development, not turn their own bodies into chimneys of smoke and poison.

### **The Everyday Dangers of Smoking**

Let us not even talk about hard drugs like marijuana or heroin and

look at something as common as cigarettes. Many fathers smoke openly around pregnant mothers, yet unknowingly turning unborn babies into addicts through passive smoking. Is this the legacy we want to leave behind?

According to the World Health Organization (2025), tobacco kills around eight million people globally every year. It harms nearly every organ in the body, causing heart disease, respiratory problems, and over 20 types of cancer, including lung cancer. Tobacco is a leading cause of premature death yet it is treated as normal.

### **The Cost of Ignorance**

Drug abuse is not just a personal tragedy; it is a societal one. Here is what happens when drugs take over:

### 1. Physical Destruction

Drugs destroy the body. Organs like the liver, kidneys and heart fail under the strain. Synthetic drugs, like laced marijuana, can cause strokes, heart attacks and permanent brain damage.

### 2. Mental Collapse

Drugs rewire the brain, leading to paranoia, hallucinations, and psychosis. Many addicts lose their grip on reality. Depression and anxiety worsen, often leading to suicide. Mental illness becomes the norm. Is this what we really envy?

### 3. Broken Families and Communities

Drug addiction isolates users from their loved ones. Families crumble under the weight of addiction, and trust is destroyed. Many addicts turn to crime to fund their habits, ending up in jail or worse.

### 4. The Ultimate Price: Death

Drug overdoses are claiming lives at an alarming rate. Families are burying loved ones far too young. Toxic substances, often laced with chemicals, make even a single use potentially fatal.

### A Plea to the Youth

To the young men and women glorifying drug use on social media: Stop. Sharing pictures and videos of drug use does not just harm you, it influences others to follow in your footsteps. You are leading others down a path of destruction.

To students experimenting "just for fun": every puff, every pill, every injection takes you closer to losing your dreams, your health and your future. Drugs are not your friend;

they are silent killers.

### The Good News: Recovery is Possible

The battle against drug abuse is difficult, but there is hope. The benefits of quitting drugs can be felt immediately. Health improves, relationships heal and dreams can be rebuilt.

Choose life. Choose health. Choose a future free from the chains of addiction.

Drug abuse is a slow, painful death sentence. It destroys individuals, families and entire communities. Yet, this epidemic thrives because we ignore it, glamourise it, or pretend it is not happening. It is time to wake up. Say no to drugs. Protect our children and safeguard our future. The cost of doing nothing is far too high. Choose to live. Choose a better tomorrow.



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# A Plan for The Destruction of Africa

► Phillip Vhumba

**S**o many questions are asked as to why Africa seems to be going nowhere in terms of development.

**The question many would ask is where is Africa's problem and, can Africa do any better under the given circumstances. Some have moved further to apportion the blame on Africa and have done so using theories put forward by the West. These theories are fashioned to give the West a clean sheet while at the same time blaming Africa for its situation. These arguments and counter arguments have occupied volumes and volumes of the academic writings and discussions, leaving scholars fundamentally divided as to**

**where the problem is.**

This article is a walk-through of a speech by Lord Macaulay in 1835, one of the renowned British politicians, who honestly dispensed his mind as to what Africa was like prior to the coming of Europeans, how difficult it was to dislodge Africa in its pre-colonial status, and what Europe could do to destroy Africa going forward. Below is an excerpt of the speech by Lord Macaulay while addressing the British Parliamentarians on 02 Feb 1835.

"I have travelled across the length and breadth of Africa and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief, such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such calibre, that I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and

cultural heritage and therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Africans think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation".

It is my hope that you have read and understood the speech but let us have an in-depth analysis of its significance as a strategy by the West to disenfranchise the Africans. Firstly, the author seems to credit himself for having done a thorough reconnaissance, which gives him a sense of authority in his speech. Let me hasten to note that in his reconnaissance, he came up with a true representation of the Africans before colonisation. He concluded that Africa was and is still wealthy, and free of evil vices

as theft and those who beg. This is true of Africa if one goes down memory lane in retrospect. Africans could feel for each other and were willing to help one another in a way that promoted unity and humanity. This is what informed our famed philosophy of UBUNTU. In fact, it justified and explains how we were brought up under the philosophy, 'I am because we are.' The philosophy means that my being was a result of a collective whole. The environment into which I was nurtured contributed immensely to my overall behaviour because I am a mirror of the society. This then raises the aspect of a nation with people of high moral standing. The author was apt and to the point. However, his praise for Africa was like the calmness that prevails between lightning and thunder. What could have been the reason for his praises?

Whilst he was apt and saying the truth about Africa, it was a way of telling the august house that if this was what Africa was like, the west would not prevail over such a formidable society (that I do not think we would ever conquer this country). It was also a way to ensure when proffering his perceived solution, the audience would doubtlessly conclude that it was reached at after a thorough consideration. The author can as well be credited for having managed to identify Africa's Centre of Gravity which is, the spiritual and cultural heritage. It is surprising to note that today Africans are busy despising their very centre of gravity as indeed proposed by the author. True to the author's prediction, that Africans are imbued with the feeling that whatever is



foreign and English is good and greater than theirs, they would those their self-esteem. Is it not that as Africans, they are currently busy embracing all that is foreign hook, line and sink, (Aita zvinenge zviru nani, hanzi chivheti.) Are we not playing to the plan that was made long back about how best Africa could be destroyed?

It is worth noting that in the speech the whole African continent is referred to as 'this country'. This reference to Africa as a country was made after claims of having travelled the 'length and breadth' of the continent. This demonstrates that Africa was a model of unity. The unity that prevailed on the African continent transcended ethnic boundaries. It is this unity brought about by shared African cultural values which the colonisers made priority to break in order to penetrate the continent with subdued resistance.

The speech concludes with a statement of what the West would want Africa to be, a truly dominated nation. Such a goal,

one meant to destroy Africa has been at the centre of the West's plan. Contemporarily one may talk of sanctions, regime change, just to mention a few. These are means to an end; which end is the destruction of Africa. In one video entitled "Why the West wants Sub Saharan Africa to Stay Poor", the presenter acknowledges that Africa is fundamental to the global prosperity as a raw material producer and will not be allowed to move beyond that. Moving beyond raw material producer implies going the beneficiation route. Once Africa is allowed to do so, then, the West would be forced to buy our products at a much higher price, which condition will benefit Africa. The speaker acknowledges that once Africa does so, standards of living in Europe will drastically fall. Therefore, whatever Europe is doing today is to fight against any moves that tends to threaten the status quo in Africa. All this fulfils the original plan by the West to destroy Africa.

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# How About Viewing it This Way: Part 2

► [Wing Commander Charles Ngirazi](#)

**E**ffective communication is a measurement of how the sender crafts the message and its effect upon reaching the target. In return, the sender expects a corresponding response from the receiver. In the simplest form, this transaction defines the concept of communication. Paradoxically and quite normal of human nature, the sender, may not get the feedback, given that a host of variables are in constant interplay in the communication matrix. However, as communication is the fabric of society, so shall it be, albeit some of these odds. For the benefit of those who may not have read the inaugural episode that got space in the last edition of the ZDF Magazine, a brief orientation is necessary. In fact, even those who read it may no longer be having a clear recollection or, inadvertently, accorded it a cavalier approach. The recap could, thus, serve to kill three birds with one stone.

Part 1, proposed a solution to the waste management scourge the country is grappling with and the article was inspired by the Pomona Dump Site epic fire eruption. While waste management initiatives being

undertaken are highly appreciated, with the hallmark being the clean-up campaign that has been spearheaded by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Comrade Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, still more could be done. Ridding the environment of litter is a means to the end but not the end. It is how this collected waste is to be disposed off that still remains a very grey area and this was precisely the justification of the first episode "How About Viewing it This Way". Part 2 is yet another exposition centred on the electricity generation capacity at the Lake Kariba Hydro Power Plant and, precisely, on how the country can ensure the optimal sustainability of this strategic resource.

As of 2019, Zimbabwe's major electricity generator, the Kariba Hydro Power Station, faced viability challenges due to low water levels in the lake. This was not the first time that such a threat loomed over the country and the likelihood of recurrences could not be ruled out, especially in the wake of the climate change phenomenon. Electricity is a strategic resource to any nation and its lack constitutes major security threat. Ironically, Zimbabwe is endowed with a plethora of resources which, in their diversity, present a great potential for development and, indeed, of making history, as was the case with the Asian Tigers. Yes, some scholars argue that the eras of the Asian Tigers and Zimbabwe were contrasting, the former's being relatively more enabling on the basis that globalisation, the



double edged sword, was, then, still at its infancy. However, while plausible, this view risks relegating developing nations into the melancholy of sanctifying failure on the basis of the misfortunes of the contemporary world order and, in the process, subconsciously becoming like a docked ship. A docked ship is safe but is this what it was made for? Why not make lemonade out of lemons?

When the Government, embarked on the Kariba South expansion project, the objective was correctly in recognition of the need to expand the electricity generation capacity

which, indeed is a prerequisite to sustainable economic development. Critical and attendant to this cause was the need to factor in the availability of adequate water into this development matrix. However, it seems that the apparent lack of breakthrough in this area has been and is the Achilles heel. This is because inflows into Lake Kariba are solely dependent on rain fed water which, against the vagaries of climate change, presents a major setback to the national development agenda. Looking at agro based nations, of which Zimbabwe is one, the thrust is in



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When the Government, embarked on the Kariba South expansion project, the objective was correctly in recognition of the need to expand the electricity generation capacity which, indeed is a prerequisite to sustainable economic development. Critical and attendant to this cause was the need to factor in the availability of adequate water into this development matrix. However, it seems that the apparent lack of breakthrough in this area has been and is the Achilles heel.

the construction of dams to ensure perennial and optimal production. Surely, a similar approach should apply to the hydro power generation project. The threat of low water levels in the lake Kariba and its ramifications are glaring. Yes, exploring other forms of power supply is creditworthy. However, these options are ancillary to the Lake Kariba project which is the backbone. Climate change has come and is unlikely to go. To quote the iconic leader and military strategist, Mao Tse Tung “Bank ye not on the enemy’s not coming but, rather on your preparedness

to defeat him”. What then could have been and should be the approach with the Kariba Hydro power generation project?

During the period of the first warning shots of low water levels in the Lake, I happened to have been on an official visit that included the Power Station. Accordingly, this was an opportunity to seek clarification from the technocrats on what I felt and still feel could be a panacea to the viability constraints to the country’s development prospects. My concern was and is about the run-off water that is always ‘lost’ downstream and, ultimately,

into the Indian Ocean, during the power generation process. More so, the lake provides huge volumes of water for the cleaning the coal before it can then be used in the Hwange Thermal Power Station. Surely, with time, it should have been foreseeable that the Hydro power plant supply would not meet demand and warranting a paradigm remedial approach. Against this background, the point of clarification and suggestion was, thus, on the option of having part of the out flow being recovered and ploughed back into the lake. The response was that this was

not feasible due to technical complications involved in pumping water from down the river back to the lake, ostensibly, due to gravity. I had to acquiesce but still was not contented. Surely behind every dark cloud there is a silver lining. I still maintain that, with the technical expertise in the country, it should be possible to draw back reasonable quantities of water back into the lake! The perceived costs in the short term are far outweighed by the benefits in the long term. There are so many similar cases where such technology is applied, the closest being the draining of water from the mines and in agriculture. The list is endless.

Assuming that the possible constraints of drawing water back into the Lake could be on the inhibitive cost of electrical power to pump to water against the gradient, then, surely, the option of using solar power is a very viable option, more so, given that, Lake Kariba is in that part of the country characterised with very high temperatures. In fact, Kariba town and satellite locations, let alone the country's Lowveld region, should have championed the solar revolution.

Therefore, to support the viability of the country's power generation capacity and, ultimately, the development trajectory, there is need for a paradigm shift from the over reliance only on rain fed water into Lake Kariba. While the direction of the wind cannot be changed, surely the sails can be. Gone are the days when sailors would remain docked waiting for the winds to blow in their favour. The clarion call is, therefore, to stir critical thinking on the sustainability of the



Kariba Hydro Electricity Generation project with the proposed solution being of pumping back into the Lake part of the out flow from the generation process. This should be, if not, indeed, the way to view it as reliance on rain water is and will be unsustainable. By the way, a stitch in time serves nine.

Ooh, in one of the folk tales of the animal jungle, the tortoise came with quite a simple solution that was to unpack the riddle on finding the culprit who was drinking and polluting water from a well that had been constructed by the majority of animals. The tortoise caught the hare that was found stuck onto its shell which had been coated with a traditional adhesive. This was according to the tortoise's plan.

Quite simple a solution to a major problem and, indeed, very effective. Amid the joy, it was further learnt the culprit had not even contributed in the construction of the well.

Accordingly, the leadership sentenced him to death. However, in an interesting account of wit, the hare escaped death even at the mercy of the lion.

Legend has it that back then, the hare's tail, initially long like all other hares, was now shorter as he had luckily survived a grip during the pursuit. So it is said when the hare got back to his village, he ordered all his kinsman to cut short their tails so that he could not be singled out. The technique paid off because when the animals came to the hare community, the joker was indeed in the pack but could not be positively identified. The short tail of all hares is, thus, predicated on this folk tale. Indeed, one of the folklore with great humour and very valuable lessons applicable to contemporary challenges.

Surely, how about viewing it this way?

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# Conflict Resolution Techniques

## Part 1

► Wing Commander  
Tobias Mademe

**T**he need for conflict resolution in our society is crucial. It is imperative because no two people perceive a particular thing exactly in the same way. Efforts to curb conflict and crisis-situations have been unsuccessful in some cases; occasioned not only by the complex nature of humanity, but also by the methods and means employed by those attempting to resolve them. Scholars view conflict to be 'inherent' in human society, there are bound to be differences in opinion and interests between and within groups. This implies that conflicts are unavoidable and will always be part of the society. The way conflict is handled or managed results in

it manifesting in various forms.

### Definition of terms

#### Conflict

Conflict was originally used to mean, "strike at another, to fight with an enemy or to do battle with an opposing force". Today it equally means to be antagonistic towards others or to be in sharp disagreement with others. Conflict happens when the interests of two or more stakeholders interfere with one another. Most times conflicts are not as bad as we think. However, if appropriately managed, they build trust and sometimes bring new ideas and opportunities. The ability to successfully manage conflict within oneself and between persons reduces antagonism, disagreement and hatred. How a person manages his inner conflicts has a great impact on how he lives and relates with others. Scholars on conflict studies generally agree that conflict

is a normal and even healthy part of relationships. After all, two people are not expected to agree on everything at all times. Since relationship conflicts are inevitable, learning to deal with them in a healthy way is crucial. When conflict is mismanaged, it can harm the relationship, but when handled in a respectful and positive way, conflict provides an opportunity for growth, ultimately strengthening the bond between two people.

Conflict arises from differences. It occurs whenever people disagree over their values, motivations, perceptions, ideas, or desires. Sometimes these differences look trivial, but when a conflict triggers strong feelings, a deep personal and relational need is at the core of the problem, a need to feel safe and secure, a need to feel respected and valued, or a need for greater closeness and intimacy. In short, conflict occurs when two or more individuals



pursue incompatible goals.

### **Conflict resolution**

One scholar posits that conflict resolution is “a variety of approaches aimed at terminating conflicts through the constructive solving of problems, distinct from management or transformation of conflict”. Through conflict resolution efforts, it is expected that the deep-rooted sources of conflict are addressed and resolved, and behaviour is no longer violent, nor are attitudes hostile any longer, while the structure of the conflict has been changed. In the understanding of Mitchel and Banks (1996), conflict resolution refers to:

an outcome in which the issues in an existing conflict are satisfactorily dealt with through a solution that is mutually acceptable to the parties, self sustaining in the long run and productive of a new, positive relationship between parties that were previously

hostile adversaries; and process or procedure by which such an outcome is achieved.

In all this, one understands conflict resolution to imply that conflict is bad hence, it is something that should not be encouraged. It also assumes that conflict is a short-term phenomenon that can be “resolved” permanently through mediation or other intervention processes. Best (2005) putting these ideas together, concludes that:

...in principle, conflict resolution connotes a sense of finality, where the parties to a conflict are mutually satisfied with the outcome of a settlement and the conflict is resolved in a true sense of it. Some conflicts, especially those over resources, are permanently resolvable.

From the point of view of needs, a conflict is resolved when the basic needs of parties involved have been met with necessary “satisfiers”, and their fears have been allayed.

Proper conflict resolution can make the difference between a positive and negative outcome. Conflict resolution is conceptualized as the methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of conflict. The concept of conflict resolution can be thought to encompass the use of nonviolent resistance measures by conflicted parties in an attempt to promote effective resolution.

Ideally, the point of departure when dealing with a conflict no matter which method one eventually settles on is to do conflict analysis. Conflict analysis is one of the steps to be taken by peace practitioners in peace building or conflict resolution in order to create and sustain positive peace. There are several tools, which are used in conflict analysis. Conflict mapping is mainly concerned with identifying the key players in the conflict, its background and support base. Scholars in this field assert that each conflict has

a unique background, form and different forces at play that affect the development of a conflict. Conflict analysis thus has to be exhaustive in order to usher in peace or produce the desirable outcome without worsening the situation.

The United States Institute of Peace defines conflict analysis as a “systemic study of the conflict profile, causes, actors and dynamics of conflict.” This implies that this is a logical process which follows a given path. It was observed that conflict analysis is a practical process which requires one to be objective and neutral in order to make a correct assessment and come up with correct and universally acceptable strategies.

One of the tools used in conflict analysis is the conflict stages concept. This tool assumes that a conflict transforms over time as it passes through various stages in its development Fisher et al (2011). Fisher et al highlight five stages of a conflict namely pre-conflict, confrontation, crisis, outcome, and finally post-conflict. Determination of the stage at which the conflict has reached influences the intervention method.

### Preconflict stage

At this stage the atmosphere is filled with tension as the conflict is not yet open to other parties. Confrontation stage. At this stage conflict becomes overt with the parties or groups in conflict engaging in open attacks or demonstration against one another. At this stage the groups in conflict are seen to be “gathering resources” and establishing “allies”



### Crisis stage

This is the period when the tensions and violence are at the peak. In more violent conflicts war breaks up. At this stage of the conflict, normal communication between the parties becomes difficult.

### Outcome stage

Ceasefire is declared during this phase whether there is a winner or not and in some cases parties agree to negotiations. An authoritative third party may also use its influence to end the fighting. This stage is characterised by a visible reduction in violence and tension.

### Post conflict stage

The final stage of conflict according to this tool of conflict analysis is the post conflict stage. During this phase conflict is resolved and peace is restored as the situation returns back to normalcy, if the incompatible goals are not properly addressed, this

stage can degenerate into a pre-conflict phase starting the circle all over again.

The second tool which can be employed in conflict analysis is the conflict tree. The tool uses the tree image to symbolise a conflict. The roots symbolise the causes, the trunk represents the problem whilst the branches represent the effects.

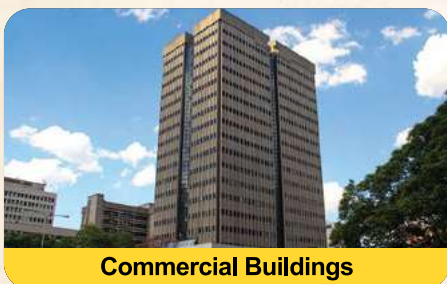
Other Conflict intervention techniques which will not be discussed in this paper include conflict management, conflict transformation, peacemaking, and peacekeeping. However, whereas conflict resolution refers to resolving a dispute to the approval of one or both parties, whereas management is concerned with an ongoing process that may never have a resolution. Neither is considered the same as conflict transformation, which seeks to reframe the positions of the conflicting parties.

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# A Permanent Marriage to Duty

► Lieutenant Colonel Julius Mupa

**T**o be a soldier is to surrender the ordinary rhythms of civilian life, exchanging personal freedom for an unbreakable bond with duty. It is a commitment that transcends the typical understanding of a career, it is not merely a job one performs for a set number of hours each day but a lifelong devotion that reshapes identity, priorities, and existence itself. The uniform is not just clothing, it

is a second skin, a constant reminder that the soldier's life is no longer their own. From the moment one takes the oath, they enter into a covenant that demands everything, time, energy, loyalty, and, if necessary, life itself. There is no resignation from this calling, no true separation from its demands. A soldier is forever wedded to the profession, bound by an unspoken vow that eclipses all others.

The decision to join the military often transcends the realm of career choice, resonating instead

with the profound conviction of a calling. While motivations are diverse, the unwavering commitment, sacrifice and profound sense of purpose frequently associated with military service align with the core tenets of a vocation, suggesting that for many, it is indeed a calling.

A calling implies an inner compulsion, a feeling of being uniquely suited to a particular path. For those drawn to the military, this feeling often stems from a deeply ingrained sense of patriotism, a desire to protect their nation, or a profound commitment to serving

a cause larger than themselves. The inherent risks and sacrifices associated with military life underscore the strength of this inner drive, distinguishing it from a purely pragmatic career decision. The military instils a distinct code of ethics, demanding unwavering loyalty, integrity and discipline. These values often become deeply ingrained, shaping not just professional conduct, but personal character as well. This transformative impact suggests a more profound connection than mere employment, hinting at a vocation that moulds the individual at a fundamental level.

The first and most profound sacrifice a soldier makes is the relinquishment of personal autonomy. In civilian life, individuals have the luxury of choice regarding where to live, when to work and how to spend free time. For a soldier, these decisions are dictated by the needs of the Service. Postings are not a matter of preference

but of necessity, often requiring relocation to remote units, conflict zones, or foreign lands with little notice. Families, if they exist, must learn to endure long separations. Leave is a privilege, not a right, and even in moments of rest, the soldier remains on call, subject to recall at any moment. There is no true time off, for the mind remains attuned to duty, the body conditioned to respond at a moment's notice. The military does not operate on convenience, it demands readiness, and readiness does not conform to office hours. Beyond the physical demands lies the psychological transformation that cements the soldier's marriage to the profession. Basic training is not merely an introduction to skills but a deliberate dismantling of the civilian self. The individual is broken down and rebuilt in the image of the military, disciplined, obedient and result oriented. The process instils a new way of thinking, one where personal

desires are secondary to the collective objective. This mental conditioning does not fade after training it deepens with time. The soldier learns to suppress fear and discomfort. The line between personal identity and professional duty blurs until the two become inseparable. To ask a soldier to set aside their training, their instincts, is to ask them to deny a fundamental part of who they have become.

The nature of military service ensures that the profession never truly leaves the soldier, even after active duty ends. Veterans often speak of the difficulty in transitioning back to civilian life, not because they lack skills or opportunities, but because the military mindset does not simply vanish. The habits of discipline, the vigilance of surroundings and the ingrained sense of responsibility, remain long after the uniform is retired. The bonds forged in service persist as well,





for the comradeship of soldiers is unlike any other. Those who have endured hardship together, faced danger side by side, share a connection that civilians seldom understand. The military becomes a permanent frame of reference, a lens through which the world is viewed. Even in retirement, the soldier remains, in essence, a soldier.

Perhaps the most solemn aspect of this lifelong commitment is the acceptance of ultimate sacrifice. A soldier knows, from the very beginning, that their oath may one day require their life. To be a soldier is to walk hand in hand with death, not as an occasional shadow but as a relentless companion. From the moment the uniform is worn, the reality of mortality settles in, not as a distant possibility but as a present truth. Death is not feared in the abstract, it is acknowledged,

studied, and in time, accepted. The soldier does not dwell on it, but neither can they escape from it. It lingers in the silence before battle, in the weight of a rifle, in the letters left unwritten just in case. It is the uninvited, unspoken third member of every patrol, the quiet observer of every mission. War does not allow the luxury of forgetting, and so the soldier learns to carry death without being crushed by it.

Training prepares the body and the mind, hardening both against the instinct to flee. Soldiers are taught to fight, to endure, but also to face the inevitability of loss of life, theirs and others'. The first time a comrade falls, death ceases to be theoretical. It becomes personal, a thief that steals not just lives but futures, laughter and unspoken words. Grief is a luxury often denied in the moment, buried beneath the urgency of survival

and duty. Mourning comes later, in stolen moments, in the dark when no one is watching. Yet even then, the soldier cannot afford to break, because the operation continues, and death does not pause for sorrow.

In war, death is democratic. It takes the brave and the fearful, the experienced and the new without distinction. A bullet does not consider merit, a bomb does not discriminate. The soldier knows this and so every step forward is an act of defiance, a refusal to let the clinging danger to dictate their actions. There is courage not in the absence of fear, but in moving forward despite it. Some soldiers speak of fate, others of luck, but all understand that survival is never guaranteed. Each day is a gamble, and death holds all the cards. Yet, they rise, they march, they fight, not because they do not value life,

but because they value something more.

Even away from the battlefield, death does not release its grip. It follows in memories, in dreams, in the way a sudden noise can send the heart racing. Veterans carry it with them, not as a burden they chose, but as a scar they earned. Some learn to live beside it, making peace with its presence. Others wage a quieter, more private war within themselves, fighting to keep the darkness at bay. But death, once known intimately, never truly leaves. It changes a person, reshaping how they see the world, how they love, how they trust. The soldier may leave the war, but the war does not always leave the soldier.

There is a strange kinship in this relationship. Death, for all its cruelty, teaches the soldier the value of life in a way nothing else can. Moments of laughter are brighter, bonds of brotherhood stronger, because the threat of loss is always near. The soldier knows the cost of time, the fragility of existence, and so they learn to measure their days not in years, but in meaning. They understand that to live is not merely to breathe, but to stand for something to protect, to serve and to endure. In the end, death is the price of the oath, the unspoken term of the contract signed in blood and sweat. The soldier does not welcome it, but they do not look away. They stare into its face

and continue forward, not as fearless beings, but as men and women who have chosen to stand between death and those they are sworn to defend. In that choice and in that unyielding march forward, lies the true essence of a soldier not as one who conquers death, but as one who walks beside it, carrying its weight so others do not have to.

The personal cost of this devotion is immense. Relationships suffer under the strain of constant separation. Friendships fade when years are spent abroad. Holidays, birthdays, and milestones are often missed, leaving gaps in the shared memories that bind families together. The soldier's loved ones must learn to endure uncertainty,



to live with the fear that every goodbye could be the last. Even in times of peace, the demands of service create a gulf between the military and civilian worlds, one that is difficult to bridge. The soldier may return home, but home is no longer the same, and neither are they.

Despite these sacrifices, there is unshakable pride in the life of a soldier. It is pride born not from conquest or glory but from the quiet certainty of having given oneself entirely to a purpose beyond personal gain. The soldier does not serve for thanks or recognition, but serves because they have chosen to bear the burden so others do not have to. There is profound honour in serving in the military of one's country, for it represents the purest form of patriotism, a selfless commitment to something greater than oneself.

To wear the uniform is to pledge one's life, not in pursuit of personal gain, but in defence of national ideals, freedoms, and the safety of fellow citizens. It is a calling that demands sacrifice, discipline, and unwavering loyalty, embodying the very essence of duty and love for one's nation. Soldiers stand as guardians, often enduring hardships and the ever present risk of danger, not for glory, but because they believe in the cause they serve. Their courage and dedication inspire respect, not just for their skill in battle, but for their moral strength in upholding the values their country represents. In a world where individual interest often prevails, military service remains a noble exception, a declaration of the enduring spirit of sacrifice and honour. To serve





is to place country above comfort, duty above desire, and collective security above personal safety. There lies the true dignity of a soldier's life, and why their service will always be the highest expression of patriotism. To be a soldier is to live a life defined by service, where personal desires are secondary to duty, where freedom is willingly exchanged for responsibility. It is a path that demands everything and offers no guarantees, except the certainty that the commitment is eternal. There is no resignation, no true retirement, only the enduring legacy of a promise kept. The soldier is forever married to the profession, bound by a loyalty that death itself

does not dissolve. In that unbreakable bond lies both the sacrifice and the glory of a life devoted to something greater.

Next time you see a soldier in uniform, take a moment to acknowledge their sacrifice and service. These men and women voluntarily commit themselves to protecting their nation, often enduring gruelling training, long deployments, and dangerous missions far from home. They stand guard on borders, patrol hostile environments, and face combat so that citizens can live in peace. Many have endured physical injuries, psychological trauma, or the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives for their country. Their dedication ensures the freedoms we often take for granted, security, stability, and the ability to live without fear. Whether in times of war or peace, their service demands respect. A simple "thank you," a handshake, or even just a nod of appreciation can mean a great deal to those who serve. Behind every uniform is a story of courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to duty. Respecting them is not just about honouring individuals, it is about valuing the ideals they defend. So next time you see them, remember, they chose to serve so that others can live in peace.

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# Understanding Trusts-A Guide for ZDF members

► Captain Ezekiel Madovi Judge Advocate

**M**embers of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces have unique circumstances that make estate planning not only valuable, but essential. Trusts can be a valuable tool in securing one's legacy and protecting one's generational wealth. Understanding Trusts can help ZDF members to make informed decisions about financial and personal lives. Trusts in Zimbabwe are governed under common law principles and various statutory provisions. Members of the ZDF can use Education Trusts for children's schooling and Family Trusts to manage and pass down family property. This article seeks to explore the advantages and disadvantages of having a trust as part of estate planning.

## What is a Trust?

A Trust is a legal arrangement where one party (the trustee) holds and manages assets on behalf of another (the beneficiary) under



given instructions given by the person who creates the trust (The Founder). There are different types of trusts Living Trusts (created during your lifetime), Testamentary Trusts (created by a will after death), Revocable Trusts (can be changed or cancelled) and Irrevocable Trusts (cannot be changed once created).

## Key Parties to a Trust

The following definitions are key to the understanding of a Trust:

- (a) Founder** – the person who creates a Trust
- (b) Trustee-** The person or institution that manages the Trust

**(c) Beneficiaries-** the people who benefit from the Trust.

**(d) Trust Deed-** the legal document that is filed at the Deeds Registry

## Why consider a Trust? Asset Protection.

Trusts are key to estate planning as such, as a ZDF member; you own properties or property that may need protection. In cases of lawsuits Trusts protect properties from being attached by creditors. Trusts provide a basis for asset protection, once you open a Trust you can transfer your properties to the Trust. In terms of the law

a Trust has a separate legal personality, it can sue or be sued in its own capacity. Once a person has donated a property to a Trust ownership is passed on. Hence, if creditors sue one, they cannot go after the properties that are owned by a Trust.

### Control of Asset Distribution

A Trust enables a member to control and distribute his assets as per his or her wishes. One can decide how and when their assets can be distributed. Most people have chosen this route as it assists to ensure that one's heirs become responsible. As a Founder of a Trust one can put a clause that states that one's child will only inherit upon reaching the age of 21 or he can benefit upon attaining a Degree. All these wishes can be carried out even after one's death. Many parents are facing challenges of children who do not want to work but rely on benefits from their parents' estates. This can be cured by creating a Trust.

**Continuity During Incapacitation** In cases whereby a member becomes incapacitated or is injured during duty, the Trustees can manage assets on his or her behalf. The military profession is a risky line of work, hence the need to set up a trust becomes indispensable.

### Tax Efficiency

Trusts can be structured to reduce estate or income tax burdens. When a person passes on, there are certain taxes which are levied against the deceased's estate. This can be avoided if the deceased had a trust. Income tax can also be minimized once a member sets up a Trust.



### Supports Long Term Planning

Trusts can be used to fund children's education in the long run. Members of the ZDF deal with complex security issues, and at any point in time they can be called upon to undertake internal or external security operations. In those operations life can be lost, hence there is need to ensure that surviving children's education is well taken care of. Trusts can also serve as a way of supporting one's elderly parents. In the event of a member's death, Trustees can manage their welfare.

### Disadvantages of Trusts

While there are many advantages, it's important to be aware of the downsides too. Setting up trusts requires legal help, which involves fees. The Law Society of Zimbabwe has set the amount for creating a trust at \$500 United States Dollars. Creating a trust requires proper guidance from a specialised legal practitioner who is a Notary Public. Ongoing Administration Trustees have to keep records, file taxes,

and follow trust rules and this can be complex. Once a property has been transferred to an irrevocable Trust to the Trust there is loss of direct control, the Founder cannot easily take them back.

### Choosing Trustees Carefully

Trustees are bestowed with the mandate to administer the Trust, hence there is need to appoint someone trustworthy, responsible, and capable. It can be a relative, lawyer, or a corporate trustee (like a bank). Trustees are bound by legal obligations to act in the best interests of beneficiaries.

Trusts are not only for the rich they are for anyone who wants to ensure that their hard-earned assets are preserved, protected, and properly used. ZDF members face risks others do not. Planning with a trust can give peace of mind and security to one's loved ones. Trust Deeds are registered with the Deeds Office and one should always consult a registered legal practitioner if one wants to set up one.



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# The Rhythm That Moves Them

► Lieutenant Colonel Julius Mupa

**I**t all kicks off with the command “left, right, left” during marching. This straightforward phrase marks the start of why soldiers sing while training. At its heart, singing creates a way for everyone to move in unison, perfectly in sync with the rhythm of the music. Just picture a big body of men trying to march in a straight line without any beat. That will be total chaos!

**A steady song or chant keeps everyone on the same pace and step, making sure the entire unit appears organised and moves as one.**

Soldiers begin singing full songs while marching. The songs serve many purposes. Firstly, they create a strong, continuous rhythm, much stronger than just the shouted calls. This deep beat helps soldiers keep perfect step, kilometre after kilometre. Secondly, singing forces deep, regular breathing.



This helps manage their effort during hard physical work, making the march less tiring. Focusing on the song also distracts them from sore feet or heavy packs. Most importantly, many voices raised together in song built a powerful feeling of togetherness. Soldiers feel united, sharing the effort and the tune. Singing lifts spirits, pushes away tiredness, and shows their shared determination. It turns a hard task into something done as one strong group.

This tradition of music for unity and rhythm naturally evolved into the military bands seen on ceremonial parades. While marching soldiers might still sing informally, the formal bands took over the role of providing the powerful, unifying beat during important displays. The drums keep the exact, steady pace for marching soldiers, just like the old chants. The brass and wind instruments have added splendour. The loud, clear music fills the parade ground, creating a sense of occasion and shared pride. Everyone moves precisely to its sound, showing discipline and tradition. The band has replaced the soldiers' own singing voices with instruments, but the core idea remains the same. Powerful music binds the group together, sets the rhythm for perfect movement, stirs

**In those moments of shared song, troops momentarily forget about the physical and mental challenges that lie ahead. The music weaves through their minds and hearts, lifting their spirits and instilling a sense of dedication and determination.**

the heart, and honours the moment. The band has become the formal, majestic expression of the unity and shared purpose first found in simple marching songs and the call of "left, right, left."

The rhythm of footsteps in sync with the cadence of their voices creates a harmonious blend of movement and sound. As they chant, they cannot help but feel a surge of energy and emotion engulf them. It is like

tapping into a source of power that propels them forward, one-step at a time. Singing while running is not just about making noise, it is about connecting with something deeper within themselves and letting that energy propel them onward. In the rigorous and demanding world of military training, there is a remarkable source of rejuvenation that comes from singing together. As they raise their voices in unison, a wave of energy energizes them, elevating their spirits and fortifying their resolve. Just as a weary traveller finds solace in a cool breeze, their souls are refreshed by the power of music.

In this moment, they find themselves transported to a place where music transcends language barriers and brings them together. They find themselves in a setting where the simple act of chanting songs becomes a powerful expression of unity and connection.

In the most challenging of circumstances, when they are pushed to their limits both mentally and physically, there is something truly remarkable about coming together in song. In those moments, they are not just individuals undergoing rigorous training, but a united force marching towards a common goal. Even the officers, usually distant in their authority, sometimes let their voices join. For those few minutes, rank fades into the background. They are no longer officers, recruits or veterans, no longer separate bodies straining under the same burden. They are a single entity, bound by song. The act of singing helps them to channel their emotions, whether it be fear, excitement, or determination, into something beautiful and cohesive. It lifts their spirits, boosts their morale, and drives them to push harder and strive for excellence. This is a powerful force that uplifts spirits and boosts morale. Singing is the oil that lubricates the gears of morale.

In those moments of shared song, troops momentarily forget about the physical and mental challenges that lie ahead. The music weaves through their minds and hearts, lifting their spirits and instilling a sense of dedication and determination. The lyrics of the songs become a source of inspiration and motivation, reminding them why they are there, what they are fighting for, and the unwavering bond that ties them together as a unit. This resembles a beacon of strength and solace. Just as a painkiller alleviates discomfort and brings relief, singing during military



training has a similar soothing effect on their souls amidst the hardships they endure. The melodies and harmonies created through their voices serve as a relief for the weariness of their bodies and minds. When they raise voices in song, it is not just a mere distraction from the physical demands of training, but a powerful tool that helps them push through the pain and exhaustion. In the rigorous and demanding environment of military training, singing acts as the glue that binds them together. Like a powerful adhesive, their voices intertwine, creating a harmonious bond that transcends individual differences and unites them as a cohesive unit. Just as glue holds various components together to form a strong structure, singing during military training strengthens the connections between them, fostering teamwork.

Amid the hustle and bustle of military training, an unequalled experience occurs when they raise their voices in song. The act of singing not only unites them as a cohesive unit but also creates a spiritual connection that transcends the physical realm. As their voices harmonize in the air, >>> **To be continued in the next edition**



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## Hosting 15th World Military Golf Championship a Zimbabwe Defence Forces Success Story

► Nelias Shiri

**T**he year 2024 saw the Zimbabwe Defence Forces register a significant milestone in international military sport and cooperation when the organisation successfully hosted the 15th World Military Golf Championship on 17 June 2024 at the picturesque Elephant Hills Golf Resort in Victoria Falls.

The resort town of Victoria Falls became a hive of golfing activity as participants from fourteen countries including Germany, Netherlands, Tanzania, Kenya and the Kingdom of Bahrain battled

for honours. The tournament ran under the theme “Promoting Friendship through Sport”. The hosting of the event was an endorsement of Zimbabwe as a safe tourist destination and underscores the country’s integration into the global family of nations.

The highlight of the event was the striking of a hole-in-one by three golfers, including one female participant, a feat which had never been achieved in the past tournaments. Prior to this year’s championship, there had only been four-hole-in-ones in CISM competition, none since 2024. Sergeant Valine Duma of Kenya Defence Force (KDF)

opened the floodgates with her ace in round two, the first ever by a woman competitor. Crooker of Germany aced the 5th hole, a feat which was also achieved later by the Kingdom of Bahrain’s Second Lieutenant Khalifa Alikaabi who dunked his tee shot on the eleventh hole.

CISM Secretary General, Navy Captain Roberto Recchia of Italy expressed his gratitude for CISM’s breakthrough in the history of Golf worldwide. He commended the tournament for fostering military friendships through sport.

“The three hole-in-ones is a huge milestone in the history of CISM because this is very rare in the history of golf. Since the inception of the international military golf championship, men only aced hole-in-one. CISM has made history through Sgt Duma, a woman who aced a hole-in-one for the first time in the history of the tournament. I want to



applaud the spirit of sponsorship, comradeship, solidarity and mutual respect that was displayed by the participants,” said Navy Captain Recchia.

The defending ladies’ individual champion Private Pauline Stein of France was on cloud nine as she dominated the course and secured her second consecutive title. Captain Maudo Fouquet joined her on the podium with a silver medal and Canadian Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Jones got bronze.

“I am really excited to defend my championship in this scenic

Victoria Falls. Yes, the competition seemed to be tough on the tee-off day, but I managed to adjust to the situation. I would like to thank CISM, Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) and the government for a warm welcome and hospitality in the furtherance of CISM’s motto of enhancing friendship through sport,” Pte Stein said.

The men’s category saw fierce competition with Germany clinching gold, Canada and Bahrain taking silver and bronze, respectively. The women’s category, however, witnessed significant changes on the

winners’ podium. France made a routine win, followed by the host nation, Zimbabwe while Tanzania clinched bronze.

Meanwhile, the Commander ZDF, General Philip Valerio Sibanda expressed pleasure in hosting the international event and unity of purpose that prevailed throughout the tournament.

“Today you stand surrounded by old and new friends, whom you met through playing golf at this Championship and this is what the CISM seeks to promote. Sports, particularly team sports, engender purposeful and meaningful social relationships and promote esprit de corps which is critical in our day to day activities as military personnel,” General Sibanda remarked.

CISM is an international sports association established in 1948 and headquartered in Brussels, Belgium and has 140 members across the globe. Zimbabwe joined the military sport organisation in 1993. The hosting of the championships rotates among the member nations and next tournament will be held in Kenya in 2025.





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## ZDF Queens Hoist Country's Flag High in Namibia

► [Sheron T Bandawa](#)

**T**he Zimbabwe Defence Forces flagship netball team, the ZDF Queens hoisted the nation's flag high after coming second in the Confederation of Southern Africa Netball Associations (COSANA) Club Championships held in Windhoek, Namibia from 22 to 26 May 2025.

The tournament format saw 10

participating teams being placed into groups of five teams and the top two teams from each group progressed to the Semi-finals. ZDF Queens were grouped with Namibia Navy, Lesotho Correctional Services, Botswana Defence Forces and Mighty Gunners Namibia.

They accounted for Namibia Navy 64- 33, Lesotho Correctional Service 72-10, Botswana Defence Forces Cats 52-33 and Mighty Gunners Namibia 69-46 to book a place in the semi-finals. Facing a strong Namibia Correctional

Services which was buoyed by a vociferous home crowd, the queens summoned all their strength and determination to win 47- 40 to book a place in the final. The final was a close affair where the team lost 44- 47 to Royal Flames of Eswatini.

Reflecting on the trip to Namibia, Coach Philemon Mangwiro described it as an eye opener for the team.

"Overall we played well. It is good for us as ZDF Queens, we are in the level of the elite. I applaud my girls and most of the spectators



“

Overall we played well. It is good for us as ZDF Queens, we are in the level of the elite. I applaud my girls and most of the spectators would come and watch our games as we were playing a good and entertaining game.”

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Mangwiro praised the organisers of the tournament saying it has the potential to grow and improve netball in the region. He added that it afforded his team a platform to test their strength against unfamiliar opponents.

“This was a perfect platform for us to test ourselves competitively against new opponents. Locally we are used to face the same teams repeatedly and that can dilute the intensity,” he said.

Team Captain Beatrice Sarudzai Busu paid tribute to the team’s supporters, sponsors and stakeholders for their continued support emphasising that there is need to support the girl child so that they don’t fall victim to

social vices such as drug and substance abuse. She added that the tournament afforded the players an opportunity to interact, network and foster new bonds and friendships among the participants.

COSANA President Letitia Chipandu who attended the tournament expressed satisfaction with the competition.

“We are thrilled with the quality of play we have witnessed. COSANA has grown tremendously in terms of netball development. We also had umpires from various countries using the platform to sharpen their skills ahead of the Region 5 Games which will be held in Namibia in July 2025,” she said. For their achievements, ZDF Queens got \$8000 Namibian dollars as prize money.

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