

HWANGE

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

MONTHLY e-NEWSLETTER

▼ March 2021

Pastor Mdlalose's star keeps on shining



Council pins hope on revenue collection strategy



Scores flock Empumalanga Clinic for Covid-19 vaccination



HLB sends turnaround strategy to Ministry

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) has forwarded its strategy that is aimed at improving its performance to the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works.

HLB town secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose said following a two-week training workshop on governance and budgetary issues conducted by Ministry officials, the local authority came up with plans to turn around its fortunes.

The ministerial team was led by Urban Local Authorities deputy director

Mr Morgan Hungwe.

Part of the team's tasks was to impart HLB officials with requisite information on standard operating procedures and policy documents to govern operations as well as to capacitate them to prepare draft financial statements.

"We came up with a way forward, which I and the chairman appended signatures to, and sent to the Minister (July Moyo). On that basis, the Minister would want to monitor our activities," said Pastor Mdlalose.

The ministerial team noted that the local authority was performing at eight percent of its capacity.

In a letter addressed to the Minister, HLB chairman Councillor Nqobile Ocean Mabhena acknowledged that over the years the local authority had been experiencing a myriad of challenges, which somehow affected its service delivery.

He noted delay in submission of budgets, audit backlogs and poor revenue collection as some of the challenges that had been affecting Council's operations.

Cllr Mabhena expressed his profound gratitude to the Minister for sending his team to capacitate Council.

"Realising our shortcomings you found it fit to send a powerful team to capacitate us and set us on a recovery path as a local authority. I wish to acknowledge the great and eye-opening work, which your team did for us, we have been vastly transformed," he said.

Cllr Mabhena said a strategic plan to revive the local authority had been crafted.



HLB Chairman Cllr Ocean Mabhena



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Pastor Mdlalose's star keeps on shining



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

2|Striving for Excellence



HWANGE Local Board (HLB)'s town secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose's has added another feather to his ever-growing status as one of the country's astute public sector leaders when he was voted the first runner-up at the 2019 National Megafest Business awards.

Pastor Mdlalose won gold in the Public Sector Leader category in an event which was broadcast online by Nash TV.

The winner of the category was former

Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe chief executive officer Mr Nyasha Chizu while Gwanda Municipality's town clerk, Priscilla Nkala was second runner-up.

It is not a first for the God fearing clergyman to achieve such a feat. He was the first-runner up in the 2017 town clerk of the year in the Local Government category only to scoop the top gong in the 2018 awards in the same category.

In 2017 he played a huge part when HLB won the Water Supply and Waste Water

Management at an awards ceremony held during the Local Government Investment Logic Conference in Harare.

Last year Pastor Mdlalose was unanimously elected chairman of the Town Clerks' Forum. He is deputised by Bulawayo City Council town clerk Mr Christopher Dube.

Prior to being elected on substantive basis Pastor Mdlalose was the body's deputy chairman and had been acting chairman for almost a year in place of Chitungwiza Municipality town clerk Dr George Makunde.

3|Striving for Excellence

Housing project beneficiaries applaud Govt takeover

By Wisakile Mwanjali

BENEFICIARIES of Empumalanga West suburb stands have hailed Government's decision to take-over servicing of the area as a positive step towards ensuring completion of the project.

One of the beneficiaries who spoke to this publication, Mr Christopher Nkomo expressed optimism that the takeover of the project by Government was likely to expedite its completion.

Hwange Local Board (HLB) officially handed over servicing of Empumalanga West to the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities at a function presided over by Minister Daniel Garwe in March.

Minister Garwe was accompanied by permanent secretary Engineer Silibaziso Chizwina and directors from the Ministry.

"It's a good initiative that the servicing of the stands will now be supervised by Government because we felt these private contractors were ripping us off. Now that Government has taken over, we are assured that everything will be done above board," he said.

Another beneficiary, Mr Willing Batsa said the takeover by Government was likely to ensure setting up of proper infrastructure.

"We are now expecting development to be fast, now that Government has taken over. We are also expecting proper water and sewer reticulation systems to be put in place.

"We are putting much emphasis on sewer and water infrastructure because these are of paramount importance for a project of this particular nature," he said.

Another beneficiary, Mr Freeman Dube added that Government should also assist in ensuring connection of electricity would be expedited upon completion of most houses in the area.

Empumalanga West housing project was initiated by HLB in 2014 as part of the local authority's efforts to avail residential stands to low income earners.

However, since its inception, the project has been faced with a myriad of challenges, which has affected completion of servicing the stands.

Initially, beneficiaries were asked to pay US\$50 per month towards purchasing and servicing of their stands.

However, most of them experienced

difficulties in paying their monthly subscriptions leading to council falling behind in its obligation to pay contractors.

In 2017, the local authority roped in the Infrastructural Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ) on an arrangement, which would have seen the financial institution fully servicing the area and disbursing stands to qualifying home seekers.

However, two years ago another challenge arose due to a change in Monetary Policy, when the United State dollar was equated to the local currency.

Contractors insisted on being paid in foreign currency. The impasse led to stalling of the project.



National Housing and Social Amenities Minister Daniel Garwe (left) looks at a map of Empumalanga West on his left is the permanent secretary Engineer Silibaziso Chizwina while Hwange Local Board town secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose watches proceedings from behind.

4|Striving for Excellence

Electric utilities dash to start massive housing projects



ZIMBABWE Power Company (ZPC) and Hwange Electricity Supply Company (Hesco) have stepped up efforts to construct houses in an area allocated to them by Hwange Local Board (HLB).

HLB town secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose said the local authority was leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to ensure the success of the housing project.

“We are quite aware of the importance of this particular project and we are partnering these two companies in making sure, it’s completed possibly with less hitches or none. Where we are required or mandated to action we will do so. Our commitment to having this project taking off is unquestionable,” he said.

The two power companies are set to construct about 600 houses at Empumalanga

Phase 7, one of the biggest housing projects in Hwange.

ZPC is expected to relocate its entire Ingagula suburb, which has an approximately 500 households, whose location falls foul of the usual wind direction, leaving the suburb at the risk of dangerous emissions coming from the power generation process.

The power utility is looking forward to start construction of the houses this year.

Hesco is jointly owned by ZPC and Sinohydro Corporation of China as an implementing Special Purpose Vehicle for the Hwange Thermal Power Station expansion project.

Other entities, which were allocated residential stands in Empumalanga Phase 7 are FBC Bank, Zambezi Gas, South Mining Private Ltd and OK Zimbabwe.

Initially an agreement had been reached

by all beneficiaries to contribute towards servicing of all the stands but the two power utilities decided to pull-out of the arrangement due to lack of commitment by other parties.

HLB has already engaged a company to construct an access road into the area designated for the housing project.

“The contractor’s scope includes various roads managed by HLB. However, the two kilometre road from the existing Phase 3 road to the ZPC/Hesco stands will be given priority in light of the urgency of the housing development project,” said HLB town engineer Philip Nguni.

On its end ZPC has engaged the Zimbabwe National Water Authority to set-up a pipeline as well as to construct a reservoir for the supply of water at the new settlement.

5|Striving for Excellence

Council pins hope on revenue collection strategy

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) is optimistic its door to door debt recovery exercise will yield positive results despite its rather subdued start.

Acting finance director Mr Abraham Phiri said the local authority's debt collectors were only managing to collect an average of 15 percent of their daily set target.

"The exercise is working but it's not what we expected. What I can only say is that the debt collectors are doing what they can but the fruits we are reaping leave a lot to be desired," said Mr Phiri.

He however, largely attributed the low revenue collection being realised through the door to door debt strategy to dates at which the exercise commenced.

"We expect finances to be better soon after most people would have been paid, which is mostly towards the end of each month," said Mr Phiri.

He further noted that most businesses blamed their failure to pay for trading licenses due to the outbreak of Covid-19, which led to the reduction of operating hours or complete shutdown of their businesses.

"Most business people are saying their businesses have not been running and all of a sudden we expect them to pay thus they are finding it difficult to do so," said Mr Phiri.

HLB public relations officer Mr Dumisani Nsingo said the local authority embarked on a door to door debt collection exercise as part of its to recover its dues from property owners.

"We have realised that a number of property

owners have been absconding paying rates for quite some time," he said.

A number of rate payers have attributed their failure to visit the revenue office for payment due to the outbreak of Covid-19 though some have managed to transact electronically.

"Others have been paying physically while observing Covid-19 regulations and protocols. Thus through this exercise we are according property owners an opportunity or a service to pay at their doorsteps using

collectors will be accepting down payments as well as allowing property owners to negotiate for payment plans".

The exercise was also extended to businesses, which are operating without valid trading licenses.

"The Zimbabwean law requires the licensing of certain trades and businesses carried on in shops, stores and other fixed places of businesses.

"Businesses that have failed to pay for their trading licenses within the stipulated period will be subjected to a penalty of 100 percent for each line of business for the lapsed year(s)," said Mr Nsingo. He said when the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works approved the Council's 2021 Budget it expressed concern at its continued low revenue collection.

"The Ministry further instructed us to come up with effective revenue collection strategies in order to ensure implementation of service delivery projects. The door to door debt collection exercise is one such strategy," said Mr Nsingo.

The Ministry also highlighted the need for Council to work hard to improve on billing efficiency.

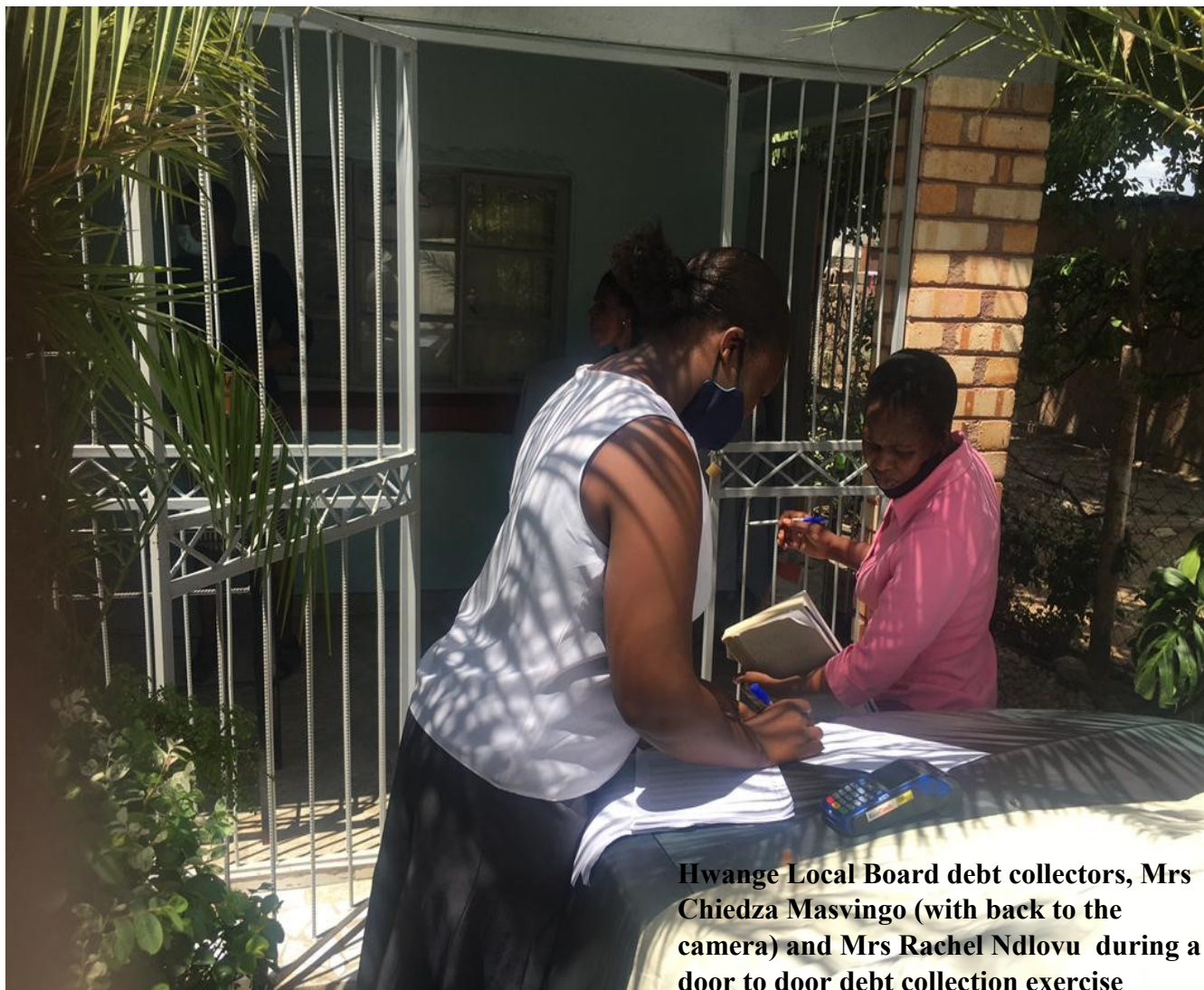
The late payment by ratepayers has affected Council to meet its other obligation such as payment of salaries. It also has adverse effect on service delivery as well as completing our capital projects.

various forms of payments," he said.

Mr Nsingo said the door to door debt collection exercise would be carried out until all properties within the local authority's area of jurisdiction are covered.

"Let me hasten to say that our team of debt collectors will not be confrontational while going about their duties and as such we expect property owners to be cooperative during the process," he said.

Mr Nsingo further added that: "the debt



Hwange Local Board debt collectors, Mrs Chiedza Masvingo (with back to the camera) and Mrs Rachel Ndlovu during a door to door debt collection exercise



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HLB to embark on extensive clean environment campaign

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) is mooted an anti-litter and fire awareness campaign to be held twice in three months as part of its efforts to ensure cleanliness of the environment in its area of jurisdiction.

HLB environmental health technician Mr Nqobile Ndelaphi Mabhena said there was a need to discourage residents from littering and unnecessarily starting fires in an effort to keep the environment clean.

“If resources permit, we intend to carry-out anti-litter and fire awareness campaigns twice in every quarter of the year. This is intended to disseminate information on behavioral change in terms of good practice in waste management,” he said.

HLB has over the years made numerous initiatives towards effective solid waste management disposal.

The local authority is also looking forward to conduct a Solid Waste Characterisation, Quantification and Management study.

“We usually have a challenge with community participation in terms of solid

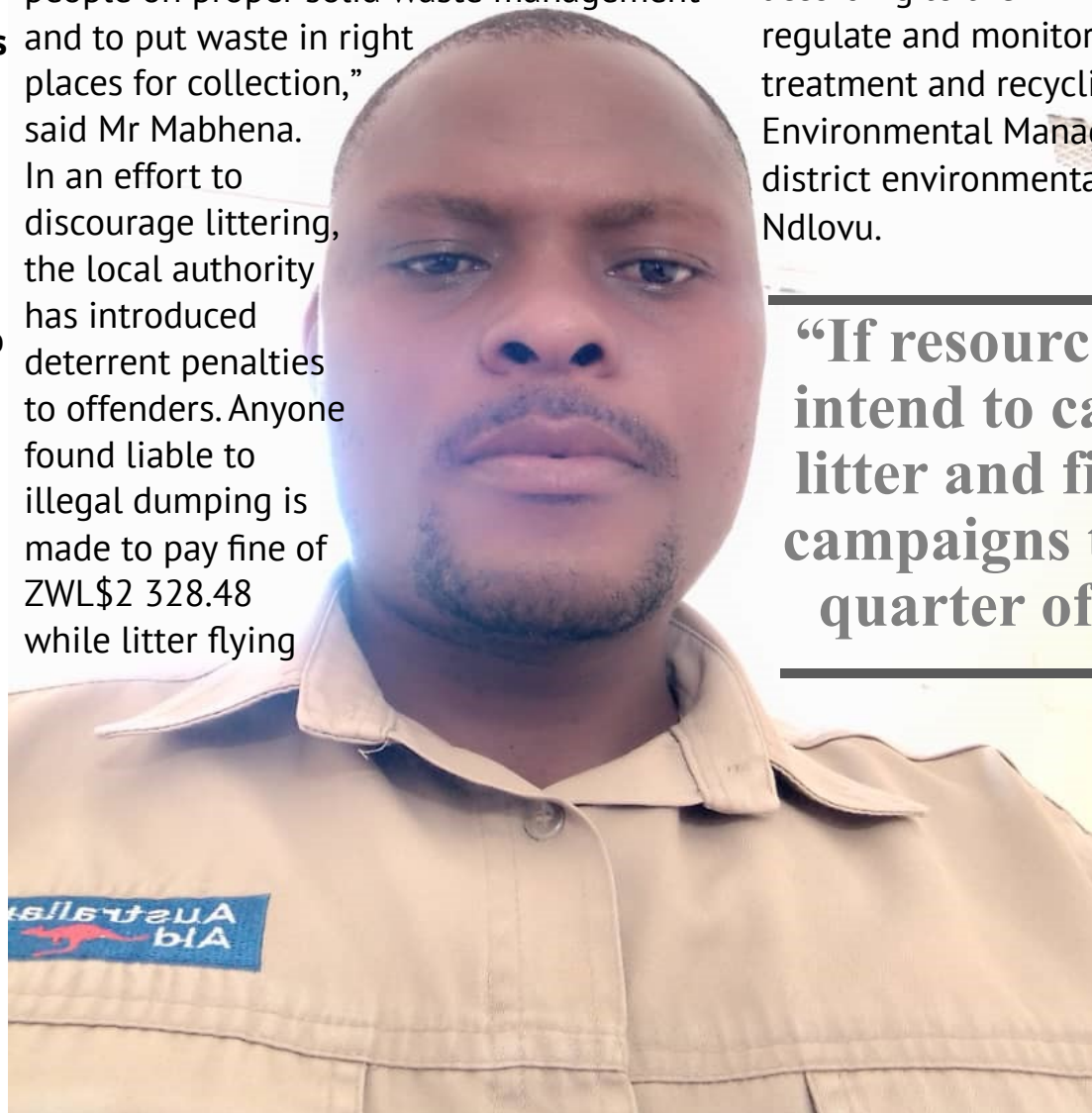
waste management. Therefore this (fire awareness campaign) exercise will caution people on proper solid waste management and to put waste in right places for collection,” said Mr Mabhena.

In an effort to discourage littering, the local authority has introduced deterrent penalties to offenders. Anyone found liable to illegal dumping is made to pay fine of ZWL\$2 328.48 while litter flying

off vehicles attracts a penalty of ZWL\$3 360.

“The dumping of waste is an offence according to the EMA Act which is aimed to regulate and monitor the collection, disposal, treatment and recycling of waste,” said Environmental Management Agency Hwange district environmental officer Mr Notani Ndlovu.

“If resources permit, we intend to carry-out anti-litter and fire awareness campaigns twice in every quarter of the year...”



**Mr Nqobile
Ndelaphi Mabhena**

“Developing a good work ethic is key. Apply yourself at whatever you do, whether you're a janitor or taking your first summer job because that work ethic will be reflected in everything you do in life.”

Tyler Perry



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&
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9|Striving for Excellence

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Scores flock Empumalanga Clinic for Covid-19 vaccination

By Wisakile Mwanjali

HWANGE Local Board (HLB)'s Empumalanga clinic joined numerous institutions countrywide in carrying out COVID-19 vaccination in an effort to curb the spread of the deadly pandemic.

Empumalanga sister-in-charge Sindiso Mhlunga said the number of people that came for the first public vaccination programme at the health institution was encouraging.

The local authority's health department personal were vaccinated when other frontline workers in the country were also being inoculated.

"Residents responded positively to the call for vaccination. The number of people coming to be vaccinated kept on increasing daily," said Sister Mhlunga.

Her sentiments were reiterated by Sister Ropafadzo Dzviva, one of the nurses that was administering the dose.

"The number of people who came for vaccination kept on increasing day by day. On the first day we only managed to vaccinate 14 people and on the second day we did 35 and thereafter the number kept on increasing," she said.



The vaccination programme was targeting people aged from 60 to 80 years, the chronic ill but stable as well as teachers.

"I would like to encourage people to come in their numbers for vaccination. By being vaccinated one increases their chance of not contracting the infection, while also reducing the rate of spreading it," said one of the resident Mr Petros Ndlovu, soon after receiving his jab.

Another resident from Empumalanga suburb, Ms Thembi Ncube also encouraged people to be inoculated so as to protect themselves and their beloved ones.

In another related development Empumalanga clinic has increased service hours for its Outpatient Department.

The primary healthcare facility used to operate from 0800 to 1600 hours, now it opens from 0800 to 2000 hours.

"We have realised that the population we are serving is continuously growing thus the reason we opted to increase the number of our operational hours. We also want people to access our services till the late hours, especially those going for night shifts at work or those that would have knocked off late, but for now we are only opening our Outpatient Department," said Sister Mhlunga.

An outpatient department or outpatient clinic is the part of health institution designed for the treatment of outpatients, people with health problems who visit the hospital for diagnosis or treatment, but do not at this time require a bed or to be admitted for overnight care.

Modern outpatient departments offer a wide range of treatment services, diagnostic tests and minor surgical procedures.

Plans are underway to ensure the health facility operates 24 hours upon introducing maternity services.

"We are anticipating to have our maternity ward operational in the near future, where we will be offering maternity services. Presently we don't have adequate resources to offer maternity services but once we start delivering babies we will be operating 24 hours," said Sister Mhlunga.

Ms Thembi Ncube receives her Covid-19 vaccine jab at Empumalanga Clinic





Happy Independence!

18 April

*Hwange Local Board chairman Councillor
Nqobile Ocean Mabhena, the Town
Secretary, Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose,
Councillors and staff joins the rest of
Zimbabwe in celebrating the country's 41st
Independence Anniversary*

*We are committed to seeing through the
vision of His Excellency, Cde Dr E. D.
Mnangagwa, of an upper middle class
economy by 2030.*

*We salute all the gallant sons and daughters of this
beautiful country for their invaluable sacrifices in
giving us the freedom we so much enjoy today!
Happy 41st birthday, Zimbabweans.*

HLB courts investors for stadium upgrade

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) is seeking a partner to assist it in refurbishing its football stadium into a modern facility as part of its efforts to provide upmarket social amenities to residents.

HLB housing and community services officer Mrs Runyararo Tshwapa said the local authority was in the process of courting a potential investor to enter into a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement for the reconstruction of Nengasha stadium into a modern facility.

“Our expectations are to have the stadia being turned into a modern facility, with proper terraces, where possible we can even have bucket seats. We are also looking forward to having a state-of-the-art and fully-equipped dressing rooms,” she said.

About five years ago Kincard International College of Sport Science, Research and Technology made an undertaking to reconstruct the stadium.

However, the deal suffered a still birth as the company failed to keep its end of the bargain.

“At the moment we’ve got a standing agreement with Makomo (Resources) to maintain the stadium. However, owing to suspension of all sporting activities including soccer due to Covid-19 outbreak, it hasn’t been doing so. We however, expect it to start doing so soon since things are slowly

normalising,” said Mrs Tshwapa.

Makomo Resources renovated the stadium’s dressing rooms and enacted a perimeter fence around the facility in-line with the requirements of hosting Division One soccer matches.

The coal-mining company’s soccer team, Makomo Football Club plies its trade in the Zifa Southern Region Division One League and uses Nengasha stadium as its home ground.

The stadium is also a venue to other local lower-tier league teams.

Mrs Tshwapa said the local authority was fully aware of the potential revenue to be generated from the stadium if it were to be fully utilised thus its decision to have it upgraded.

“We see the upgrading of Negasha as one of the low hanging fruits in our quest to increase our revenue streams. Our intention is to make sure the stadium plays host to high profile soccer matches involving Premiership sides. We are also looking at it being hired for concerts,” she said.

Mrs Tshwapa said the scope of the stadium



Mrs Runyararo Tshwapa

upgrade also entails ensuring availability of water for watering the pitch and installation of floodlights.

“Our intention is to have a readily available source of water. As such we are exploring two options, one being to drill a borehole while the other one, is to set up a waste water reclamation plant to enable us to water the pitch. We also intend to put up floodlights as well as to have a parking bay outside the stadium,” she said.

Zimbabwe Power Company is also looking forward to constructing another stadium at Empumalanga Phase 7 housing project.

CORONAVIRUS SAFETY

Follow these easy steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Disinfect surfaces around your home and work.



Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.



Sneeze or cough? Cover your mouth.

12|Striving for Excellence