

# HWANGE

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

MONTHLY e-NEWSLETTER

▼ April 2021

Councillors to implore residents to pay rates



Embrace Council projects: Pastor Mdlalose tells management



Tshwapa rubs shoulders with The First Lady



# Hwange wins big

**H**WANGE Local Board (HLB)'s turnaround efforts received a major boost when Chairman Councillor Ngobile Ocean Mabhena won an accolade for being the 2020 Local Authorities Outstanding Chairperson at the Zimbabwe CEO Network Leadership Excellence awards.

In winning the award Cllr Mabhena outsmarted Zvishavane Town Council's Chairman Khulekani Ndlovu and Rusape Town Council Chairman Lyton Sithole into first runner-up and second runner-up respectively.

HLB town secretary Pastor Mdlalose was also a winner at the awards ceremony, which were held in Harare when he came first-runner up to Zvishavane Town Council's Mr Tinoda Mukutu in the town secretary category with Mr Solomon Siziba of Shurugwi Town Council being second runner-up.

This was Pastor Mdlalose's second award this year after coming first

runner-up in the 2019 National Megafest Business awards in the Public Sector Leader category.

Cllr Mabhena attributed his feat to collaborative efforts by everyone at the local authority as well as residents.

"It's unfortunate that only one person

has to be pronounced the winner. However, the award belongs to all of us at Council, this includes councillors, management and other members of staff.

"The residents should also be appreciated for their efforts in demanding decent service delivery that pushed us to perform better. In a nutshell, the award belongs to Hwange town," he said.

The win by Cllr Mabhena happens to be the first national accolade to be accorded to an individual policy-maker since the inception of HLB in 1974.

"The fact that this is a first for Hwange, it makes the win really sweet and hopefully it will propel us to win more awards in the future and subsequently better our service delivery to the residents," he said.

HLB has since crafted a strategic plan aimed at turning around its performance in its bid to enhance service delivery.



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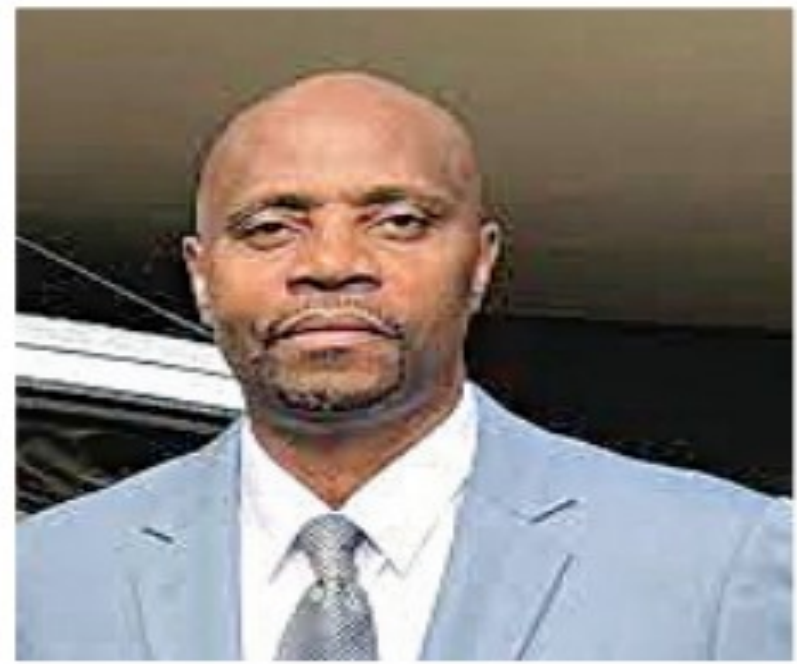




## HWANGE LOCAL BOARD



Councillor  
Nqobile Ocean Mabhena



Town Secretary  
Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose

Hwange Local Board councillors and members of staff would like to extend their heartfelt congratulations to their Charman Councillor

**Nqobile Ocean Mabhena**

and town secretary

**Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose**

for winning the Local Authorities Leadership Excellence Outstanding Chairperson Award and the first runner-up accolade in the town secretary category, respectively.



# Zinara gives HLB thumbs up



*Hwange Local Board civil engineering technician Tinashe Tapfumaneyi addresses Zimbabwe National Road Administration Matabeleland North provincial technician Engineer Enock Masocha (far left), Director for Local Governance in the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works Mr Tapera Mugoriya, HLB board chairman Councillor Nqobile Ocean Mabhena, Matabeleland North Provincial Development Co-ordinator Mrs Sithandiwe Ncube and HLB town secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose during a tour of Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme projects.*

**THE Zimbabwe National Road Administration (Zinara) has expressed satisfaction on the initial work being carried out by Hwange Local Board (HLB) under the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP).**

Speaking during a tour of a site where road works are undertaken by HLB through utilisation of ERRP funds, Zinara Matabeleland North provincial technician Engineer Enock Masocha said he was impressed by the workmanship exhibited by the local authority at the preliminary stage of the road rehabilitation programme.

Eng Masocha was part of a high-powered provincial delegation led by Matabeleland Provincial Development Coordinator Mrs Sithandiwe Ncube to monitor and assess ERRP progress in the province.

“I’m quite impressed by the work, which is currently undertaken by Council under their scope of works, which is vegetation and drainage clearance but I think the depth of the drains should be attended to,” he said.

HLB was allocated ZWL158 million under ERRP which would be carried out in phases. The local authority was allocated ZWL 11 million for Phase I but has since received ZWL2,2 million.

Phase I entails vegetation and drainage clearance as well as pothole patching. “I’m also glad that they are employing locals. However, we don’t want a situation whereby people are not paid because it tarnishes the image of the entire programme. They (Council) should make sure they apply for disbursement in time, but otherwise I’m impressed by the standard of the work so far,” said Eng

Masocha.

He also expressed satisfaction at the road rehabilitation work being carried out by Enfund Construction, a contractor engaged by the local authority.

Mrs Ncube called on the Council to expedite the road rehabilitation so that the roads could be trafficable.

“The funding is there but I’m a bit worried about the pace in implementing the project by local authorities. I’m, however, glad that we have picked up the tempo and we are now on track and moving with speed. I’m saying let’s utilise the money before it depreciates in value,” she said.

Mrs Ncube further said the local authority should prioritise rehabilitation of roads based on their importance to the general populace in a given area and economic impact.



# Councillors to implore residents to pay rates

**H**WANGE Local Board (HLB) management has implored councillors to play a part in encouraging residents to pay rates to enable the local authority to offer seamless and efficient service delivery.

HLB Town Secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose said in its efforts to recover over ZWL100 million in unpaid rates as of last year, Council has roped in councillors to encourage residents to fulfil their obligations.

“We are saying to councillors look at how much money is in your ward (in terms of rates) and encourage residents to pay so that we deliver the service required and in so doing help you (councillors) to get your Wadco (Ward Development Committee) funds,” he said.

Five percent of rates paid by residents is retained and ploughed back through Wadcos for developmental projects.

“We have done mapping of where our biggest debtors are, including coming up with a debt age analysis, so that we know our perennial debtors and devise a strategy informed by that,” said Pastor Mdlalose.

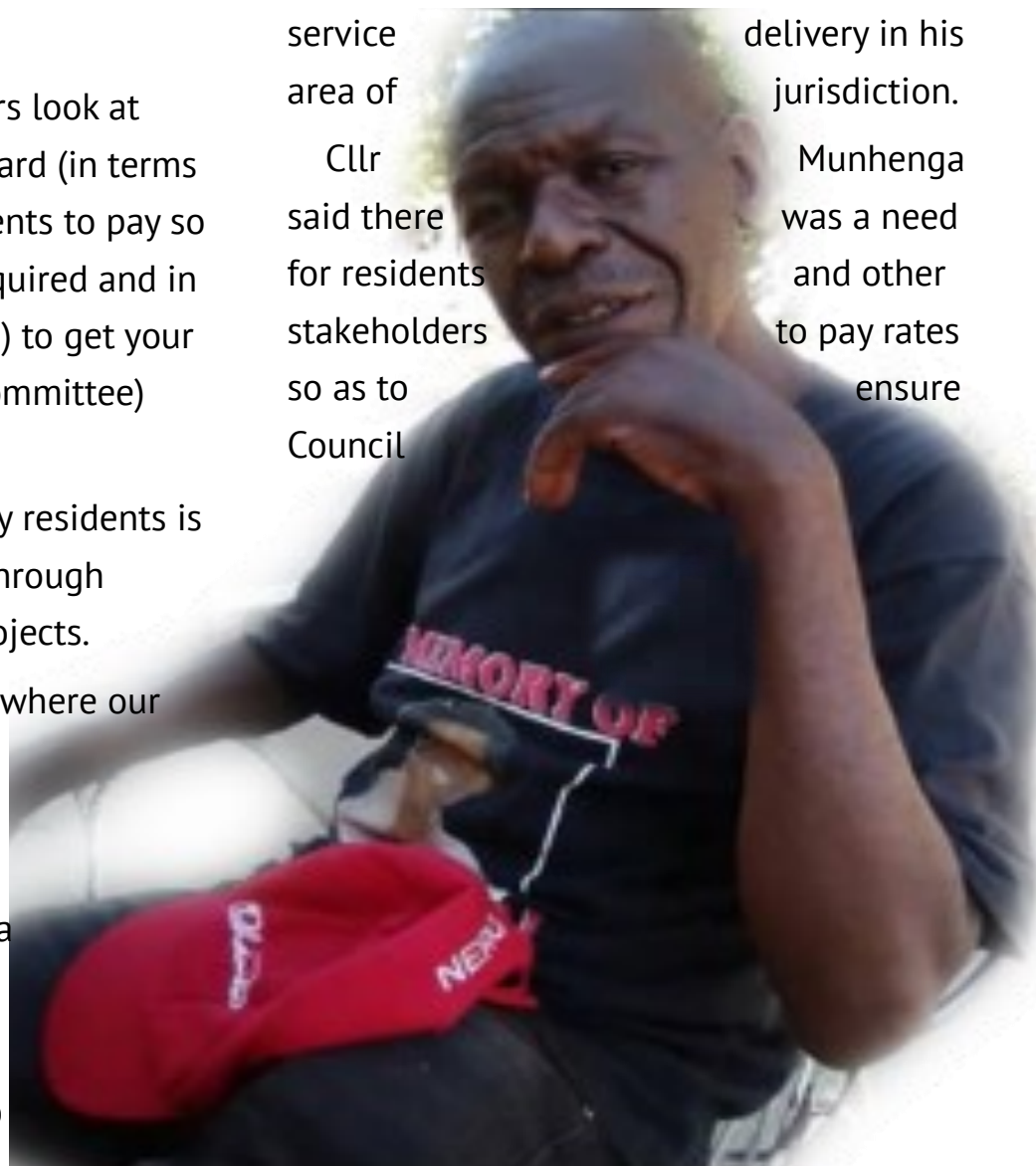
The local authority has also come up with weekly budgetary requirements for the achievement of monthly and annual targets by each department and section.

“These (weekly budgetary) should

inform our collection strategy because we will be knowing what we need on a weekly and quarterly basis. It also makes it easy for us to do monthly and quarterly reports,” said Pastor Mdlalose.

HLB vice-chairman Councillor Admire Munhenga is one of the policy-makers who has taken the bull by its horns and embarked on an initiative to cultivate a culture of paying rates among the residents as part of moves to improve service delivery in his area of jurisdiction.

Cllr Munhenga said there was a need for residents and other stakeholders to pay rates so as to ensure Council



provides them with quality and efficient service delivery.

“I took it upon myself to tell residents in my ward, including ZPC (Zimbabwe Power Company) employees and friends that HLB

was in a dilemma. It’s struggling to offer seamless service delivery due to financial constraints largely owing to non-payment of rates,” he said.

Cllr Munhenga is employed at ZPC-Hwange and is councillor for Ward 2.

“At one point I had to use one of the debt collectors’ mobile phone to contact perennial rate defaulters from my ward and enticed them to honour their obligation and the move paid dividends as some started making payments,” he said.

Cllr Munhenga’s initiatives complement various strategies being implemented by the local authority in its bid to recover outstanding rates from residents and corporates. Of which one such strategy has been to engage councillors to encourage residents to pay rates.

Council has been struggling to complete most of its capital projects owing to lack of funds, which has been largely attributed to late or non-payment of rates by residents and other stakeholders.

“Some residents were saying they saw no reason of paying rates yet they weren’t seeing any service. I had to convince them that for one to get any form of service, they ought to pay. I always tell them that paying rates will capacitate Council to deliver,” said Cllr Munhenga.

He said apart from preaching the gospel of paying rates to residents at every meeting he also does so through WhatsApp.

*If you succeed, celebrate, if you fail carry your own cross and make amends~Anonymous*

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# HLB to profile residents

**H**WANGE Local Board (HLB) is considering profiling its residents in a bid to seek suitable times to hold annual budget consultative meetings as a way of enhancing participatory and inclusiveness of the process.

HLB town secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose said there was a need to conduct a feasibility study to ascertain the time when most residents would be available to attend budget consultative meetings at their respective wards.

“There is a need for Council to profile its residents’ working habits so that we consult them (on the budget) when they are least occupied. We can even consider having two consultative meetings in a ward at different times,” he said.

Addressing Women’s Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ)-Hwange members HLB chairman Councillor Nqobile Ocean Mabhena said there was a need to change times at which Council’s budget consultative meetings are held to enhance women participation in the process.

WCoZ is a national membership-based network of women rights activists and women’s organisations.

It is a forum where women meet to engage in collective activism on issues affecting them and girls in Zimbabwe.

Clr Mabhena said times at which the local authority held its budget consultative meetings over the years was more of gender insensitive.

“If you take a look at the times, we set for our budget consultative meetings, which is 5 or 6 pm, I think we are rather insensitive. Social scientists or layman will tell you that most women will be excluded from the process yet the decisions reached there

also impact on them.

“During this time most, women will be preparing supper. Instead of holding the meetings during the week we should also consider having them over the weekends to enable people to effectively participate in the process,” he said.

HLB has a gender policy, which places strong emphasis on gender equality and equity and envisions a gender-just working environment in which men and women enjoy equity.

The local authority also reserves a quota for women in the provision of commercial stands as part of its efforts to enhance their financial inclusion and empowering them.

Government is also working on a policy to enable a 30 percent women quota in councils in-line with the constitutional provisions on gender balance.

Zimbabwe has made significant strides in promoting gender equality and women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion, particularly over the last decade.



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# Embrace Council projects: Pastor Mdlalose tells management

**H**WANGE Local Board (HLB) Town Secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose has called on the local authority's management to constantly monitor all projects being undertaken by contractors so as to guard against poor workmanship.

Addressing Council's management and section heads, Pastor Mdlalose said there was a need for the management to exhibit a strong sense of ownership in all projects being undertaken by the local authority.

"From now onwards every one of us should be knowing the scope of works of any contractor engaged by Council. We should all be in a position to track, knowing what should be done and when. During our routine meetings we must take

stock of the progress," he said.

Pastor Mdlalose said the workmanship of most projects being undertaken by contractors engaged by local authorities throughout the country was appalling with some taking time to be completed while others become white elephants.

He made reference to Empumalanga Phase 4 Housing Project, which has haunted the local authority of the past few years.

The Phase 4 Housing Project debacle is a legacy issue dating back to 2009, when the local authority's previous administration engaged a contractor who failed to service the residential stands in the allotted area.

However, servicing of the stands is now at an advanced stage and expected to be completed before the end of this year.

"No contractor will come here and start working without any of you knowing. We are all expected to know what's happening including the deliverables, so that when those of us supervising the project give us a report, we are able to examine it to the fullest," said Pastor Mdlalose.

HLB chairman Councillor Nqobile Ocean Mabhena noted the need for Council to expedite completion of capital projects.

"I'm a bit disappointed at the pace at which we are taking to complete capital projects. We should remind ourselves that we are using rate payers' monies and we need to justify these by completing infrastructural development programmes within reasonable time frames while also improving on service delivery," he said.



*Part of Hwange Local Board management team at a tour of a road rehabilitation project in the company of chairman Councillor Nqobile Ocean Mabhena and town secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose*

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# Tshwapa rubs shoulders with First Lady



*Hwange Local Board housing and community services officer Mrs Runyararo Tshwapa (second from right) assists The First Lady Amai Auxillia Mnangagwa to serve inmates at Dete Old People's Home*

**H**WANGE Local Board (HLB)'s housing and community services officer, Mrs Runyararo Tshwapa, reckons coming within a touching distance and sharing a lighter moment with the First Lady Amai Auxillia Mnangagwa was one of the memorable occasions she will forever cherish in her lifetime.

Mrs Tshwapa and Dete Old People's Home Superintendent sister Cecilia Mwembe were the only ones selected by officials from the First Lady's office to assist the mother of the nation in serving breakfast to the senior citizens in April.

Dete Old People's Home became the second such institution to benefit from the breakfast offered and served by the First

Lady through her Angel of Hope Foundation.

"I assisted the First Lady to serve breakfast to the elders together with the home's Superintendent. For me it will remain one of the most memorable moments in my lifetime because I never imagined myself being close to someone of her stature," said Mrs Tshwapa.

The breakfast comprised tea, bread, fried and boiled eggs, baked beans, margarine and jam.

The institution opened its doors in 1984 and its home to 15 inmates of different nationalities.

As the founder and patron of the Angel of Hope Foundation, the First Lady is championing the provision of basic

amenities to vulnerable groups in Zimbabwe.

"While we were serving the elderly, I managed to have a brief chat with her. She asked about my personal life, including my profession. She also asked if as a district we had a database of disadvantaged girls that needed assistance. I could tell through our interaction that she has real passion in charity work," said Mrs Tshwapa.

Amai Mnangagwa also donated food hampers to the old aged home as well as sewing machines to three schools in Hwange District namely St Mary's Primary School, Nechilibi High School and Ndlovu Secondary School as a way of capacitating the learning institutions to be economic hubs for their communities.

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**In all your dealings, know that success and failure is  
attributable to you as an individual and not anyone  
you may prefer to blame.**

**Anonymous**

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# Council calls on residents to embrace CVHWs

By Wisakile Mwanjali

**H**WANGE Local Board (HLB) says residents should embrace and cooperate with Community Voluntary Health Workers (CVHWs) when they visit their homes to render primary healthcare services.

Empumalanga Clinic sister-in-charge Sindiso Mhlanga said residents should welcome CVHWs to their homes as they play a pivotal role in disease prevention and provision of community care at primary level.

CVHWs serve as a key link between communities and the formal health system.

“I want to urge the community to give maximum support to CVHWs in their execution of duties. CVHWs are trained to provide services to communities thus ensuring that people don’t walk long distances to the clinic to seek such services but get them at their doorstep,” she said.

The HLB run Empumalanga Clinic has 14 VHWs attached to it covering over 4 000 households.

“CVHWs are trained by the Ministry of Health and Child Care and assist in capacitating individuals and communities through a wide range of activities such as educational outreach programmes, informal counselling, social support and advocacy,” said Sister Mhlanga.

Community Voluntary Health Workers (are trained to provide health promotion interventions and health related duties within their communities and have neither formal certification nor tertiary education.

Training received by CVHWs is accepted within the health system but is not recognised by the tertiary education system.

CVHWs also play an integral role in monitoring expecting mothers as well as those that would have given birth. They also observe growth of children aged five and below including general health related issues.

The use of CVHWs to provide primary health care is also recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

“CVHWs assist people to understand their health conditions and develop strategies for them to improve their health and well-being...,” said Sister Mhlanga.

As the country nudges forward in its efforts to combat Covid-19, the Ministry of Health and Child roped in CVHWs in order to disseminate health education.

“CVHWs also play a very big role in disseminating information during diseases outbreaks. As it is now they are busy moving around sensitising people on Covid-19,” said Sister Mhlanga.



*Empumalanga Clinic*

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