



HWANGE

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

MONTHLY e-NEWSLETTER

▼ August 2021

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HWANGE Local Board (HLB) is making frantic efforts to attain its Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP) 2 target before the onset of the rainy season.

HLB Town Secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose said the local authority is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to improve the trafficability of its road network in the wake of the imminent rains.

“We have covered significant ground with regards to the clearing and resuscitation of storm water drainages, roadside vegetation clearing and pothole filling, which are part of the scope under ERRP.

“We are, however, a bit behind on the roads that we have targeted for resealing and reconstruction. One of the stretches we resealed needs some remedial works and it’s been more of a learning curve to us,” he said.

Pastor Mdlalose noted the need by the Zimbabwe National Road Administration (Zinara) to expedite disbursement of funds



Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office Retired General Godfrey Chanakira (left), Matabeleland North Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution Richard Moyo are joined by Government officials from various departments during a tour of Hwange Local Board ERRP2 projects

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to enable local authorities to meet their set targets within stipulated timelines.

He, however, commended the ERRP funding model as a stepping stone towards ensuring successful implementation and completion of road projects.

Zinara adopted a result-based funding model for ERRP. Results-based funding involves a mechanism through, which a funder is willing to make payments to an agent who assumes responsibility for achieving pre-defined results.

“The new funding model, which is output based, is good because it forces contractors to deliver and it will see to it that projects are completed. One can’t claim for unfinished work.

“However, this wasn’t communicated in advance and in some cases, local authorities had engaged some contractors and these were looking at being paid bit by

bit as was being done in the past,” said Pastor Mdlalose.

He further added that: “If contractors are told in advance

Council races to meet ERRP timelines

they will then work on their synergies to finance their operations.”

The local authority has covered about 40 percent under ERRP 2 with most of the work being covered under Phase I of the project.

Phase I entails road side vegetation clearing, storm water drainage clearing and resuscitation as well as pothole filling.

The Permanent Secretary in Vice-President Constantino Chiwenga’s Office, Major-General (Retired) Godfrey Chanakira urged the local authority to ensure that best workmanship is achieved in the roads rehabilitation project.

He also promised to ensure disbursement of funds by Zinara to be expedited.

Maj-Gen (Rtd) Chanakira was part of the team, which toured ERRP 2 projects in Matabeleland North Province in the company of Minister of State for Matabeleland Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Richard Moyo, Provincial Development Coordinator Ms Sithandiwe Ncube, officials from Zinara and District Development Fund as well as Government officials from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development.

A financial expert joins HLB

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) has employed a substantive finance director in a bid to enhance effectiveness of its operations.

Mr Willard Phiri, a seasoned financial expert, joins HLB from sister local authority, Hwange Rural District Council where he had been employed as a finance director for the past three years.

He takes over the finance director's post, which has been vacant for the past two years.

Prior to his appointment, the position had been held by the now retired Mr Abraham Phiri on an acting capacity.

The local authority also appointed a procurement officer, Miss Sharon Madosi.

Miss Madosi joins HLB from Inductoserve, a leading logistics and plant hire company.

She brings with her vast experience from the private sector where she has worked for a number of companies in the manufacturing sector.

The presence of the duo is expected to make far-reaching changes at the local authority.



**Mr
Willard Phiri**



Elite ECD centre opens door in Hwange

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) chairman Councillor Nqobile Ocean Mabhena has hailed the opening of a new up-market Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre, Springfield Preparatory School in Baobab suburb as a major step towards enhancing education in Hwange District.

Clr Mabhena said the opening of the new private school comes at an opportune time when the Government under the Second Republic was making frantic efforts to reinvigorate the education sector.

He said there was a need for parents to inculcate the importance of education to their children.

“It’s unfortunate that as parents we have shifted our culture of valuing education. We are now pushing our children to be ‘hustlers’. Long back everyone knew that for one to succeed in life they had to go to school. Academic excellence was a springboard to propel you to a good future. This is a seed we would like to rekindle or replant because it’s no longer embedded in us as parents,” said Clr Mabhena.

Springfield Preparatory School is located in the leafy density suburb of Baobab. It offers ECD A and B classes.

Clr Mabhena said there was a need for the school to embrace an education system that uphold African values and culture.

“We don’t want our children to be westernised. We want our children to be proud of their identity. We want an education system that recognises the importance of our culture, glorifying us as Africans. In as much as we are aware that modern education will open numerous avenues for our children, they shouldn’t forget where they come from,” he said.

Clr Mabhena also noted that the newly opened learning institution should not only



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institutionalise arts and sports in its syllabuses.

“We also want this school to be able to identify the talent within each child. It’s not every child who is gifted academically. We want the school to identify talent at that tender age.

“We want the school to groom and nurture these children to become responsible citizens that will be able to contribute in the development of our country,” he said.

Hwange District economist Mr Tilton Jamera Patswarayi expressed satisfaction at the school’s set up.

“I was impressed by the set-up of the school. I’m very optimistic that our children will be introduced to a modern curriculum. I understand that they will also partake in various sporting disciplines.

“Nowadays the growth of our economy isn’t only supported by academic excellence. It’s also anchored on other extracurricular activities like drama and sports among others,” he said.

The school is in the process of completing work on its playing grounds, which comprise of a mini multi-purpose court for sporting disciples such as basketball,

volleyball, tennis, hockey, korfbal and netball.

It also has a small pitch for soccer and tag rugby.

The school’s administrator, Miss Glory Mhango reiterated Mr Patswarayi’s sentiments further stating that plans were underway to include more grades next year.

“Apart from ensuring that our pupils excel academically, we intend to introduce them to ICT (Information and Communications Technology) at a tender age. We are also looking at attaching a reputable sports science expert to identify their individual sporting talents.

“We have also started negotiations to twin with a reputable elite school in Bulawayo, for the sole purpose of keeping our standards high. Over and above all we intend to include other grades next year,” she said.

HLB is also in the process of completing construction of another state-of-the-art ECD block at Nechibondo Primary School in the high density suburb of Empumalanga through utilisation of Devolution Funds.

Plans are also under way to construct another primary school in the same suburb.



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Council calls on residents to participate in waste management



Illegal dumping site along Baobab Drive

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) is calling on residents to utilise part of the waste generated at their households in a bid to reduce littering in communities.

HLB public relations officer said there was a need for residents to complement the local authority's efforts of keeping the environment clean.

He said while more emphasis has been placed on the traditional collection of waste, the principles of integrated solid waste management have not been fully followed.

"We appreciate that Council is supposed to collect refuse, but there is a need for residents to also embrace integrated solid waste management through practising the

concept of reducing, reusing and recycling waste," he said.

Modern trends demand the sustainable management of solid waste through waste minimisation, material recovery, full collection and sanitary disposal of waste.

Mr Nsingo said not all waste should be discarded so as to reduce the amount needed to be sent to landfills as well as allowing products to be used to their fullest extent.

"Residents can reuse some of the waste generated at their households instead of disposing it," he said.

Mr Nsingo said every citizen has a right to a clean environment but hinted on the need for a collaborated approach by all stakeholders in curbing illegal waste dumping.

"Everyone has a right to a clean environment as enshrined in the Environmental Management Act and Public Health Act and these are also constitutional rights. However, there are some residents that tend to violate others' rights through dumping litter at undesignated areas," he said.

Mr Nsingo said solid waste management has become a major concern both to the natural environment and society virtually in all suburbs.

"Council can chip in through disseminating information against illegal solid waste dumping as well as community policing. We do offer a reward to anyone who reports someone found littering because it's actually an offence to do that," he said.



HLB to grow its online presence

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) has set sights on growing its digital communication and payment platforms in an effort to reach out to its various stakeholders as well as to improve its revenue collection.

HLB public relations officer Mr Dumisani Nsingo said the unprecedented circumstances induced by Covid-19 has seen the local authority intensifying use of Information Communication and Technology (ICT)-based solutions.

“The uptake of ICT products and services has already increased in the wake of Covid-19, as more people embrace the Internet and technology in their bid to be safe while also ensuring effective communication.

“As such Council has introduced a number of digital communication platforms to interact with rate payers as well as coming up with contactless payment facilities,” he said.

In August last year, HLB introduced a monthly e-newsletter as one of its mediums to communicate with residents and other stakeholders.

The e-newsletter highlights developmental issues being undertaken by the local authority in its drive to offer improved service delivery to its stakeholders.

“The introduction of the e-newsletter was a commitment to embrace digital technologies, which are becoming indispensable in almost every aspect of human endeavour, especially with the advent of the Covid-19 outbreak,” said Mr Nsingo.

The e-newsletter is distributed electronically via e-mail and WhatsApp.

“We also use Facebook and Twitter to communicate with our stakeholders. Due to the activeness of these two accounts of late, we have been attracting an average of three new followers a week as of March (this year).

“We also have a website and we are working at ensuring that it becomes more active, so that we market our organisation to the outside world. Digital communication has become the most powerful way to reach as many people as possible in real time,” said Mr Nsingo.

HLB also bought its 14 councillors MiFis for use during their tenure. The local authority further procured tablets for them and buys them data bundles to enable them to effectively and efficiently communicate with residents as well as to attend to Council meetings online.

Council is also looking forward to introducing alternative online payment platforms to as a way of optimising ratepayers’ journey.

Government has called on Councils to be innovative and embrace ICT to continuously improve citizen engagement.

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.

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