

HWANGE

MONTHLY e-NEWSLETTER

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HWANGE Local Board (HLB) has expressed satisfaction at the resumption of servicing of more than 2 000 residential stands at Empumalanga West Housing Project.

HLB Town Secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose said the servicing of the stands would go a long way towards ensuring the prioritisation of citizens' access to affordable and quality housing in line with the National Development Strategy I.

"As Council we are very excited about the resumption of servicing at Empumalanga West. It will definitely go a long way towards reducing our housing waiting list and of course it goes a long way in ensuring fulfilment of NDS I as we march towards achieving the country's vision of being an upper-middle society by 2030," he said.

Pastor Mdlalose however, said there was a need for Government to effectively monitor the progress of the project so as to guard against poor workmanship.

"As much as we are delighted that there's work going on at Empumalanga West, we are however, not satisfied with the workmanship being exhibited by those contracted for the water and sewer reticulation project.

"Residents have already started complaining about defects of the sewer lines. We are therefore urging the Ministry (of Housing and Social Amenities) to enhance its monitoring and strictly

supervise the project so that the contractors don't cut corners," he said.

The servicing of the 2 145 stands is expected to be completed before the end of the year as the Government moves to provide decent accommodation to citizens. RM Construction is carrying out water and sewer reticulation system installation while Asphalt Products is servicing the road network.

RM Construction surveyor Mr Owen Maniki said the company was looking

we will soon be moving to Phase II. The entire project is made up of three phases and we are targeting to be done in November," he said.

Mr Maniki acknowledged the anomaly on the sewer line pointing out that it was being rectified.

Asphalt Products has indicated that it would complete road servicing by December.

The Empumalanga West Housing Project was initiated by Council in 2014 as a way of providing a low cost housing scheme for low income earners.


Beneficiaries of the stands were made to pay US\$50 a month as part of their contribution towards paying contractors that were servicing the area through working on the road network as well as the sewer and water reticulation system.

However, a number of beneficiaries experienced challenges in payment of their monthly subscriptions and Council fell behind in its obligation to pay the contractors.


Council then made proposals and managed to rope in the Infrastructural Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ) in 2017 and the area was declared a construction zone. However, two years ago there was another challenge due to a change in the Monetary Policy, when the United States dollar was equated to the local currency.

The contractors insisted on US dollar payment and as such IDBZ had to renegotiate all contracts with the contractors but failed to do so thus there has been no activity at the site.

The project was to be handed over to the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities last year.



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forward to completing the installation of the sewer and water reticulation system in November.

"We are almost done with completing Phase I with only about 20 percent left and

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Mdlalose calls on Councillors to arrest non-payment of rates

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) Town Secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose says there is a need for Councillors and Council management to work hand in hand towards arresting non-payment of rates by residents and other stakeholders.

Pastor Mdlalose said as much as Council was making concerted efforts to ensure prompt payment of rates by property owners in its area of jurisdiction there was a need for Councillors to also come to the party.

“For us to arrest the issue of non-payment of rates, we need a teamwork approach, which includes Councillors and Council management,” he said.

Pastor Mdlalose said it was also the Councillors’ mandate to ensure that residents pay their rates so as to facilitate developmental projects in their wards.

“Councillors have a duty to develop their wards and part of the resources for developing their wards comes from their Ward Development Fund, which is a (five percent) fraction of what is collected from rates payment,” he said.

Further stating that: “So the more the Councillor collects from their wards, the more revenue or resources are at their disposal to be ploughed back for projects of their choice”.

HLB is owed over ZWL\$ 100 million in unpaid rates as from last year and has implemented various strategies to recover the debt but not much has been realised.

Pastor Mdlalose said ratepayers ought to be enlightened about the repercussions of non-payment of rates to Council.

“One thing we need to underscore is that services are provided on a user pay principle. In other words we cost a service and charge for the provision of that service. So, we expect residents to pay so that service is provided,” he said.

Pastor Mdlalose said the local authority was likely to be hamstrung by non-payment of rates culminating in its failure to meet its various obligations.

“Even if a few residents would have paid, it simply goes towards covering up where we will have borrowed leaving us with no money to provide services...”

“We end up with situations like backlog in salaries, pension contributions and other statutory obligations. We will also have challenges with our current expenditure because we won’t be able to pay,” he said.

Pastor Mdlalose further

Debt exceeding 120 days per Ward

1. Ward 1 \$6.3 million

2. Ward 2 \$4 million

3. Ward 3 \$2.3 million

4. Ward 4 \$1.4 million

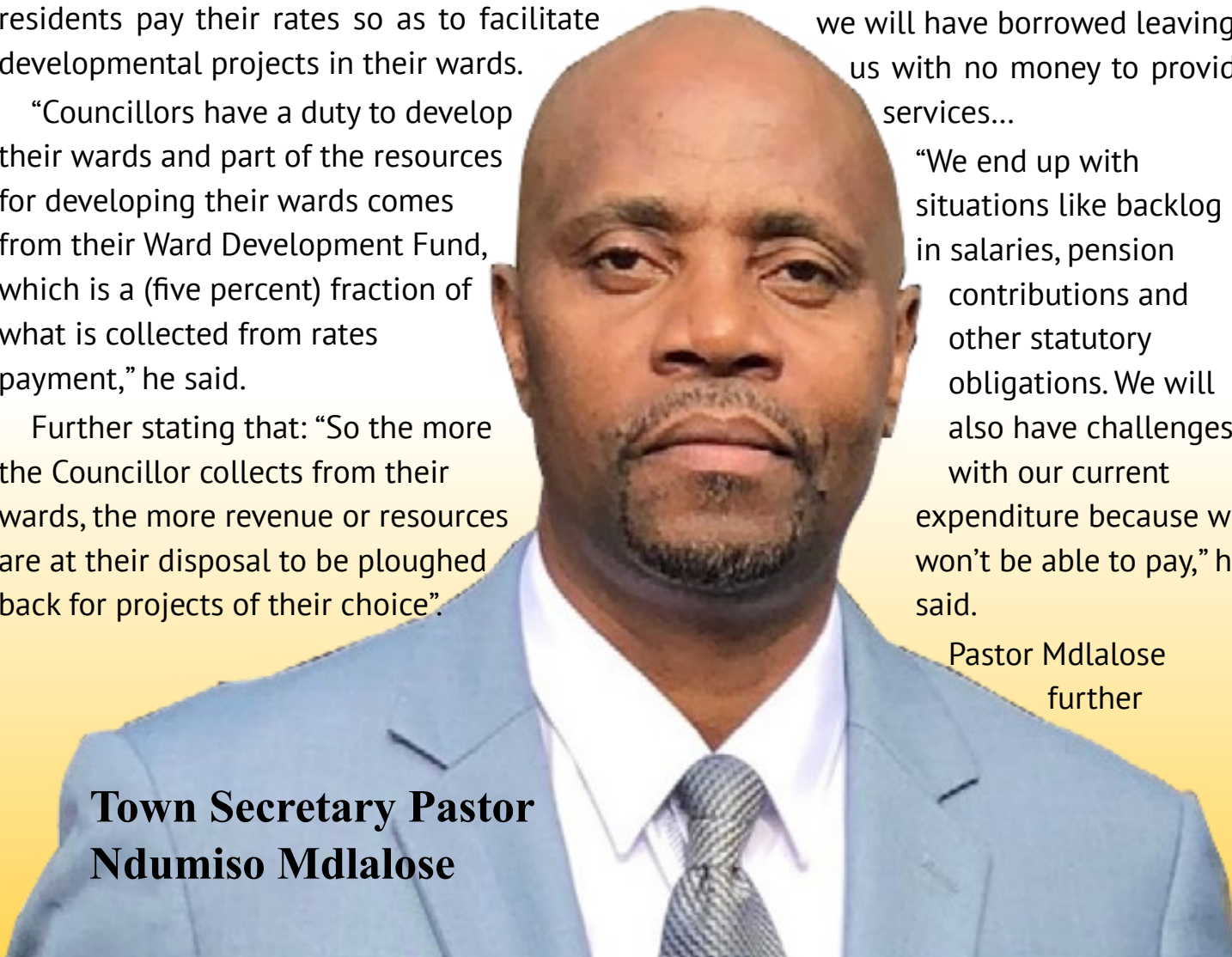
5. Ward 5 \$1.9 million

6. Ward 6 \$2.3 million

7. Ward 7 \$22 million

highlighted that the local authority was failing to boost its capital equipment due to depleted coffers.

“In some instance we will be having one piece of equipment and none to fall back on because we will not have received enough money to build our capacity in those areas. So, we are not protected against shocks, shocks of breakdown of vehicles expose us quite a lot,” he said.



Town Secretary Pastor Ndumiso Mdlalose

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Council partners South Mining for construction of library



Ground clearing at the library site

HWANGE Local Board (HLB) has partnered South Mining Private Limited in the construction of a state-of-the-art public library at an estimated cost of US\$ 100 000 as part of its efforts to improve education standards in the district.

HLB chairman Councillor Nqobile Ocean Mabhena said construction of the public library was one of the local authority's drive of creating strategic synergies with private players to ensure development in its area of jurisdiction.

"We entered into a Public-Private-Partnership arrangement with South Mining for the construction of a library. Owing to the prevailing economic challenges being faced in the country, Council is currently financial constrained to carry out some of the projects using its own resources. Thus, we have to resort to alternative models of funding to embark on some of the projects and one such way is

venturing into partnerships with private players," he said.

Cllr Mabhena said the library is expected to be a highly technologically modern facility.

"The library won't be your traditional type of building filled with stacks of books and resources. Apart from offering a wide range of books, it will consist of electronic resources such as computers and Wi-Fi, encouraging users to do more in terms of research. Over and above all we expect it to be a relational library where people meet and interact," he said.

Cllr Mabhena further stated that the library would play a pivotal role in improving the pass rate in Hwange District.

"Hwange District has always had the highest pass rate in the Province but there's a need to improve nationally and I believe this library can play a part in that. The benefits of a library are countless, as they play a vital role by providing access to

information, knowledge and entertainment resources," he said.

South Mining representative Mr Charles Muchabaiwa said construction of the public library at Empumalanga high density suburb was expected to be completed before the end of the year.

He said the move was part of the coke processing company's Social Corporate Responsibility.

"We are looking at investing about US\$100 000 towards the construction of an upmarket library including purchasing of other related ancillary equipment to be used there such as computers and furniture.

"Construction of the library is one of the many ways of ploughing back to the community from which we operate from. This library won't be your traditional form of a library but it will be highly technological," said Mr Muchabaiwa.

The company has already fenced off and cleared the area demarcated for the construction of the library.



PSC donates tent to Council



A Hwange Local Board employee, Mr Prince Sibanda poses in front of a cottage tent donated by Power Seven Canvas and Industrial

LEADING canvas and PVC products manufacturer, Power Seven Canvas and Industrial (PSC) has donated a tent for use at Hwange Local Board (HLB)'s Empumalanga Clinic.

HLB public relations officer Mr Dumisani Nsingo said the cottage tent donated by PSC would go a long way towards assisting the clinic in providing shelter to patients visiting the health facility as well as being utilised for numerous medical related services.

"We are very grateful to the kind gesture shown to us by PSC. The tent they donated to us comes at an opportune time when our clinic is seized with the Covid-19 vaccination exercise.

"Consequently, the tent is now being used as an outdoor vaccination point and will continue being used for other purposes post- the vaccination period," he said.

Mr Nsingo said the donation by PSC is part of the local authority's continued partnerships with corporates aimed at ensuring development in communities.

PSC representative Mr Darlington Mucherera said the tent donation was part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility.

"We received a request for a tent from HLB for use at their clinic and we obliged. The donation is one of our many ways of

paying back to the communities that support our business. We might be operating far from Hwange but we have numerous clients there and throughout the country," he said.

PSC has over the years donated products it manufactures to different institutions and individuals in need.

PSC business is the manufacturing of mining and industrial products and its most sought after products are tarpaulins, tents and shaft sinking suits.

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