

MAY 21 2022

ISSUE
NO. 35

with 

The BULLETIN

More Local. More Inclusive. More Interactive

ACCESS TO IDS: HURDLE FOR GUKURAHUNDI VICTIMS AHEAD OF 2023 POLLS

BY CALVIN MANIKA

Page **4**



The BULLETIN

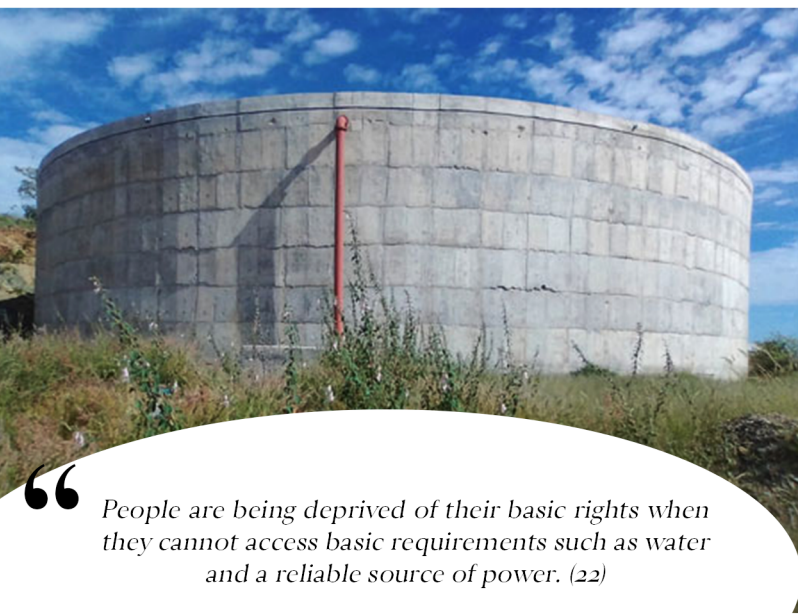
More Local. More Inclusive. More Interactive

ISSUE NO: 35 | 21 MAY 2022



“ Young women are either given tedious duties or they have to go extra miles for them to get into the industries. It is therefore important to empower/mentor young women to fit in the industries. (8) ”

Lorraine Mubayira, Young Women Forum Chairperson



“ People are being deprived of their basic rights when they cannot access basic requirements such as water and a reliable source of power. (22) ”

Wellington Nare, Gwanda Residents Association Secretary General



Inside:

Page 2

- COVID-19 IN NUMBERS - Page 3
- COVER STORY: Access To IDs: Hurdle For Gukurahundi Victims Ahead Of 2023 Polls - Page 4
- In Mat North, Access To Healthcare Remains A Pipe Dream - Page 6
- Locals Employed By Chinese Mine Owners Bemoan Poor Working Conditions - Page 8
- THE DRIFT: - Page 10
- For Undereducated Communities, Lack Of Mental Health Information Has Dire Consequences - Page 12
- Filthy And Dilapidated Public Toilets Expose Residents To Poor Health - Page 14
- Poor Telecommunications Coverage Continues To Haunt Umzingwane - Page 16
- GUEST COMMENTARY: Why Cultural Symbols Matter - Page 18
- Gold Rush Exposes Communities To Health And Environmental Hazards - Page 20
- No Water, No Power - A Daily Struggle Of A Gwanda Resident - Page 22
- #EJPZim: Using Local Stories to Shine a Light on Regional and International Issues - Page 24
- FROM THE WEB: Page 25
- SPECIAL REPORT: COVID-19 Leaves A Legacy Of Rising Poverty, Widening Child Labour - Page 26
- JOB VACANCIES: - Page 28

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Our well-rounded reporting is hyperlocal, inclusive, and human-centred and helps our audiences from the greater region of Matabeleland expand understanding of their deep-rooted challenges so that they are able to navigate them. You can be part of our mission-driven journalism by joining our nascent membership program. To join our membership, you must first become a subscriber by sending 'join' to +263718636459 via WhatsApp.

COVID-19 IN NUMBERS

Cumulative cases, deaths and recoveries from COVID-19 since March 2020

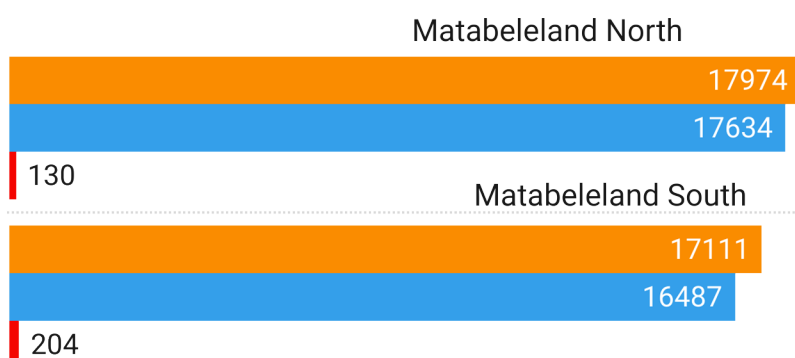
LOCAL

COVID-19 in Matabeleland

North and South Provinces

Total number of cases, recoveries and deaths from COVID-19

Cases Recoveries Deaths



REGIONAL

COVID-19 in Matabeleland

35,085

Total number who have tested positive for COVID-19

+954 cases since last BULLETIN

34,121

Total number who have recovered from COVID-19

+401 recoveries since last BULLETIN

334

Total number who have died from COVID-19

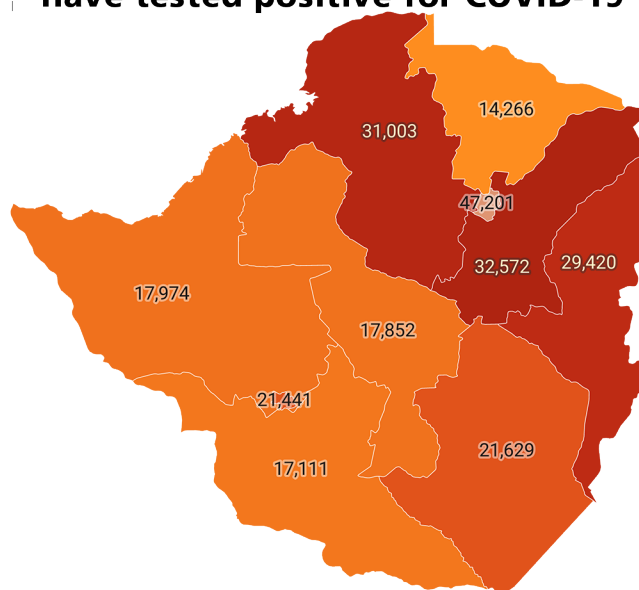
+4 deaths since last BULLETIN

NATIONAL

COVID-19 in Zimbabwe

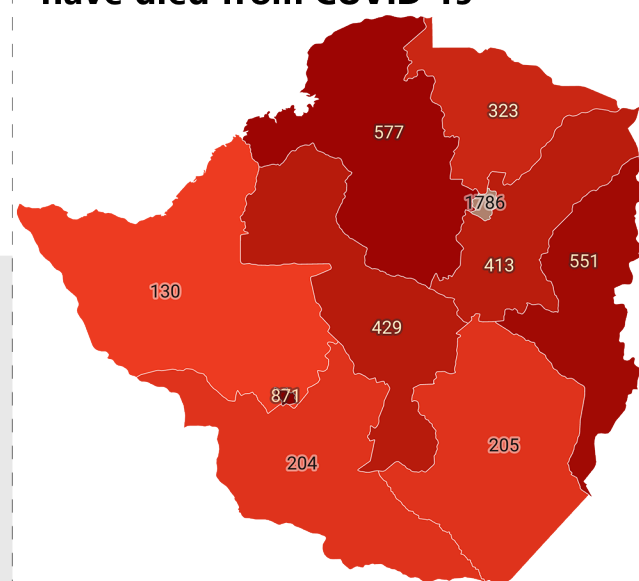
Cases by region

Total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19



Deaths by region

Total number of people who have died from COVID-19



Source: The Ministry of Health and Child Care daily COVID-19 Report

Note: Data as at 20 May 2022

Access To IDs: Hurdle For Gukurahundi Victims Ahead Of 2023 Polls

In the middle of a voter registration blitz ahead of the 2023 national elections, victims of the Gukurahundi genocide are finding it hard to access national identity documents — and consequently might be left out of the imminent plebiscite.

by Calvin Manika | @The_CBNews

Charity Ncube (35), a villager in Pupu area, Lupane doubts if she will ever obtain a birth certificate.

“My father disappeared and our homestead was burnt. My mother later in life tried to register me with the civil registry office, but to no avail until her death,” Ncube says.

In April this year, the central government rolled out a mobile civil registry exercise to issue birth certificates, death certificates, and national identity documents.

It is for free.

But Washington Sibanda says the central government must go further and

scrap many other requirements especially in areas where people were affected by Gukurahundi.

“One witness is enough to testify that I am a Gukurahundi victim, and deserve an identity document instead of asking for affidavits and death certificates of our parents who were killed by the Fifth Brigade,” Sibanda says.

Victims of Gukurahundi have not been compensated, or given an opportunity to exhume and rebury their loved ones for closure and healing.

Secretary General of the Matabeleland based pressure group Ibhetshu LikaZulu, Mbuso Fuzwayo, who has been vocal on finding closure to the mass killings, says the mobile registration exercise is welcome.

But he also raises concern over some of the requirements which he says will see Gukurahundi victims remain stateless.

“

I met some woman in Tsholotsho and she was saying the registrar people were telling her that she must bring her father's death

certificate which she does not have.

Mbuso Fuzwayo, Ibhetshu LikaZulu Secretary General

”

The Birth and Death Registration Act of Zimbabwe requires one to bring a death certificate in case one of the parents or both are deceased.

“The requirements make it difficult for victims especially those who lost both parents; some are now forced to use other people’s surnames. The government must issue a statutory instrument to relax some of their requirements because it is now affecting secondary victims,” says Fuzwayo.

A 2019 enquiry by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) in Matabeleland region says many people failing to access identity documents are Gukurahundi victims.

The constitution says every citizen has a right to have a birth certificate, national identity card and a passport.

A report compiled by Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) titled: Cursed with Statelessness: Consequences of Deprivation of National Identification Documents notes the challenges faced by undocumented Gukurahundi victims.

“If nothing is done fast to assist them to acquire birth certificates, passports and national identity documents the curse of statelessness will affect

more generations,” ZPP says in its report.

Politician Tapson Nganunu Sibanda in Tsholotsho says the central government has to address the issue of identity documents for Gukurahundi victims.

“People are still traumatised. What needs to be done also is that an independent commission of enquiry has to be put in place and the perpetrators put to account for their heinous deeds,” says Sibanda.

Meanwhile in 2020, President Emmerson Mnangagwa promised to facilitate easy access to the identity documents after meeting traditional leaders and civic groups from Matabeleland. ■





In Mat North, Access To Healthcare Remains A Pipe Dream

Poorly equipped, shortage of vital drugs and lack of specialists characterise most of the hospitals in Matabeleland North with the provincial hospital remaining a pie in the sky.

by Calvin Manika | @The_CBNews

Fortune Ncube recalls a stressful journey from Binga to St Lukes in Lupane and then Mpilo hospital in Bulawayo where she finally gave birth, after suffering from some complications.

“I had a complication with my pregnancy. The baby was not properly positioned and my expected date of delivery (EDD) was fast approaching. I was referred to St Lukes mission hospital. They tried their best to assist me, but the situation was complicated and had to be

referred to Mpilo hospital in Bulawayo,” recalls Ncube.

The road which connects Binga and Dete is in a dire state, full of potholes and rugged surfaces.

“The bus took more time than expected and I was afraid that I could be in labour pains during the trip and it could have been a disaster. Fortunately, I made it, before being referred from one hospital to another but I was exhausted.”

On 11 April, a Bulawayo bound ambulance overturned near Inyathi coming from Nkayi resulting in the death of

Patricia Nyoni (35), a pregnant mother. The deceased was being referred to Bulawayo after developing complications during childbirth.

Most of the poorly equipped district hospitals in the province lack sophisticated medical equipment to assist people in critical condition.

This has resulted in the province referring its people to Bulawayo.



Mpilo hospital has over the years become a referral hospital for Matabeleland region. Image by The Citizen

Bulletin

The central government promised a provincial state of the art hospital to be situated in Lupane 18 years ago.

Years later, there is no meaningful development.

Politician Dalumuzi Khumalo says the building of the provincial hospital has taken far too long, and worries that it will be used as a campaign gimmick ahead of the 2023 elections.

“Besides failure of the government in implementing projects, the chief among

other reasons of failure for the completion of the hospital and other projects in Lupane is to politicise them towards elections,” says Khumalo.

“The provincial hospital has been in headlines without being completed. Maybe next year during elections, we will wait and see,” says Michael Ngwenya.

The central government says the planned provincial hospital will have 250 beds.

In 2021, the central government allocated \$47 million for the construction of Lupane Provincial Hospital.

Matabeleland North Provincial Medical Director Admire Kuretu says all hope is not lost saying the hospital will open its doors to the public ‘soon.’

“The hospital was supposed to have started working but due to some delays we are now finalizing both the hospital and staff residences. The hospital will soon be working as we finish some sections,” Kuretu says.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) number 3 mandates every United Nations (UN) member state to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, a feat the central government is struggling to achieve for its Matabeleland North citizens.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa during his visit to Binga in March this year said Lupane Provincial Hospital will be the largest hospital in the country upon completion.

But villagers like Michael Ngwenya are not convinced. ■



Locals Employed By Chinese Mine Owners Bemoan Poor Working Conditions

In most Chinese run companies in Hwange, there is no job security, while working conditions are deplorable and not in sync with what mining regulations provide for.

by Lethokuhle Nkomo | @The_CBNews

Malvin Moyo (22) was elated when he got a job at one of the Chinese mining companies in Hwange.

But his joy was short-lived, he confesses, citing the unfavourable working conditions.

have limited time to rest. It's even difficult to ask for a weekend off or just off days. You need to have a valid reason to convince the foreman because they have a target to meet.

Malvin Moyo, 22-year-old mine worker

“

”

These are some of the challenges faced by most of the mine workers in Hwange.

We work for long hours and we

While Moyo is complaining over poor working conditions, women in the coal mining town feel shut out from jobs in the mining sector.

Women's rights groups say there are few opportunities for females compared to their male counterparts.

The Women Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCOZ) and the Hwange Young Women Forum say that mining companies prefer hiring males compared to young women.

“

Young women are either given tedious duties or they have to go extra miles for them to get into the industries. It is therefore important to empower/mentor young women to fit in the industries.

Lorraine Mubayira, Young Women Forum Chairperson

”

“Employers should not discriminate based on gender. If someone has what it takes to be employed they should employ. Employers also need to be transparent on their requirements for employment.”

Joyleen Chenge, the Founder of Hwange

Women's Foundation says mining companies must conduct practical interviews to prove that women can also perform the same duties as their male counterparts.



Young women seek equal opportunities in Hwange's male-dominated mining industry. Image by Global Press Journal

“Although other companies have made an effort to employ few women, there is also a need for mining companies to employ women more as they are also capable,” she says.

Zimbabwe Diamond and Allied Minerals Workers Union (ZDAMWU) secretary general Justice Chinhema says the central government and employers in the mining sector have a duty to address the concerns of mining workers.

“We are cognisant of the challenges being faced by mine workers,” Chinhema says.

Chinhema says labour laws must also be amended to protect mine workers from exploitation.

“The union is also committed to the emancipation of women both at the world of work and outside. We have recognized the challenges women face in general such as marginalisation when it comes to job opportunities, and this is what we want to be addressed by the mining companies.” ■

Nurses Advised To Invest In Private Clinics

Following reports of most healthcare workers trekking to the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States last year in search for greener pastures, nurses have been advised to invest in private clinics as a means of creating extra income streams and curbing brain drain in the country, an official has said.

This comes after the Matabeleland region alone lost hundreds of health workers which severely affected the effective healthcare delivery at a time when the country was also grappling with COVID-19. ■

Shortages Show The Poverty Of Ideas In Govt

The shortage and a sharp increase in prices for basic commodities, especially cooking oil and mealie-meal which are fast disappearing from shop shelves due to the shocking decision by the central government to impose a blanket ban on bank lending to everyone, including the manufacturing sector, exposes the incompetence that permeates the corridors of power.

The country is heading back to the nightmare of 2008 when basic commodities disappeared from shelves and were only available on the black market and at a steep premium. ■

Unregistered Private Schools Face Closure

Nearly 150 schools in Harare have been closed down and schools' authorities facing arrests for contravening the Education Act, after they failed to register in a development that will leave thousands of pupils stranded.

According to education ministry statistics, some 22 569 are set to be affected by the decision. ■

Ban On Hand- Held Spikes Long Overdue

The decision to finally stop the law of the jungle to arrest motorists allegedly breaking road rules has been passed following the unnecessarily overzealous police who have been using the spikes to the point of disregarding the lives of innocent passengers.

Police Commissioner-General Godwin Matanga has finally decided to stop the madness by his rank saying officers have been using hand-held spikes, some so long that they needed two or three very strong men to carry them to block motorists fleeing from traffic checkpoints. ■



MORE LOCAL. MORE INCLUSIVE. MORE INTERACTIVE

**Good journalism is public service.
Be part of it by joining our
WhatsApp Broadcast Subscribers.**

**Send 'JOIN' to  +263 718 636 459
and we'll ADD you INSTANTLY.**

**“ We deliver hard-hitting reporting and
analysis which empowers our readers to
be agents of good governance and
social progress. ”**

**JOIN OUR WHATSAPP
— BROADCAST LIST TO RECEIVE —
OUR HARD HITTING STORIES**



www.thecitizenbulletin.com



For Undereducated Communities, Lack Of Mental Health Information Has Dire Consequences

For highly traditional communities, mental health is a bad omen and is often attributed to witchcraft. But the lack of correct information about the challenge has dire consequences.

by Georgina Soko | @The_CBNews

Mnqobi Banda sadly narrates the dangers of lack of awareness on mental health illnesses as she nods her head.

“The community is not well equipped to know this is a mental health disorder and that it can always be treated - rather they opt for the notion that it’s witchcraft,” she says.

Amon Mugande, a village head and traditional healer in Siachilaba

says the cultural beliefs tied to mental illnesses were isolating mental health patients.

“I get numerous consultations on people who suddenly go mad and naturally given our background as African witchcraft is suspected,” Mugande says.

“Unfortunately there is a tendency of isolating the person such that they roam the villages and eventually pose a danger to

others because of the unresolved issue. We have many cases here of people who have gone crazy to the point of committing heinous crimes like murder.”

“There is also a disconcerting phenomenon of violent deaths at the hands of mentally disordered persons. The communities in which these people live have a part to play in arresting this tide.”

These were the words uttered by Bulawayo High Court Judge Justice Christopher Banda-Dube during the official opening of the first term of the Hwange circuit earlier this year.

In 2021, a total of 13 murder cases trialled in Hwange were referred for mental examination under the Section 29 of the Mental Health Act.

Mental evaluations are done in terms of Section 29 of the Mental Health Act when a person commits a crime as a result of mental disorder.

The Act requires that the accused should undergo psychological evaluation by two medical practitioners of whom one should be a government medical practitioner.

Matabeleland North police spokesperson, Inspector Glory Banda says there has been a notable increase in cases allegedly by mentally challenged persons.

“The trend is very worrisome,” Banda says.

“We encourage guardians and parents of mentally challenged persons to take necessary steps towards having their patients rehabilitated at the relevant medical institution without delays.”

While some of the offenders are known mental patients, others are only diagnosed as psychologically unstable after committing the crimes, reports show.

“I believe the increase in cases is due to untreated mental health disorders,” says Systemic Family counsellor Gamuchirai Chinamasa.

Chinamasa adds that the COVID-19 pandemic is another factor that exposed the country’s poor health system to deal with mental illnesses.

“The pandemic exposed a lot of mental health issues amongst almost everyone. The pandemic has shown how there is a need to invest in mental health care and institutions.”

Matabeleland North province does not have psychiatric hospitals, and patients have to be referred to Bulawayo’s Mlondolozhi and Ingutsheni mental institutions.

Pro Youth Trust director, Mellisa Ncube says authorities must invest in awareness campaigns to ensure early diagnosis and treatment for persons suffering from any forms of mental illnesses such as depression.

“Another cause of this increase is lack of diagnosis and treatment; there are a lot of people suffering from mental health problems but have not been checked. If you are not going to get treatment then symptoms are going to manifest,” Ncube says. ■



Filthy And Dilapidated Public Toilets Expose Residents To Poor Health

Villagers in Hwange are sitting on a health time bomb as most of their public toilets, shared by up to 20 households each, are in a bad shape and no longer fit for use—42 years after Zimbabwe gained independence. But who is to blame — officials or villagers not willing to take the responsibility to clean their facilities?

by Lethokuhle Nkomo | @The_CBNews

It is exactly 5am, and Sarudzai Nyathi rushes to the nearest community sanitation facility in number 1 village, D section where residents also fetch water.

She only has two hours to fetch water before the taps run dry.

The area is commonly known as “emadamu” in the mining town.

Nyathi, now 40, has never experienced privacy when using an ablution facility in the mining town.

As many as 20 people have to share a community toilet and bathroom.

“I am now used to this life having lived in this area for over 30 years. But one thing I don’t like about these facilities is that they can be messy,” Nyathi says.

It is exactly 42 years after Zimbabwe gained independence but some communities in Hwange still live in colonial-style setups.

Areas where people have to share sanitation facilities include 1 village, number 2, number 3 and Cinderella residential area previously reserved for low grade employees.

Greater Hwange Residents Trust Coordinator Fidelis Chima says the living conditions in those areas are dehumanising.

“

The state of ablution facilities in the concession area of Hwange Colliery is colonial and dehumanising. The facilities are not conducive in this era.

Fidelis Chima, Greater Hwange Residents Trust Coordinator

”

Chima cites Statutory Instrument 182 of 1995 Mining (Health and Sanitation) which outlaws public ablutions for mining accommodation.

“But it’s different here where some of the ablution facilities are dysfunctional forcing residents to practice open defecation,” he notes.

He says the Constitution states that each family is entitled to piped water and a single tap for two rooms in single quarters.

“In places like number three village and number two village, more than 50 residents or more families share a single ablution facility because the

majority of the ablutions are dysfunctional. This at the end of the day becomes a health hazard, especially in those areas where there are perennial water challenges,” Chima says.

Although the Hwange Colliery Company attempted to expand the A section and part of B section in Number 1 village through the establishment of inbuilt toilets, the majority of residents in the concession use common ablutions.

Hwange Central Constituency MP Daniel Molokele says it did not make sense that communities in the town lived in such deplorable conditions yet they are residents of a natural resource rich area.

“

As a community of Hwange we must do everything in our power to make sure that the common ablution use comes to an end. The public toilets are a colonial, racist concept, they are inhuman and degrading.

Daniel Molokele, Hwange Central Constituency MP

”

“Each household in Hwange should have its bathroom and toilet system. I am very clear that this has to be phased out to create a better and well developed Hwange community.” ■



Poor Telecommunications Coverage Continues To Haunt Umzingwane

As the world migrates to e-technologies with most of the country's urban areas having access to mobile communication networks, it is a different story in most remote parts of Umzingwane, Matabeleland South.

by Vusindlu Maphosa | @The_CBNews

In Umzingwane, it is still a nightmare to make a simple phone call. For learners, it is devastating as they miss out on e-learning, narrates Star Mbane, one villager from Longridge farm.

Mbane fears that learners like her current form 4 child in the district will continue getting poor O' Level results.

"We have been living in an information blackout status for many years. With the advent of

e-learning having been introduced in schools, our children are the worst affected," says Dingani Ndlovu, another concerned parent.

“

It's almost two years now and our children are not

seriously learning...We all know that Matabeleland has always been leading in the low pass rate. There is a need to come up with strategies and installation of boosters to improve networks and help children to be able to attend e-learning lessons.

Dingani Ndlovu, a parent

”

“We have raised the issue of network problems several times. There were promises that the boosters would be installed a long time ago. But to date, we still face the same network challenges,” Ward 12 councilor Elliot Dube says.

Umzingwane is one of the districts in Matabeleland South which has poor telecommunications coverage, with villagers cut out from the rest of the world.

The most affected areas in uMzingwane are Munkula, Bezha, Dula, Kumbudzi, Newline and eNyandeni among others.

“Buying a cellphone has been a useless adventure for us here in Bezha because where will you use it since there is no network? It is unless you walk or travel to places where there is a network that is when you can make or receive calls,” he adds.

In some of the areas, villagers are being forced to climb trees and mountains just to make a telephone call.

Emmanuel Nkomo of Munkula says the community lacks information about many issues as a result of a lack of enabling telecommunications infrastructure to connect with the rest of the world.

“Sometimes people miss important information because of a lack of network. A lot of information is passed online. As for us if you don’t have a radio you won’t access news or any information about anything,” Munkula says.

“Sometimes people are misled because there won’t be anyone to verify the information.”

When reached for a comment by *The Citizen Bulletin*, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Courier Services minister Jenfan Muswere was not answering his mobile phones, and did not respond to emailed questions.

But recently, during the launch of a community information centre in Matabeleland North, Muswere said the central government wanted to ensure that every district has access to telecommunications coverage.

Digital inclusion can only thrive where the community can identify themselves with the available digital content, explained Muswere.

But communities in uMzingwane say they have been left behind. ■



Why Cultural Symbols Matter

Lessons From The Removal Of The Nguni Shield At The Bulawayo Airport

The Nguni shield is a priceless emblem for the people of Matabeleland having been inherited down generations from the days of the last paramount king, Lobengula.

by Thabani H. Moyo | [@thabanih](#)

Perceived as an attack on a people's culture, history and heritage, the removal of the signage with the Nguni shield at the Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo (JMN) International airport was met with disappointment and disillusionment by many in Matabeleland.

They saw it as an attack on their identity and cultural fabric.

The Nguni shield, with the spear and knobkierie which are traditional weapons that have remained a part of the cultural fabric of Matabeleland carries with it multiple meanings.

It carries the soul of the region's culture and its presence at the JMN International airport gave people of Matabeleland a sense of ownership of the airport and a sense of unity and belonging.

Cultural symbols transmit non-verbal messages, consisting of a sender, a receiver and channel of communication.

What message was transmitted by pulling down the shield signage? Was this an attempt by authorities to distort or erase a community's identity?

For the region, the signage was some form of communication and had a message. To replace it with the Zimbabwe Coat of arms was also a way of communication. To most people, it seemed as if Zimbabwe was more important than the diversity of cultures that it has.

We are living in an age when the world strives to guard and preserve cultural heritage. It is therefore important that as a country we safeguard our heritage.

The shield signage at JMN International airport helped to define a people's history and way of life.

Every human society has a culture. Culture includes a society's arts, beliefs, customs, institutions, inventions,

language, technology, and values. Culture produces similar behaviour and thought among most people in a particular society.

The responsible Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development later issued a statement apologising for the 'hasty' removal of the signage without notifying the stakeholders.

It promised to hold consultations with various stakeholders on the best signage which will factor in and capture the regional sentiments and desires. It is hoped that the ministry will keep its promise. ■



GWANDA



Gold Rush Exposes Communities To Health And Environmental Hazards

Artisanal mining might sound quaint, but most gold panners know little about the environmental impacts of gold mining, especially the use of mercury, and its dangers.

by Vusindlu Maphosa | @The_CBNews

A rush for quick gold riches is posing major environmental and health risks for communities in Gwanda, and posing a danger to livestock and wild animals.

There is an influx of artisanal miners from across the country in the district, digging the earth in

search of the yellow metal.

“Once you hit the jackpot, your life quickly changes, hence we take these risks.”

Blessings Moyo, a Gwanda miner but originally from Kwekwe

Moyo is one of the many gold panners scattered in the bushes of Gwanda district.

Environmentalists and communities blame the artisanal miners for leaving open pits,

and poisoning their water sources using mercury and cyanide.

The chemicals are used to separate gold from ore.

A report done by Silveria House in partnership with Mthandazo Women Association titled: Mapping of Active Sites of Land, notes the environmental hazards caused by the miners in Gwanda.

The research was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

“The dialogue on the impact of mercury revealed that it is (mercury) the most used chemical because there are no safer alternatives and because the artisanal miners and other affected groups do not know its effects...,” the report says.

Experts say mercury is a high risk mining chemical that evaporates and travels in the air affecting miners and the entire neighborhood without their knowledge.

Areas identified with massive land degradation due to gold panning activities are Vova near Colleen Bawn and Bina at the outskirts of Gwanda town near Spitzkop high density suburbs.

The areas are rated as highly degraded due to the gold rush that happened in the past.

The survey established that artisanal miners in Gwanda were at high risk of mercury exposure due to ignorance.

“Due to myths that mercury is harmless, some miners put smelted gold in their mouths first to increase its weight. Some women hide it in bras before selling it for security reasons and there are known cases of both men and women who swallow it in

case of arguments or fraud.”

The report says many use their hands to clean smelted gold and interchangeably use kitchen utensils when using mercury without knowing it can stick on metals yet it is invisible.

Experts say mercury breaks the nervous system, causes involuntary muscle movements, numbness in arms and legs and causes difficulties in chewing and swallowing.

It causes memory loss, headaches, impairs hearing, speech, vision and gait; it also causes hallucination, harms the brain heart, kidneys, lungs and birth defects.

“It causes fatigue, insomnia (sleeplessness), corrodes skin and mucous membranes, child bearing mothers at very high risk and yet there are the ones highly exposed and basin sifting of gold has been the highest exposure route for women as it is a gendered role,” the report adds.

Thembelani Ndlovu, an artisanal miner, confesses that they use mercury and cyanide in their mining activities.

“What matters for us is to be able to get the gold cleaned and separated from sand or ore. I knew that the chemicals might be dangerous but was not quite sure about the long-time effects.”

Thembelani Ndlovu, artisanal miner

Matabeleland South Acting Provincial Mining Director Khumbulani Mlangeni confirms that artisanal miners were causing environmental degradation.

“Environmental degradation is rampant mainly in illegal mining sites. Ministry notifies police whenever there is illegal mining activity,” Mlangeni says. ■



No Water, No Power—A Daily Struggle Of A Gwanda Resident

The town's perennial water and electricity crisis is linked to a ballooning population, obsolete infrastructure and underfunding of critical infrastructure to ensure access to the services.

by Amanda Ncube | [@The_CBNews](#)

For the past 10 years, Thembekile Sibanda from Spitzkop North Suburb in Gwanda has been living in a house with no electricity.

Some of her neighbours are now using solar power, but with no money to install one, Sibanda has to rely on firewood.

She is not alone in this situation as residents in the area have gone for close to 20 years without electricity.

Continuous engagements with the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (Zesa) to connect the area to the national grid have been futile.

“Zesa keeps telling us that they cannot connect us because of resource challenges,” Sibanda says.

Sibanda says some residents have started a fundraising initiative to source some of the needed materials like transformers to power the area.

Electricity challenges are not the only problem that residents have to grapple with on a daily basis.

Samantha Dube, a local, says water

challenges in her area are a major health threat.

“At first we were not getting water at all because of the gradient. Other areas would receive water but nothing would come out of our taps,” Dube says.

“We were looking forward to the completion of the five megalitre reservoir project as they had promised it would end our problems. Now the project has stalled...”

They have to rely on community boreholes which constantly break down.

Gwanda municipality had promised that the water challenges would come to an end with the construction of a five megalitre reservoir in Spitzkop Suburb.

The reservoir has been completed, but locals still get interrupted water supplies because of some structural challenges.

Gwanda Residents Association (GRA) secretary general Wellington Nare says there is a need for residents in all suburbs to have access to social amenities such as water and electricity.

“

People are being deprived of their basic rights when they cannot access basic requirements such as water and a reliable

source of power.

Wellington Nare, GRA Secretary General

”

“Families that can’t purchase solar systems are greatly disadvantaged. It’s also illegal for them to go out in the bush to look for firewood.”

Some stands in the area are not serviced.

Gwanda Town mayor, Njabulo Siziba says the five megalitre reservoir project was being funded by the central government under the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).

Siziba says the local council has not been receiving any money under the PSIP, resulting in its failure to attend to some of its faults such as leaks to ensure residents have access to water.

“The first problem with the five megalitre reservoir project is that its completion was delayed because of unavailability of funds. The contractor left before closing some leakages as they were not being paid,” Siziba says.

Funds permitting, Siziba adds, Gwanda’s woes will be a thing of the past.

“Now the council is mobilising funds to complete the outstanding works. The reservoir has the capacity to supply the whole town with water,” he says. ■

My Journey Towards Building A Community-Centered Newsletter

The Newsletter I am building, Weekly Round-Up is part of Community Talk, a community news site.

This article was first published on Medium by the [Zimbabwe Entrepreneurial Journalism Program \(EJP\)](#). Supported by the [U.S Embassy Public Affairs Section in Harare](#), the EJP seeks to empower a new breed of hyperlocal content creators in Zimbabwe to build and launch sustainable niche journalism and media ventures to serve their communities.

by Itai Muzondo | EJP Creator 2022

On the 1st of January 2022, I began my journey in the inaugural [Entrepreneurial Journalism Training and Mentorship Program \(EJP\)](#). Having been honored to be in the program's first cohort, I am looking forward to building and sustaining an online newsletter, Weekly Round-Up which is part of Community Talk, a community news website.

The online website whose stories are to be shared through a weekly newsletter focuses on disadvantaged communities in Zimbabwe's Midlands province. Major beats that we focus on are community stories, investigative and data-driven reporting.

Community Talk and media business has always been my dream. As some lamented the subsequent COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, for me it is something that gave me ample time to build and shape my project. From simple Facebook posts and tweets, the project grew into a website. Gradually getting a following since then, my dream is now to make the venture profitable so as to sustain operations.

Since I launched the venture, I have won two pitch contests: Content Creators Network and Youth Connekt, and these have helped me grow my network and acquire the gadgets needed to produce content. As an emerging content creator, I have encountered a number of challenges including restrictive legislation. These, however, have not deterred me as I soldier on.

The Weekly RoundUp is inspired by the need to build a

product that is sustainable in terms of reach and revenue growth. The newsletter that I wish to share via MailChimp seeks to initiate the inevitable migration from hard copy to digital at the same time making it more accessible so that our goal of facilitating access to information is not jeopardized. I have since opened a MailChimp account and going forward, I wish to experiment with templates.

MailChimp has been an application of choice considering its ability to flight adverts, therefore, making revenue out of my product. Moreso, I anticipate that traffic to the MailChimp newsletter will result in the publication making a profit from Google Ads. The major challenge so far is that I have not really devised a way how I can build a following. Generally, people have little trust in the news they find online.

Therefore, I am hoping that the EJP program will furnish me with skills on how to make my product trustworthy and in the process gain subscribers. Failure to gain followership and engagement on my product will probably result in its failure as advertisers will not be enticed. However, with the nation seeking knowledge on how they can penetrate social media spaces to make business, I am confident that my project will gather fruit given enough support.

In the coming weeks, I will leverage the EJP program to refine my venture while I learn from my peers in the cohort. If you would like to reach out to me email me at muzondoitai@gmail.com. ■

FROM THE WEB



ZINWA @zinwawater · 18h

Good morning #Zimbabwe. Sights from the ongoing construction work at Tuli-Manyange Dam in Gwanda District as saddle dams take shape. Once done with the saddle dams work on the main dam foundations begins. We are getting there!!

@basera_john
@InfoMinZW
@MoLAFWRD_Zim



marjorie munyonga and 6 others



HABAKKUK TRUST @habakk... · 10h

On human wildlife conflict, Zim Parks official Mr Mudimba encourages villagers to find mechanisms of managing conflicts and coexisting with animals.

#humanwildlife
#climatechange
#wildanimals



Nqaba ka Mbekwana and 6 others



HABAKKUK TRUST
@habakkuktrust

Road maintenance work along Nkayi Road

Translate Tweet



ZIMCDD @ZIMCDD1 · 1d

Unaudited public borrowing without consultation of citizens worsens the livelihoods of Zimbabweans as resources meant to be directed towards public services are sent to repayment. It's crucial that our \$13.7 Billion debt is audited to determine where the money went. #HowFar



PICTURE OF THE WEEK

The Citizen Bulletin is doing more than just community storytelling. Please send us great pictures which are inline with our reporting themes from and around Matabeleland and Bulawayo.



COVID-19 Leaves A Legacy Of Rising Poverty, Widening Child Labour

The long-lasting effects of COVID-19 have left children in Matabeleland North contending with deeper poverty and recent trends of child labour as more families struggle to make ends meet in a failing economy.

by Georgina Soko | @The_CBNews

Yoliswa Dube (not real name) recoils in fear as her 'madam' lashes at her for daring to ask about her salary.

The 13-year-old Grade 7 dropout from Simatelele in Binga has gone for 5 months without pay.

She was brought into the mining town of Hwange by a family friend at the height of COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 to work as a maid, and promised a US\$25 monthly salary.

"I was forced by poverty and pressure from my grandmother whom I lived with to look for a job in Hwange. Being the eldest girl I had no choice but to shoulder the weight of looking after my two siblings as young as I am," she says.

Jonathan Dete (not real name) (14) from Makwandara area, some 50km away from Hwange also tells his story of how he slowly descends down the 64 metre deep mine shaft with only a torch and pick.

His two colleagues aged 13 and 19 years help lower

him before they also join him in search of the tantalite mineral.

Dete and his 13 year old friend, Makomborero (Surname withheld) were 'trafficked' from Ngundu, Chivi district under Masvingo province after their families were told they would earn US\$400 per month.

"At one point we indicated that we could not continue and wanted to leave but they coerced us to stay after giving us US\$50 with a promise to give us more. We have been planning to run away but the problem is we need money to get back home," Dete says.

Zimbabwe's laws such as the Labour Act prohibit employers from hiring a person under the age of 18.

The country has ratified a number of international conventions concerning child labour with the central government having established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labour.

Child psychologists say child labour has far-reaching effects on the development of children as they tend to miss out on education and other childhood activities.

Child rights activist, Anna Mandizha-Ncube says there is a need for comprehensive policies that cover all sectors of child protection.

“It is unfortunate that as parents we don’t see anything wrong especially given that culturally, the involvement of children in the family economy is generally regarded as acceptable,” Mandizha-Ncube says.

The Vendors Institute for Social and Economic Transformation in Zimbabwe has previously said over 20,000 children have turned to vending as a means of survival since the COVID-19 outbreak.

“This is driven by the misplaced notion by parents that it’s a way of training the children to become more responsible adults. So there is need for a deliberate mind-set change on Zimbabweans on the role of children in the society,” Mandizha-Ncube adds.

According to UNICEF, of Zimbabwe’s 1.3 million orphans, some 100,000 are living on their own in child-headed households.

Many such children are forced to leave school and find work as street vendors or labourers on tobacco farms, tea and sugar plantations, and in mines in order to support younger siblings.

Mandizha-Ncube says: “There should be an expansion of social policy programmes to cover more people by central government through increasing the social protection budget to cater for growing numbers of families with children in need.” ■



MORE LOCAL. MORE INCLUSIVE. MORE INTERACTIVE

VISION

To be the go to source of hard-hitting hyperlocal news reporting and analysis in Matabeleland.

MISSION

To produce hard-hitting journalism that informs and convenes communities of Matabeleland into empowered agents of good governance and social progress.

THEMATIC FOCUS

- Local Government
- Public Health
- Education
- Social & Economic Justice



www.thecitizenbulletin.com



@thecitizenbulletin



@The_CBNews



+263 718 636 459

Economics Research Officer: DanChurchAid Zimbabwe (DCA)

Deadline: 25 May 2022

About

DanChurchAid (DCA) is a Danish faith-based civil society organization. It was founded in 1922 by representatives of the Danish Evangelical Church, which continues to be a key DCA constituency. DCA is also supported by volunteers, supporters, and staff working hard to save lives in many countries. DanChurchAid supports the needy and the poorest of the world in their struggle for a dignified and better life and helps those whose lives are threatened.

Position summary

This is a short-term temporary assignment and it entails the following: Support the HoP and GHA on the 'Multiplier Effect of Multipurpose E-voucher assistance research'. The research is done in Bulawayo supported by the current urban multipurpose cash transfer project.

Responsibilities

Review and identify economics or market information and data that is required for the research together with Research intern; Collect and verify data through household or market surveys; Analyses economics and market data required for the research; Support the HoP and GHA in the development of the research report.

Skills and qualifications

Masters or bachelor's degree in Economics, Econometrics or Statistics; Minimum of 2 years relevant and proven experience working in research similar scope and environment; Multilingual in local languages is an added advantage; Experience in urban programming knowledge of cash-based transfers; Must be able to work in a team setting and function in a culturally diverse work environment; He/she should be able to implement measures designed to monitor and implement project quality; Ability to write analyses data and develop research reports; Self-starter and ability to work with minimum supervision.

To apply

Apply online [here](#) ■

2 (Two) x Primary Counsellors: AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)

Deadline: 27 May 2022

About

AHF is an international humanitarian organization operating in Zimbabwe, collaborating with the Ministry of Health & Child Care to create centres of excellence (COEs) in health. AHF is looking for Primary Counsellors to fill positions that have arisen in Gwanda and Mpilo, Bulawayo. The successful candidates will be expected to provide HIV testing services, facilitate linkage, and demand creation for HIV testing among other responsibilities.

Position summary

The AHF Primary Counsellors will work under the direct supervision of the OI Department in Charge at Hospitals - OI clinics and overall, under the AHF Prevention Manager who is based at the Country Head Office. These positions are critical as the Primary Counsellors will be responsible for performing the rapid HIV testing on all clients that have consented to testing using the recommended algorithm. S/he will ensure the provision of direct and comprehensive primary, preventive, and psychosocial care to patients. In addition, the Primary Counsellor will Facilitate education on condom use including condom demonstration. Overall, the Primary Counsellor will support the existing staff at the facility.

Description & main responsibilities

AHF primary Counsellor will be expected to: Provides pre and post HIV confidential counselling and testing, to all patients willing to have the HIV test done; Encourages and support patients that test positive, helping them to cope with the new diagnosis; Participates in Rapid HIV testing program initiatives and outreaches; Facilitate group test counselling / education in rapid testing campaigns to ensure maximum client coverage; Ensuring that condom dispensers are replenished at the sites; Ensuring that HIV IEC materials are available on testing sites; Collaborate with other health care professionals (doctor, nurse, social worker, community health care worker, home-based caregiver, and psychologist) in maintaining treatment protocol; Teach and counsel patients & family on disease prevention and staying healthy; Assist patients with adherence counselling and document the session in counselling form; Provide ongoing psychosocial counselling to clients attending the clinic; Assist with the reading and interpretation of the CD4 count results to clients; Maintain filing system for all client records including psychosocial forms, laboratory results and medical records.

Qualifications

The Primary Counsellor must hold a Certificate in HIV Rapid Testing or Certificate in HIV Testing and Counseling; He / she should have at least one year of experience in the related field; The position holder should be sensitive to the patient population and issues surrounding HIV / AIDS.

To apply

Interested candidates should send their applications to: globalhr.africa@aidshhealth.org with the subject line **PRIMARY COUNSELLOR - AHF Zimbabwe**. Please indicate your preferred location(s). The closing date is Friday 27 May 2022. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. ■

These opportunities were originally published by Kubatana

Cashiers: Trust Academy

Deadline: 28 May 2022

Duties

Excellent report writing skills; High Customer Service attributes; Honest, firm and of high integrity; Strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills; Highly competent in working with people and data; Highly self-motivated and energetic; Not less than 25 years of age.

Qualifications

At least a Diploma in Accounting from a recognized University/ college; A degree in Accounting will be an added advantage; 1 year experience in a similar position; 5 O level subjects including Mathematics and English; Pastel knowledge is a must.

To apply

If interested, please submit your application and curriculum vitae together with certified copies of academic certificates to Accounts Department, 52 Fort Street, Between 3rd and 4th Avenue, Bulawayo or email to accountsbyo2@trustacademy.co.zw

Programmes Coordinator: Local NGO

Deadline: 31 May 2022 (4pm)

Location: Harare

About

A local NGO based in Harare that focuses on providing holistic empowerment to orphaned adolescent girls and single young adult women is looking for a competent qualified person to fill in the vacant position of the Programme Coordinator that has arisen in the organization. The incumbent will be based in Harare.

Duties

Coordinate the training program, develop monitoring tools, strengthen monitoring processes, conduct organization's project evaluations and monitor the sustainability of project results; Coordinate recruitment of trainees, field visits, and follow up students on attachment to assess progress and impact; Take a lead in counseling beneficiaries of the program and be able to respond to the challenges and ensure that both the girls and the young single adult women receive holistic economic empowerment through working with various stakeholders; Provide feedback on project strategies and suggest strategies to the project for management for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the project by identifying bottlenecks.

Qualifications and competencies

A professional Social Work Qualification at first degree level or a degree in Developmental

These opportunities were originally published by Kubatana

Studies; Minimum experience of at least 3 years in a similar position (experience in NGO is an added advantage); A valid driver's license highly desirable; Experience in working with orphans and vulnerable adolescent girls and young single adult women, and knowledge on HIV and AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health; Preferably a mature female aged between 30 - 45 years old able to work with adolescent girls and young adult single women.

To apply

Send your CV and email your application letter indicating date of availability to rafikigirls@gmail.com ■

Humanitarian Programme Officer: Caritas Africa

Deadline: 31 May 2022

Required Travel: Travel of approximately 50%

About

Caritas Africa is the social pastoral ministry of the Catholic Church in Africa and one of the 7 Regions of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation. It is a network of 46 National Caritas Organizations in 46 Sub-Saharan African Countries. The organization is headquartered in Lomé, Togo, with an ancillary office in Nairobi, Kenya and staff based in Lusaka, Zambia.

Background information

Caritas Africa's 2019-2023 strategic framework covers three strategic orientations: (i) Catholic Identity and, Institutional Development & Capacity Strengthening (2) Humanitarian Affairs and (3) Advocacy on Integral Human Development. The desired outcome of strategic orientation two is to realize timely, effective and quality emergency response by the Caritas Africa network through: well-established coordination mechanisms at the regional, subregional, national and subnational levels. Caritas Africa would like to recruit a Humanitarian Programme Officer to coordinate the implementation of the Strategic Orientation two. The post is funded by CAFOD for a finite period of one year. The extension of the appointment is subject to availability of funds.

Specific responsibilities

Emergency Response and Recovery in the Africa Region Keeping a watch on certain high-risk contexts (whether prone to cyclical natural disasters, or where conflict could escalate); To enable partners to establish a relationship with key partner(s) in those contexts (including possibly pre-position arrangements e.g Memorandum Of Understanding), so that decisions can be made quickly and assistance delivered in a timely manner; Identify support required by CAMOs during an emergency and consult CI and CI MOs to agree on the available support that may be availed to the particular Member Organization; Support Caritas members in the Region engaged in the implementation of the Humanitarian Projects and MO engaged in the emergency response and recovery programming, as well as emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction; Provide support for developing a coherent mechanism for coordinating emergency responses within the Region; Prepare situation reports and lead information gathering initiatives during the launch of Emergency Appeals in aid of affected Caritas Africa Member Organizations; Lead in the preparation of proposals and support in identifying

These opportunities were originally published by Kubatana

other appropriate sources of funding during an emergency; Work closely with the Caritas Internationalis (CI) Emergency Unit and ensure the coherence of Caritas Africa and Caritas Internationalis Humanitarian Strategy; Develop the Caritas Africa Humanitarian and Disaster Management Strategy.

Humanitarian Capacity Strengthening of Caritas Africa Members Support humanitarian capacity strengthening for Caritas MOs on core humanitarian standards, preparation of emergency responses, the CI Toolkit and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) / Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Volunteer management, Community resilience etc; Ensure strong communication and coordination across different capacity strengthening initiatives via regular coordination with other Caritas sister Organizations who are supporting specific emergency capacity strengthening initiatives at the country or regional level; Identify opportunities for temporary assignments for the Caritas Africa Regional Emergency Team Members and National Caritas Emergency Team members as a way of strengthening the capacity while ensuring strong support to ongoing responses; Facilitate virtual and in-person training sessions on: core humanitarian standards, preparation of Emergency Preparedness and Response plans, domestication of the Caritas Internationalis tool kit, Disaster Management, Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction and Volunteer management, Community resilience; Identify and promote other forms of learning for Caritas Africa MOs including exposure visits, online learning (including courses on the Baobab e-learning platform.), temporary assignments, accompaniment, formal learning and membership in CI Working Groups; Identify links to and support aspects of CI MS implementation and ongoing organizational strengthening activities that also fulfil or support improvements in humanitarian response and recovery - with a specific focus on protection mainstream and the Safeguarding CI MS commitments.

Collaboration, Communication, Networking and Learning

Document lessons learned and good practices in emergency response and disaster management in Africa region; Facilitate communication among CA Member Organizations - provide up-to-date information, data and other materials for CI and Caritas Africa stories, media and information needs; Raise awareness of the Caritas Africa Regional Solidarity Fund; to strengthen domestic resource mobilization initiatives for Humanitarian Affairs; Provide technical inputs towards advocacy efforts on Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management at the National, Continental and International level.

Key working relationships

Internal: Caritas Africa, National Caritas, Caritas Africa Humanitarian Reference Group Members and Caritas Africa MO Humanitarian Directors, Programme Officers or Focal Points; External: Caritas Internationalis, other national and international NGOs / Organizations, other CI MOs supporting Caritas Africa.

Qualifications and experience

Masters' Degree or equivalent experience in Humanitarian Assistance, Emergency Response and Preparedness, Disaster Management, Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction; Four to five years' experience in emergency team leadership, program design, proposal development, administration and financial oversight, response coordination; Basic knowledge of design requirements and regulations of major donors including the Caritas, the EU, UN agencies and different Government; Experience working with local partner organizations in diverse cultural contexts, psychologically & physically stressful environments; Strong knowledge

These opportunities were originally published by Kubatana

of humanitarian codes, principles and practice and experience of working in humanitarian networks in Sub-Saharan Africa; Good knowledge of Ecclesial networks, including Caritas and humanitarian actors in Sub-Saharan Africa; and ability to cultivate fraternal cooperation with the local Church structures, the Representatives of the sister member organizations of Caritas Internationalis supporting programs of Caritas Africa member organizations and other partners sharing the vision, mission, work values and principles of Caritas; Ability to maintain performance expectations and strong working relationships in diverse cultural contexts, psychologically & physically stressful environments; Experience working with local partner organizations in Africa region; Understanding of Caritas Internationalis ToolKit and Emergency Appeal process; Proven facilitation, planning and coordination skills; Excellent report writing skills.

Competencies required for all Caritas Africa Staff:

Required foreign language

English is required (spoken and written). Knowledge of Portuguese is desired and French is an added bonus.

Work environment

Ability to live and work in disaster affected areas; Ability to deploy on short notice (within 48-72 hours) when needed.

Disclaimer

This job description is not an exhaustive list of the skill, effort, duties, and responsibilities associated with the position. Caritas Africa's talent acquisition procedures reflect our commitment to protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse and exploitation. All offers of employment will be subject to satisfactory references, and appropriate screening checks can include criminal records and terrorism finance checks. By submitting an application, the job applicant confirms his / her understanding of, and consent to, these recruitment procedures.

To apply

Send a one page cover letter and a detailed CV no later than 31 May 2022 to: raf-rh@caritasafrika.org and secaf@caritas-africa.org and caritasafrikanairobi@ciaas.org

The Humanitarian Programme Officer accepts to strictly respect and protect children and vulnerable adults in all circumstances and is bound in honour to the obligation of reserve, respect for hierarchy and good behaviour as stated in the Caritas Africa Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, Safeguarding Policy and Policy on anti-money laundering and terrorism financing. He has the obligation to observe professional Secrecy on any confidential information which may have been known because of the nature of the work. ■



 www.thecitizenbulletin.com



THE BULLETIN E-NEWSPAPER IS A PRODUCT OF THE CITIZEN BULLETIN, AND IS PRODUCED BI-WEEKLY. IT CONTAINS HYPERLOCAL STORIES FROM SOME OF THE MOST MARGINALIZED AREAS OF MATABELELAND.

GET YOUR COPY DELIVERED TO YOUR PHONE FORTNIGHTLY BY JOINING OUR WHATSAPP AND EMAIL BROADCAST LISTS.



HOW TO SUBSCRIBE:

WhatsApp: Save +263 718 636 459 on your phone and send us the word **'SUBSCRIBE'**

Email: Send an email to editor@thecitizenbulletin.com with **'SUBSCRIBE'** in the subject line.

BECOME OUR SUBSCRIBER

Our hard-hitting hyperlocal reporting and analysis reaches one in every three people across the greater region of Matabeleland. That means our content reaches approximately 60,000 readers biweekly. That's a handful but we need more people like you to be part of our community of readers. To receive our quality stories, WhatsApp the word "JOIN" to +263 71 863 6459.

