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with 

**ISSUE
NO. 37**

The BULLETIN

More Local. More Inclusive. More Interactive

PATIENTS IN GWANDA FORCED TO PAY BRIBES

BY MELODY MPANDE

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ISSUE NO: 37 | 7 SEPTEMBER 2022



“These women who come to us for help are disadvantaged. Most don't have the money to travel to clinics while some from the remotest parts of Binga have no access to either a clinic or public transport. (6)

Margarete Mbele, an 84-year-old midwife

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“I was fired because other permanent workers now wanted to have their chance of bringing their own relatives. I was very unfortunate. (24)

Mthulisi Ncube, 27-year-old Nkayi resident

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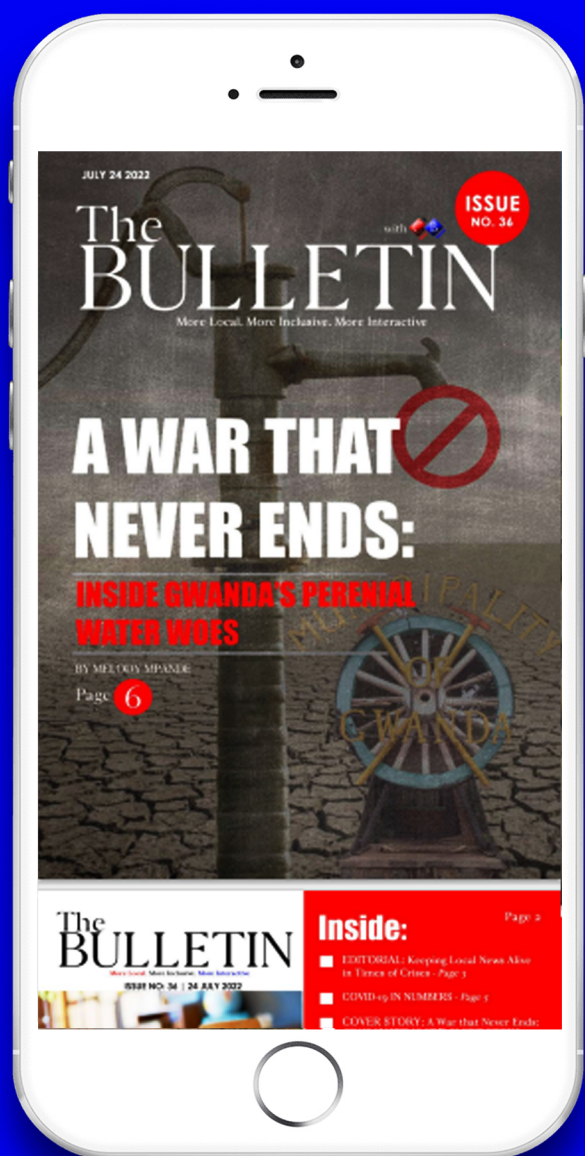
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Patients Forced to Pay Bribes to Access Healthcare in Public Hospitals

In Gwanda Hospital, patients in dire need of health care have to fork out bribes to get treatment or face death.

by Melody Mpande | @The_CBNews

Sixty-nine year old Qhubani Tshuma groans in pain as he sits on a hospital bench waiting for his turn to get treatment.

For hours, Tshuma receives no attention from the nurses on duty despite his condition which is coupled with tenuous blood pressure and marginal breathing.

As he lay helpless on the benches, a nurse approaches him to offer assistance, but for a fee of US\$30.

But he is not given any receipt after paying the money.

“Although it might seem obvious that hospitals are safe places to look after the sick, my experience shows that this may not always be the case,” Tshuma says as he narrates his ordeal.

The nurse who pocketed the US\$30 disappeared into thin air without offering him any assistance.

Tshuma regrets that he can no longer recognise the nurse that he gave the money.

He swears never to return to Gwanda hospital after this painful experience.

“It is a dangerous place. I would be a fool if I go back there,” says Tshuma.

Many elderly patients like Tshuma share the same experiences where health professionals are reportedly fleecing desperate patients to supplement their incomes.

Health workers and other civil servants are demanding over US\$540 salaries citing a free falling local currency in the face of skyrocketing prices of basic goods and services.

To supplement their income, health professionals involved in scamming patients give preferential treatment and attention to those that pay in hard cash, while those who do not pay are neglected.

Another senior citizen, Peter Hlabangani (67) says sick patients are made to pay bribes of up to US\$10 for them to jump long queues or get medication.

“There’s no way I can afford that amount.

This simply means I will get sick, remain at home, if it means dying then so be it. The systems are just unfair,” says Hlabangani.

This is not only happening in Gwanda alone, but even in bigger public hospitals such as Mpilo and United Bulawayo Hospital, explains Dlodlo.

“

My daughter in law was referred to UBH for cesarean delivery, but ended up delivering normally. All her operation kit was stolen by the midwife. We have the name and it's high time they get exposed.

Kholwani Dlodlo

”

Gwanda Residents Association representative Wellington Nare says such misconduct by nurses is uncalled for and urges authorities to probe the unethical practice.

“We call upon victims to come open and help expose such culprits,” Nare says.

In July, Vice-President Constantino Chiwenga who doubles up as Health and Child Care minister ordered

a thorough investigation into cases of alleged corruption and theft of drugs by nurses and doctors at public hospitals.

This followed complaints that patients had to pay bribes at the public health institutions to access treatment and drugs.



Health workers countrywide are demanding salary increases citing lack of value in the local currency.

Gwanda District Medical Officer, Dr Blesses Gwarimbo expressed regret that some health professionals were cashing in on desperate patients by demanding bribes to get treatment.

Sometimes fraudsters can pose as nurses to mug the desperate patients and it happens everywhere, says Dr Gwarimbo.

“Officially, nurses are not supposed to be receiving money from patients. An investigation has to be carried out to find out the nurses who were on duty when Mr Tshuma was at the hospital. It's really unfortunate it happened that way,” Dr Gwarimbo says. ■



Mat North Sees Rise of Home Births During Lockdown

In Matabeleland North, lack of access to maternal health care services is forcing women to deliver at home despite the risks involved.

by Georgina Soko | @The_CBNews

Luyando Mugande heaves a sigh of relief after she is admitted into the mother's waiting shelter at Siansundu clinic in Binga, Matabeleland North.

Mugande, who lives some 40km away, did not want to risk having a home delivery like her sister.

"My sister suffered permanent injuries after complications when she delivered at home during the tight lockdowns," Mugande says.

Margarete Mbele, 84 years, says she is one of the remaining seniors who have assisted many women over the years to deliver safely at home particularly during the tight lockdown restrictions.

"This is something that we have always practiced in our African culture; there is nothing peculiar there," Mbele says.

"This COVID-19 virus that they said killed a lot of people also saw me assisting a lot of mothers to give birth since there were no vehicles to transport pregnant women to the health care centres."

According to Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2022 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report, while nationally, 75% of the rural households had access to health related information physical access was still a huge hindrance with some walking distances of over 30km to get to the nearest clinic.

The ZimVAC report says the central government was partnering with various key stakeholders and communities to construct clinics and health posts throughout the country to reduce distances travelled by communities to access health care services.

“These women who come to us for help are disadvantaged. Most don’t have the money to travel to clinics while some from the remotest parts of Binga have no access to either a clinic or public transport,” Mbele adds.

Mbele however admits there are risks involved in home deliveries.

Pregnant women risk life-changing childbirth-related injuries, including obstetric fistula during home deliveries.

Obstetric fistula is a curable and preventable condition that the World Health Organisation describes as the most devastating birth injury.

In most cases, it is caused by lengthy or obstructed labor without access to emergency services.

Although the Ministry of Health and Child Care advises women to give birth in health facilities, lack of access to maternal health

care services remains a challenge.

A number of women who spoke to *The Citizen Bulletin* expressed their frustrations of having to travel long distances to access maternal health care services.

Matabeleland North Provincial Medical Officer, Dr Admire Kuretu says they witnessed an increase of 60 percent in home deliveries in the province as restrictions on traveling during the lockdown periods took effect.

“Pregnant women delivered at home due to transport challenges because our province is a rural one therefore services such as Antenatal Care, labour delivery, PostNatal Care were affected,” Kuretu says.

This, he argues, exposes pregnant women to risks of maternal mortality and morbidity.

Due to lockdown restrictions, home deliveries were 60% higher compared to previous year, Kuretu says.

While multi-donor pooled funding mechanisms that have been assisting in strengthening health systems particularly in rural areas through construction of mothers’ waiting shelters, a proportion of community deliveries has also been growing steadily over the years.

A study by Munyaradzi Kenneth Dodzo and Marvelous Mhloyi titled ‘Home is best: Why women in rural Zimbabwe deliver in the community’ shows that women preferred community deliveries. ■



Communities Surrounded by Rich Gold Mines Live in Abject Poverty

Homesteads in Filabusi are built on top of gold deposits but the community here battles biting underdevelopment. The presence of multinational mining companies now triggers anger amongst locals.

by Vusindlu Maphosa | @The_CBNews

For weeks now, villagers in Filabusi, Matabeleland South have to endure a whirring sound from an airplane that hovers in the sky every day.

A private mining company, Infield Mineral Exploration (IME) (Private) Limited, has been scouring the landscape in Filabusi from the sky in search of lithium, gold and other resources.

“During the survey, the plane will fly over the largest areas in parallel lines at a height of 35m above the

ground. The plane will not drop anything nor spray any chemical as it uses geophysical instruments to gather the required data,” reads a notice signed by Allan Mashingaidze, the Exploration and Mining Executive at Duration Gold Zimbabwe.

The notice says the company was granted five exclusive prospecting orders (EPOs) in Filabusi. But poor villagers are not amused.

Filabusi is saddled by alarming

poverty, poor roads, lack of clinics and other social amenities despite the rich gold deposits in the area.

Authorities have not hesitated to unleash anti-riot police to chase away villagers digging up the soil of the earth in search of the yellow mineral.

With Zimbabwe going through its worst economic crisis, villagers risk arrest and engage in illegal gold mining to make a living, sparking gold rushes often leading to violence.

Thembelani Sibanda, a villager, says the exploration of their riches by private companies such as IME at the expense of their locals is not to be celebrated as Filabusi remains backward.

“We are very poor here in Filabusi although our place hosts many artisanal, small-scale and large mining companies. If you look at our road network, the schools, the health facilities, we are so backward,” Sibanda says.

“We are tired of people who come and loot our resources and leave us poorer.”

Elias Mpofu weighs in saying even promises of jobs by private companies prospecting for gold in the area do not inspire villagers because of previously unfulfilled promises.

Mpofu says IME officials were recently chased away from a local farm where they had gone to prospect for gold.

“This aircraft has been looking for lithium or gold, they are surveying as we have seen it going from one place to the other. We are told they were at DeBeers Farm where they were chased away by the farmers who told them they do not want to see them at their farm,” Mpofu says.

Mpofu says the community also laments the impact of the mining activities which he says has been destructive.

Land degradation as well as water and air pollution have become perennial challenges for the villagers as mining companies operating in the area have destroyed roads and discharged effluent into rivers.

Previously, villagers complained about the death of their cattle and goats due to effluent discharge.

In other parts of the country, concerns of environmental degradation by mining companies are growing louder.

Most companies have a poor social corporate responsibility track record and have been accused of looting resources from the resource-rich communities leaving behind a trail of poverty.

Matabeleland South Acting Mining director, Khumbulani Mlangeni says villagers will be given an opportunity to air their views about any planned mining project.

“Yes, the company was granted Exclusive Prospecting Orders (EPO) over the area, an aeromagnetic survey is just a scan of the ground to determine rock formations without any excavation,” Mlangeni says.

The EPO is a large area of ground targeting the selected minerals for exploration

“Once areas of economic potential are identified, detailed ground exploration may follow if the company gets Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certification after stakeholder consultation.

“Plus all the exploration results are shared with the ministry of mines so that any interested stakeholder can request and air their views and concerns before any mining takes place.” ■



Without Jobs, Women Scrounge For Coal Pebbles

In Hwange, unemployment is growing and women are at the receiving end.

by Lethokuhle Nkomo | @The_CBNews

Fesani Shoko and her sister Phindani brave the scorching sun in Hwange as they move along the Hwange-Victoria falls road picking coal pebbles dropped by trucks.

In their tattered clothes and saris over their heads to protect themselves from the heat, their target is to fill a 50kg sack.

“We sell each 50kg of coal at USD\$3-4 depending on the type. But business is not always rosy as we are picking leftovers and sometimes not quality coal,” Fesani says.

Without any local jobs, this is the only way they can earn a living.

But it’s never easy as they face constant arrest

from Hwange Colliery Company security officials who confiscate their pickings.

“This is because whenever coal products are stolen at the coal plant, they take us as prime suspects since when we do the picking and selling of coal, no paperwork is involved, we are just scrounging for the coal for a living,” Phindani says.

In Hwange, women feel they are not benefiting from coal mining.

“

We know we have natural coal fields but what pains us the most is

that we are the ones who suffer the most when it comes to coal extraction.

Phindani, a woman in the coal scrounging business

”

“If we look at the social amenities established by these companies, we benefit to a lesser extent. An ordinary woman who is in this scrounging of coal business cannot even afford to get treatment at the Hwange Colliery Company.”

Women make up to 10% of Zimbabwe’s 535,000 artisanal and small-scale miners, according to a report from the Pact Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based development nonprofit.

And the obstacles they face in the industry are considerable.

Hwange based policy analyst Rumbidzai Abigail Siziba says there is a need for legislation to ensure women benefit from the coal extractives sector.

“As women we are concerned about the delays in the finalizing of the Mines and Mineral bill, the enactment of the Act bill will ensure that mining activities will benefit women who also want to venture into small artisanal mining in Hwange,” Siziba says.

“The central government should also work with the Zimbabwe gender commission in order to monitor the violation of socio

economic rights affecting women in mining communities.”

Greater Whange Residents Trust coordinator Fidelis Chima says women in the coal mining town are exposed to diseases due to pollution from mining operations.

“

There is a community in Hwange called Madumabisa, some people, including women, from that area suffer acute flu throughout the year due to air pollution and dust caused by mining entities operating within the community.

Fidelis Chima, Greater Whange Residents Trust coordinator

” ■

Don’t miss out: Our Special Report from Nkayi, where villagers feel they are being systematically side-lined from menial jobs that don’t even need any qualifications (p.24)

Measles Outbreak Has Killed 700 Children in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is struggling to contain a measles outbreak that has killed nearly 700 people, most of them children and young people. - [VOA](#) ■

Zimstat Migration Figures Contradict UK Numbers

Statistics Agency (Zimstat)'s latest findings on the number of Zimbabweans living in the United Kingdom (UK) is likely to be viewed with suspicions of misrepresentation as it appears to contradict the UK's own 2019 survey.

The Zimstat report published on Tuesday claims that there are 23 166 Zimbabweans living in the UK. - [Nehanda Radio](#) ■

American Economist Calls for the Disbandment of Zimbabwe's Central Bank

American economist Steve Hanke says the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) needs to immediately be completely removed from all monetary matters, blaming the bank for all the inflationary problems facing the country. - [Bulawayo 24](#) ■

Urban Farmers Roll-up Sleeves

Urban farmers in Bulawayo metropolitan province have started land preparations for the 2022/2023 farming season under the climate-proofed Presidential Inputs Scheme, popularly known as Intwasa/Pfumvudza, with the latest seasonal forecast predicting normal to above normal rains across the country. - [Chronicle](#) ■

COVID-19 IN NUMBERS

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

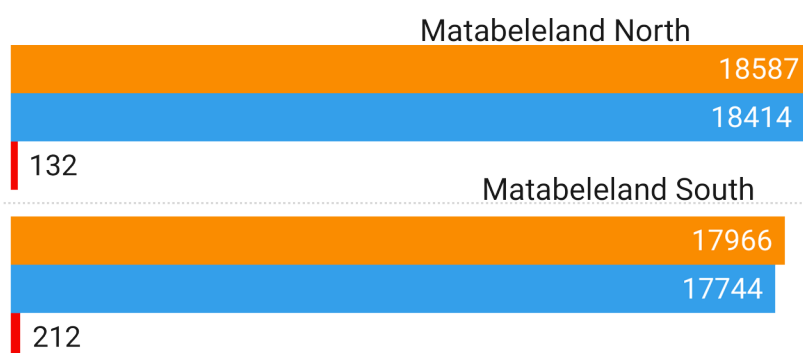
LOCAL

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

36,553

Total number who have tested positive for COVID-19

+117 cases since last BULLETIN

36,158

Total number who have recovered from COVID-19

+118 recoveries since last BULLETIN

344

Total number who have died from COVID-19

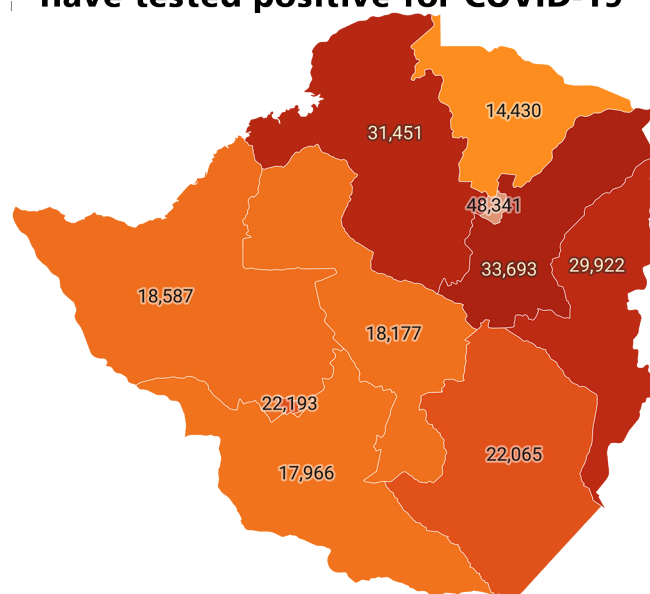
+2 deaths since last BULLETIN

NATIONAL

COVID-19 in Zimbabwe

Cases by region

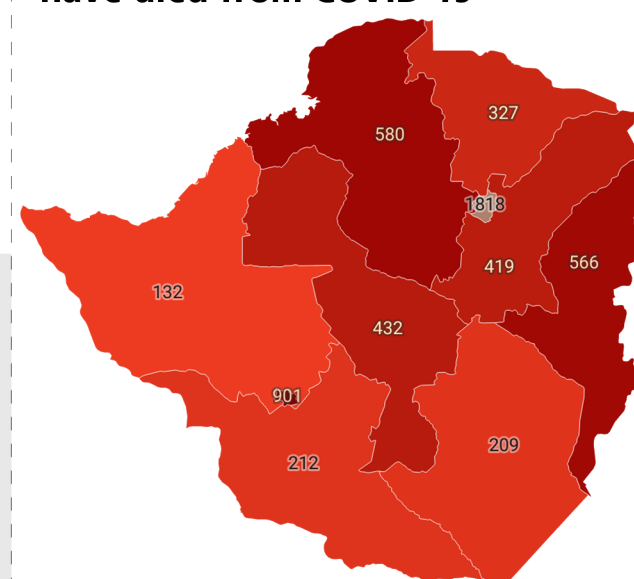
Total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19



14,430 48,341

Deaths by region

Total number of people who have died from COVID-19



132 1,818

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

Note: Data as at 6 September 2022



Smallholder Farmers Struggle to Access Mainstream Markets

In Hwange, vegetable gardening has given dozens of low-income communities a lifeline to avert a food crisis. But a majority of them are struggling to access lucrative markets for their extra produce.

by Georgina Soko | @The_CBNews

With a smile of pure joy, Margaret Ncube joins other villagers in song as they welcome visitors.

It is not every day they receive visitors at their solar powered irrigation scheme funded by a humanitarian aid organisation.

But this time officials from World Vision have graced Chilanga village with their presence to conduct a tour of the community's market garden.

Our biggest challenge in sourcing for income has been access to markets to sell our produce, Ncube tells *The Citizen Bulletin*.

“

We hardly have people coming here to buy our market produce because of our remote location.

Margaret Ncube, smallholder farmer

”

While the vegetable garden has helped avert a potential food crisis amongst poor families in rural Hwange, Ncube and other small-holder farmers find it difficult to access mainstream markets to sell their extra produce.

Ncube says she walks a minimum of 12km to the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls road where she hikes transport to Hwange urban centre to sell her garden produce to vegetable vendors.

Ncube says she is sometimes forced to lower her prices to beat other variables such as market competition and product lifespan.

In Hwange, climate change is one of the leading causes of an emerging food crisis.

In order to help local communities avert some of the challenges ushered in by the negative effects of climate change World Vision established a solar powered irrigation scheme in Bhale, Chilanga, Chachachunda, Mashala, Sidinda, Lumbora, Ndoweni and Mutwe villages.

Smallholder farmers from these villages are more food to feed their families and a surplus to sell to raise income to supplement their daily needs.

But Enelesi Shoko of Kwenjani garden in Dinde says lack of formal markets hampers their efforts to raise enough income to support their families.

“

We have been food insecure for a very long time but the produce from the garden has helped us avert the challenge as we are able to use the solar-powered irrigation scheme to produce enough food.

Enelesi Shoko, another smallholder farmer

”

“While this is a welcome development, realising income from our produce has been a challenge as we are located where the terrain is bad and isolated.”

According to the latest ZimVac report, Hwange has the highest proportion of households (92%) consuming poor diets.

A recent Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (ZIMSTAT) Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report says about 70.5% of the population in Hwange district were poor, while 29.3% others were described as extremely poor.

The report acknowledges that poverty continued “to be one of the major underlying causes of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity as well as precarious livelihoods in Zimbabwe.”

The report states that though casual labour accounted as the main source of income at 40 percent, food crop and vegetable production/sales contributed 25% and 22% respectively.

World Vision Hwange Area Programmes manager, Lovemore Nyoni says the majority of farmers are locked out of profitable markets.

“While we have done a lot in trying to improve livelihoods through ensuring household food security and nutrition especially with the main beneficiary being the child, some communities particularly those furthest from Hwange urban face challenges such as access to markets,” Nyoni says.

Nyoni adds that good access to lucrative markets is vital for farmers to be profitable and productive.

“Market linkages are critical in ensuring these communities also benefit financially through sales of produce.” ■



Without Toilets, Villagers Fret Over Health Hazards

Due to a lack of toilets, open defecation has become commonplace at Kachechete village in Hwange and villagers are sitting on a health ticking time bomb.

by Bokani Mudimba | @The_CBNews

Marita Moyo, a widowed mother of three in Kachechete village in Hwange district, says she has never had a toilet at her homestead.

“We use fields, bushes, forests and ditches as toilets just like many of our neighbours. We have survived numerous diseases here because of this challenge,” Moyo says.

Moyo is among the estimated 50% of households in Matabeleland North that are forced to use the bush to relieve themselves due to lack of sanitation facilities.

The province is ranked highest on lack of sanitation facilities compared to other provinces, according to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2022 Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) released in July 2022.

“

The proportion of households which practised open

defecation in Matabeleland North has remained high at 50% as this has been consistently high over the years. Most districts in Matabeleland North had over 50 percent of the households practicing open defecation.

ZimVac report

”

Binga and Lupane have the highest proportion in the province with 67% and 61% respectively.

Tsholotsho has 52%, Bubi 43% and Umguza 34% while Nkayi and Hwange are ranked at 49 % respectively.

Nationally, 27% of households practice open defecation.

This is a result of lack of improved sanitation facilities and water sources.

Basic sanitation, which prevents open defecation, is when households have toilets with tap water for washing.

The proportion of rural households which accessed basic sanitation services was 54% across the country, while about 66% had access to improved sanitation.

Lack of access to water is also a cause for concern as the report shows that Matabeleland North has the highest number of people who spend more time queuing for water at available sources.

Douglas Musiringofa of United Children of Africa (Unica) which is building toilets for villagers in Chidobe, Hwange, says about a third of households now have toilets in parts of Hwange while the rest still use the bush.

Between 2019 and 2022, Caritas Zimbabwe invested more than US\$700 000 on water, sanitation and income generating projects in parts of Hwange district, where toilet construction was a priority.

Hwange Rural District Council Chief Executive Officer Phindile Ncube says improving sanitation is top of the local authority's agenda.

“

We are working on a by-law that will make it mandatory for all new homesteads to first construct a latrine or toilet before they develop their homesteads so as to improve sanitation coverage.

Phindile Ncube, Hwange RDC CEO

”

Zimbabwe's new national housing policy mandates the provision of services such as water and sewer on site before the construction of houses to curb open defecation. ■

MATOBO



After Years of Government Neglect, Villagers Build Own School

In Kapeni village, Matobo, the central government has not constructed a single school since the country gained independence from White rule. But villagers here are not dissuaded as they are now putting resources together to construct their own primary school.

by Vusindlu Maphosa | @The_CBNews

David Nkomo is among a number of villagers of ward 5 in Kezi, Matobo district who have lost hope in the central government ever fulfilling its promise to build schools in their ward.

Forty-two years after independence, learners from Kapeni ward have to walk as much as 20 kilometres

every day to the nearest Mzila primary school located in the neighbouring Beula ward.

“During the rainy season, our children fail to attend classes as the rivers would be flooded.”

David Nkomo, a villager

“We cannot even blame the children for

performing badly in their final examinations. The hope that the government would build schools in our ward has since died.”

In June, Primary and Secondary Education minister Evelyn Ndllovu said the central government will build 35 new schools across the country this year alone.

In November, the government announced plans to build 3000 new schools by 2025.

However, there is no breakdown of how many schools would be built per district such as Matobo.

There are 82 primary schools in Matobo district, and the new Mnyaka primary school being built by the community at Kapeni village makes them 83.

Villagers allege that the central government has not built a school in Kapeni village after several decades since Zimbabwe gained independence from White rule.

With no assistance from the government, villagers in the area with help from locals now residing in foreign lands, are now trying to mobilise resources including providing labour to construct a school.

Mnyaka Primary School project manager, Luke Ncube says children in their area have lost interest in school because of the long distances they have to travel.

“To reach Mzila Primary School requires commitment, and one has to wake up very early, as early as 4am,” Ncube says. “The completion of our Mnyaka School will definitely ease the challenge, and also help improve the pass rate.”

Ncube says Gwemala and Kapeni rivers always get flooded every rainy season, forcing students to miss out on lessons fearing being swept away.

“We therefore appeal to well-wishers to help us with other material resources towards the construction of the school. We seriously have very big gaps in terms of schools in our area.”

A former teacher from the ward, Nomazwe Moyo says the area has many school dropouts as learners were only going as far as attaining primary education due to lack of schools.

“It is not easy for our children to prioritise their education when it is not easy to reach school, that’s why they end up dropping out of school,” he says.

Moyo says the construction of classroom blocks are now at window level with hopes that in a few months, students from Kapeni village will be having their own school.

“We are also planning to conduct adult lessons and practical work skills education at the school for the creation of employment to our youths in our area.”

Ward 5 councillor, Madalaboy Ndebele says they never received any support under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) towards the construction of their school.

The CDF was first introduced in 2010 primarily as a development vehicle through which Members of Parliament (MPs) carry out projects in their constituencies that impact on the daily lives of their communities.

Some of the projects include road repairs, construction of dip tanks, libraries, refurbishment of schools and clinics and local income-generating projects.

The fund would bypass central bureaucracies and channel funding to community level to improve people’s livelihoods.

“The school is being built by the locals. There has been no CDF support. Our children mostly based in South Africa are funding the project, but we still need more help,” Ndebele says.

Matobo Rural District Council (RDC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Elvis Sibanda, says the council currently has no budget to assist the villagers.

“As the RDC we had not planned an activity for this year. We just hope that we will roll out budget consultation meetings as we interact with the community for next year,” Sibanda says. ■



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VICTORIA FALLS



Locals Ignore Threats to Delist Vic Falls As a World Heritage Site

UNESCO's renewed threats to delist Victoria Falls as a world heritage site have attracted international attention elsewhere but here locals are not moved.

by Calvin Manika | @The_CBNews

Thomas Banda, a resident of Chinotimba suburb in Victoria Falls, is oblivious to the threats to delist the resort town as a world heritage site.

This comes after a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) team visited the resort town, and warned that ongoing infrastructural developments such as

lodges and a golf course near the Falls could see the tourist destination losing its heritage status.

But Banda is not shaken and he is not alone.

An investigation by this publication reveals that

a number of Victoria Falls residents do not understand the role of UNESCO at the giant waterfalls. They also do not see any change in their lives without the UN body granted site status.

Another resident, Sibonisiwe Bhebhe says Victoria Falls will remain a natural wonder with, or without a heritage site status.

In support of her, the chairperson of Victoria Falls Combined Residents Association (VIFACORA), Kevin Moyo says a site status was only a marketing tool for the resort town.

“There are some questionable developments in the Victoria Falls but it still remains a natural wonder.”

Victoria Falls City Council Chairman for Health, Housing and Community Councillor Nkanyiso Sibindi, however, feels there was a lot of dishonesty concerning infrastructural developments at the Falls.

“People and activists that are fighting against the new developments are white owned companies because they are scared of competition from these developments coming to the town.”

Nkanyiso Sibindi

Sibindi says that some players in the tourism industry operating in Victoria Falls have gone to the courts challenging the developments.

Sibindi adds that he is not surprised that a number of residents are not concerned about the world heritage site status.

“Some residents say, even if UNESCO pulls out, there is no harm to them because they are not even benefiting from the waterfall as they believe all the income is sent directly to Harare. So they don’t care.”



Victoria Falls earned its heritage site status in 1989. Image by Evergreen

Victoria Fall is one of the country’s world heritage sites, others being Khami and Great Zimbabwe both declared in 1986, Matobo Hills (2003) as well as Mana Pools (1984), reveals UNESCO.

Victoria Falls earned its heritage site status in 1989.

The site status enables any destination to be recognised by the UN as an international tourism spot.

Meanwhile, UNESCO says over-development of the Victoria Falls is disrupting wildlife corridors and the environment. ■

FROM THE WEB



Ministry of Information, Publicity... @InfoMinZW

Minister @InfoMinZW Hon Monica Mutsvangwa this morning gave the key note address at the Zimbabwe Centre for Media and Information Literacy, Africa Journalism and Media Summit being hosted by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Bulawayo.



Michael Mdladla Ndiweni
31 Aug · 🌐

Urban Resilience Safe Markets, beams, strusses on.....progress 101...Nkulumane District Commercial Centre - Nkulumane Complex.



Hwange Local Board
@hwangetown

Hwange Local Board has taken delivery of a tractor from @AmtecTafe purchased through utilisation of the Devolution Fund @HwangeResidents @molokele @ministry_local @ZimTreasury @Vostile1 @Hwangefm1 @RutendoMapfumo @SallyChirwa @RuralDigiFocus @UcazOfficial @communitypodium



Vision 2030
@Zim_Vision2030

Beitbridge wc serves as a transit point for the majority of north-south trade in Southern Africa is set to have a state-of-the-art airport to match the standards of a modernised border post as the 2nd Republic steps up efforts to trans4m the face of the border town.

@ZimGvt_NDS1



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.



No Connection, No Job: Nkayi Youths Blame Govt for Dwindling Job Opportunities

While the central government says devolution will primarily benefit locals through job opportunities, in Nkayi district, villagers say they are being systematically side-lined even for menial jobs that do not require any qualifications.

by Calvin Manika | @The_CBNews

On any normal day at the Nkayi business centre, youths will be milling around in search of menial jobs such as fetching water and firewood as well as off-loading goods among a coterie of available “piece-jobs”.

Nkayi resident, Mthulisi Ncube (27) says menial jobs help them to buy basics for their children, but are not a reliable source of income as remuneration is always little.

“We need proper employment especially from government institutions and parastatals, but it’s not easy for one to get employment without connections,” Ncube says.

Ncube says he once got a contract at the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) Nkayi offices through a friend.

His contract was not renewed when it expired and Ncube believes he was a victim of nepotism.

I was fired because other permanent workers now wanted to have their chance of bringing their own relatives. I was very unfortunate.

Mthulisi Ncube (27), Nkayi resident

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A number of Nkayi villagers accuse the power utility among other government departments, of sidelining them for menial jobs such as digging trenches which does not need educational qualifications.

They blame this on systematic marginalisation, nepotism and tribalism.

In 2019, ZETDC Hwange district officials bussed people as far as Mashonaland for a smart metering trial project resulting in local youths staging a protest.

In September 2021, Mthwakazi Republic Party (MRP) supporters also staged a demonstration at the National Railways of

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Zimbabwe (NRZ) offices in Bulawayo protesting the alleged hiring of labour from outside the city. South Africa to escape poverty.

This was not the first time the party has staged a demonstration against the NRZ over the alleged recruitment of people from outside Bulawayo.

In an interview with *The Citizen Bulletin*, Shadreck Sibanda, one of the village heads in Fudu, did not hide his disappointment regarding the flawed recruitment processes at government agencies in the district.



Man patching road...Nkayi locals say menial jobs are not a reliable source of income. Image by Bassey

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Non-governmental organisations are always transparent in their recruitments. We want our own government departments and companies to be exemplary and stop the practice of having only the connected, and their relatives getting jobs.

Shadreck Sibanda, Fudu village head

Ngwenya says marginalisation and tribalism remains evident in Matabeleland as characterised by the composition of senior government officials in the region.

“We have a lot of educated people in Matabeleland like any other province. The challenge is the appointments of heads of government institutions and companies who come with a train of their relatives, to take our places,” adds Ngwenya.

Nkayi South Member of Parliament Stars Mathe refused to comment about concerns raised by the villagers. ■

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For Michael Ngwenya, a social development activist in Nkayi, questionable recruitment policies are to blame for the widespread poverty in the district.

“For example, we gathered that at one of the government departments, out of the 10 contract workers, only 3 were locals despite the fact that the job they were hired for did not need any qualifications,” Ngwenya says.

Without job opportunities, many locals end up in

