



THE MIRANDA

Just News

December 2020 | **22nd** Edition



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EDITOR'S NOTE

What a year!

2020 has been a roller coaster in almost every aspect of life. Since this is the last issue of the year, I can't help but look back at how so many things took us by surprise, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic which redefined health boundaries, societal interaction, economic performance and in some countries, it contributed to political outcomes.

In the midst of all that, the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) continued to steer its ship as the old saying goes "it is only rough seas that produce skillful sailors". Amid a global pandemic and scaling down of operations, the JSC made significant progress such as ensuring justice was accessible to all even under the lockdown situation. The year saw the successful hosting of an Anti-Corruption training workshop, new Commissioners and Magistrates were sworn in, the JSC celebrated its 10th Anniversary with an open day at all 69 stations and the hosting of the first ever Long Service Awards. The JSC conducted interviews for Constitutional Court Judges, Magistrates trainings across the country and capped it off with the launch of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which sets the tone for the next five years for the judiciary.

Through the difficulties, many lives were lost, and we have adopted a new normal. I remain optimistic for the future of the JSC, the country, the region and the entire world. As we close off 2020 I leave you with this message;

As a man, continue to do justice to God and serve him right
As a being, continue do justice to your life and pursue your purpose
As a neighbour, continue to do justice and love your counterparts
As a nation, let us continue to do justice and achieve our aspirations
And as the JSC, our mandate is justice delivery so we will continue to ensure access to justice.

I wish you all a prosperous 2021!

Enjoy your read



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The Miranda Just News 22nd Edition

A newsletter for the Judicial Service Commission

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FROM THE SECRETARY

Mr Walter Chikwana
Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission

Compliments of the season!
2020 will go down in history as a year to remember for its twists and turns chiefly brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initially, as the world was caught up in the pandemic, it was all news to us. We would follow international news with keen interest and for almost a whole quarter, we thought we would never experience this pandemic. This was not to be.

Towards the end of March 2020 we recorded our very first case. The reaction thereafter was phenomenal. A little sneeze, a little cough or even a slight headache would raise alarm bells such that our first 'new normal' was to suppress the urge to cough or sneeze in public lest we would be suspected of having contracted the dreaded pandemic!

As the JSC, we never threw caution to the wind and took all the necessary steps to ensure that our staff, litigants and members of the public who visited our offices and courts observed the laid down protocols. These protocols bore fruit as we did not have even a single casualty.

As we close 2020, I am aware that a stronger and even more virulent pandemic is waiting in the wings. We cannot afford to relax. We still need to be vigilant to be able to overcome the ravages presented by the pandemic.

What 2021 holds for us, only the Lord knows but on our part, we have not let the pandemic define our course of action. On 2 December 2020 the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe,

His Excellency Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, launched our third Strategic Plan which will run the same course as the National Development Strategy 1, from 2021 to 2025. Both, in their own way, aim to steer the nation towards the achievement of an upper middle income society by 2030 in line with the National Vision.

From 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025, we will all be guided by this Strategy. You will notice that while the last two Strategic documents placed much emphasis on putting in place systems, the new Strategy focuses on how to improve and strengthen those systems for an effective and efficient justice delivery system. After ten years of existence, I am confident that we are now in that space where we can not only focus on the quantitative aspect but also the qualitative aspect of our systems, processes and services.

This is not a mean feat. Neither is it a one man effort. It requires all of us to put our shoulders on the pedal. It requires all of us to shake off the dust of 2020 and its litany of challenges and move forward. I exhort each one of us to play their part in order to achieve our set goals for the next five years.

They say a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. This is the beginning of yet another five year journey in the JSC. Let us start it well.

May 2021 bring you better fortunes, good health and professional fulfilment.

President Launches JSC 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

● The Judicial Future Scope



Chief Justice Luke Malaba hands over a token of appreciation to the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa.

BY BRIAN NKIWANE

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa officially launched the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) 2021 -2025 Strategic Plan.

The event, which was attended by JSC partners and stakeholders was held at the Harare International Conference Centre on 2 December 2020.

The President was accompanied by one of his Vice Presidents Honourable Kembo Mohadi, Honourable Chief Justice Luke Malaba, his Deputy Honourable Elizabeth Gwaunza, dignitaries from other government departments, Judges, JSC Commissioners and other invited guests.

The latest Strategic Plan, which will run from 2021 to 2025, replaces the previous document which was launched in 2016 and was running until December 2020.

Speaking at the official launch, President Mnangagwa said JSC is a critical state institution in the country's ongoing

agenda.

"The launch of the JSC five-year plan is therefore timely and a reflection of an institution cognizant of its strategic role in the attainment of the broader national vision imperatives," the President said.

He added that the JSC Strategic Plan must therefore be viewed and interpreted as a sectoral plan of action that accelerates the attainment of our national and also the continental aspirations.



The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa is assisted to cut the official launch ribbon by Chief Justice Luke Malaba (left), Vice President Kembo Mohadi (third from left), Deputy Chief Justice Elizabeth Gwaunza and the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Hon Ziyambi Ziyambi.

His sentiments were echoed by the Honourable Chief Justice Malaba who said JSC has been able to discharge its functions with distinction.

"To that extent, Judiciaries in sister jurisdictions in the region and beyond have been attracted to benchmark their operations with us," the Chief Justice said.

The Strategic Plan drafting and consultation exercises which were bankrolled by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were held in Harare, Bulawayo and Mutare between September and October this year.

The current Strategic Plan document is the third, after the 2012 to 2016 and the 2016 to 2020 plans.

The latest Strategic Plans focuses on core operations and resources, communities and customer/stakeholder needs, internal systems and organizational effectiveness, human resources and external factors and jurisprudential impact among other things.

Its main four goals are to make sure the JSC is well-resourced and independent, public trust and confidence in the justice delivery system, a highly effective and efficient JSC as well as a motivated, skilled and competent judicial service.

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"The launch of the JSC five-year plan is therefore timely and a reflection of an institution cognizant of its strategic role in the attainment of the broader national vision imperatives,"



Honourable Chief Justice Luke Malaba (right in white coat) chats to the Judge President George Chiweshe (left in white coat) during the tour of the new Chinhoyi court site.

Chief Justice Malaba tours the new Chinhoyi Court site ... Salutes Hualong Contractors

BY BRIAN NKIWANE

Honourable Chief Justice Luke Malaba has heaped praise on Chinese contractor Hualong who he said has done a splendid job in the construction of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) Chinhoyi new court building project.

The Honourable Chief Justice said this during his tour of the project in Chinhoyi recently together with the Judge President George Chiweshe, JSC Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana, Deputy Secretary Mr Sithembinkosi Msipa, Chief Magistrate Mr Munamato Mutevedzi, members from the Ministry of National Housing and Public Works and other senior government officials.

Speaking at the site, the Chief Justice said Hualong contractors have done a good

job despite the harsh economic conditions prevailing in the country coupled with the deadly Coronavirus pandemic which wreaked havoc worldwide forcing other operations to a stand still.

He added that some contractors have a tendency to milk money from government institutions but at the end of the day fail to deliver what they would have signed for.

"I would want to express my satisfaction in as far as progress at this site is concerned. As JSC we have worked with several contractors for most of our projects, this one has been exceptional. He has done his job very well. I am pleased with the progress thus far," Chief Justice Malaba said.

He added, "We have had problems with other contractors who are bent on milking money from government institutions. What they do is they come to get money, go out there buy a Mercedes Benz, spend the money. When he is broke, he comes back again to claim the money and go out to spend it again. They believe that a public purse does not dry, which is very wrong."

The Chief Justice urged the contractor not to take much time to finalise the project as both JSC and people of Mashonaland West have expectations on the project.

"As JSC we have our expectations and I know very well people from this province have their expectations. So we need to give them answers and I am happy some of the answers are there to speak for themselves. As JSC we have a history of development and things have been going on well," concluded the Chief Justice.

2021 Legal Year Opening Preps on Course

BY STAFF WRITER

Preparations for the 2021 Legal Year Opening are at an advanced stage.

The event which sets the tone for the 2021 legal year will be held on the 11th of January 2021 at the Constitutional Court, the Bulawayo High Court, Masvingo High Court and Mutare High Court.

Speaking to The Miranda crew, an official from the Superior Courts confirmed the dates and the venue before adding that all was in place for the big day.

"We have since covered much ground in as far as preparations for the Legal Year Opening are concerned. All-important stakeholders have been contacted and most of them have since confirmed attendance," said the official.

The Honourable Chief Justice Luke Malaba will set the ball rolling as he will officially open the 2021 Legal Year.



A picture from the 2020 Legal Year Opening



The front view of the new Chinhoi Court building

Honourable Chief Justice Malaba *re-assures* Mashonaland West

BY LIVIAS MWANZA

The Honourable Chief Justice Luke Malaba re-assured residents in Mashonaland West province that the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) was committed to bringing "world-class justice" to their doorsteps.

Honourable Chief Justice Malaba said this during the tour of the new JSC Chinhoi Court complex project which is nearing completion recently.

According to the Chief Justice, the giant building will house several divisions within the JSC among them, Magistrates' Court, the High Court, Office of the Sheriff and the Master's Office.

"We realised that people from this province are travelling to the capital city, Harare, to access certain services which is not good on their part. Therefore, we are working hard to finish this giant building so that most of the services that you were not getting here are made available. The Sheriff, the Master's and the High Court will be here now. Just be patient with us, the building will be handed to you as soon as it has done," said Chief Justice Malaba.

The Chief Justice paid tribute to the leadership of JSC Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana whom he said has made tremendous improvements at most of the court stations dotted around the country

to make the vision of delivering world-class justice a dream come true.

He added that the project was a flagship of the JSC.

"When we started undertaking the construction of the courthouse in 2018, it did look like an impossible task. When I

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"We realised that people from this province are travelling to the capital city, Harare, to access certain services which is not good on their part. Therefore, we are working hard to finish this giant building so that most of the services that you were not getting here are made available. The Sheriff, the Master's and the High Court will be here now. Just be patient with us, the building will be handed to you as soon as it has done,..."

first visited this place then, the condition of this structure was depressing. This massive beautiful structure had been left to simply collapse. But because of our vision, we did not look at those conditions and to us as the JSC, because of the new ethics, new vision and ways of doing business either on our own or in collaboration we decided to overcome," he said.

Water woes threaten to choke Harare Magistrates' Court

BY TARISAI MAFURA

Harare Magistrates' Court staffers working from the third and fourth-floor offices are having challenges of accessing borehole water due to the declining water table of the installed borehole.

The situation is compounded by erratic water supply by Harare City Council.

The Miranda crew recently visited the busiest court and noticed a newly drilled borehole, a development poised to ameliorate the challenge that is threatening to choke the court station.

A Harare Magistrates' Court staffer who spoke on condition of anonymity said the situation is untenable for staff manning third and fourth floor as they laboured to draw water from the ground floor.



"One has to firstly ponder on drawing water from the ground floor, a task that is laborious and time-consuming," lamented the staffer.

Asked to comment on the matter, Harare Magistrates' Court Provincial Head Mrs Vongai Guwuro revealed that JSC has in the past taken several measures to make sure that all floors within the building receive tap water but to no avail.

"JSC has left no stone unturned in this regard but all efforts have been in vain. We have tried all tricks, that is increasing the depth of the borehole to even putting a bigger pump, but all these measures have failed to work. The leadership of the Commission is actually having sleepless nights about the water situation here. We continue to hope for the good," she said.

In its quest to circumvent erratic water supply by local authorities, the Judicial Service Commission has drilled boreholes, especially at all its court stations.

Epworth Magistrates' Court construction begins



Building material at the new Epworth construction site

By **Tarisai Mafura**

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) is walking the talk of bringing world class justice on the stoop of communities as evidenced by the commencement of construction work at Epworth Magistrates' Court site which started recently.

Construction work at the new site is envisaged to meet set target of completion

with 70 percent of building materials already made available.

JSC has reiterated its commitment to make justice accessible to all people and various construction projects are underway at varying stages of completion and courtrooms deemed inhabitable are being renovated to meet international standard.

In an interview with The Miranda on 18 November 2020, JSC Deputy Secretary, Support Services, Mr Sithembinkosi Msipa said Epworth Magistrates' Court construction is well on course.

He exuded confidence on completing this ambitious project as soon as possible since Treasury has shown commitment to bankroll the project.

"We are looking forward to completing this project well in set time. 70 percent of the building materials have been procured. Treasury has made a serious commitment to make funds available for timeous completion of this project," said Mr Msipa.

He however emphasized on the importance of making justice delivery easily accessible to all people across the country through building of courts.

“

We looking forward to completing this project well in set time. 70 percent of the building materials have been procured. Treasury has made a serious commitment to make funds available for timeous completion of this project, . . .”

"Access to justice is very important and we need to take justice to the people. The building of courts around the country is a very determined decision that we have taken and we want to execute it efficiently," he said.

Zimbabwean Government, under the stewardship of His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa which is envisioning an upper middle-income economy by year 2030, is supporting JSC in implementing various projects such as the construction of Chinhoyi and Mt Darwin Magistrates' Courts, among others.



JSC and Public Works staffers conversing on the way forward at the new Epworth Court site recently.



Bulldozer at work: Clearing has begun at the new Epworth Court site.

Kwekwe Criminal, Civil, Magistrates' Courts benefit from Zimasco Covid-19 donations

BY BRIAN NKIWANE

Both Kwekwe Criminal and Civil Courts benefitted from Zimasco Private Limited Kwekwe Division's helping hand programme which was meant to assist government departments and other essential service providers in Kwekwe district to fight the deadly Coronavirus pandemic.

The two stations got a sanitizing tap component erected at the entrance of each court station; a move which representatives from the company said was aimed at conscientising court users to wash their hands before seeking services at court stations.

The sanitizing tap component allows the person manning the entrance to put a 500 millilitre bottle of hand washing liquid soap and then allows the person to wash his or her hands using a pedal system.

Speaking to The Miranda team that visited Kwekwe Magistrates' Court during the Head Count and verification process, Provincial Magistrate Florence Nago said it was a great intervention by the chrome smelting company.

"The sanitizing tap component was a timely intervention. It came at the height of the deadly Coronavirus. The team from Zimasco put the donation alert in a WhatsApp group that has mostly heads of departments

“

The sanitizing tap component was done in such a way that it was connected direct to our water source. So what it means is that it will remain a permanent feature here. It will instil the culture of washing hands even after the deadly virus is gone,”

from different government institutions. We saw it and we thought it was ideal to be part of it. They came and put one here and another one at the District Administrator's complex which houses our Civil Court.”

Nago added that the most interesting part of it is that the tap component is connected to the water system meaning that it will remain a permanent feature even after Covid-19 is gone.

“The sanitizing tap component was done in such a way that it was connected direct to our water source. So what it means is that it will remain a permanent feature here. It will instil the culture of washing hands even after the deadly virus is gone,” Nago said.

Other government departments from Kwekwe district also benefitted from the exercise.



The sanitizing tap component donated by ZIMASCO Group of Companies recently.



JSC Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana is shown the progress that has been done so far at the new Lupane Court site



The front view of the Lupane Court house which is now at window level

JSC Secretary tours Lupane Court building project

BY ISAAC S. SIAKWIYE

The Lupane Magistrates' Court Complex, whose construction started in February 2019, is set to be complete by April 2021 when the contractor, the Ministry of Public Works and National Housing is expected to handover the project to the Judicial Service Commission (JSC). Construction of the court building, which will have two courtrooms, staff offices, witness shed, cell block and outside ablutions after completion, is progressing well with the main super structure at window level and awaiting ring beam setting.

This was revealed on 26 November 2020 during the JSC Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana's visit to appreciate progress at the construction site.

Mr Chikwana noted the slow pace at

which work was being done and attributed it to a plethora of challenges. Despite all this, he was however impressed with work progress taking place at the site. He urged everyone involved to play their part so as to improve on meeting the targets.

"Yes, I am impressed with the structural developments taking place here. Indeed, there is progress on the project. I am happy with the positives of the project that I have seen here. People are not throwing hands in the air that they are giving up but showing focused determination that the work be complete", he said.

The main drawback causing some delays in meeting the initial deadline was the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic which tremendously affected operations from March to June 2020 at the peak of the pandemic, delays in power connection resulting in inefficiencies in water supplies as well as human delays in executing their mandates. The Secretary urged the engineers to carry out a hydraulic survey to determine the level of underground water in order to have an improved yield to supply the project.

"The project has rather taken too long to complete due to some delay in power connection to supply water. I am

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“The project has rather taken too long to complete due to some delay in power connection to supply water. I am told also that there is a poor water yield at the current borehole site, can I suggest we drill a second borehole or alternatively deepen the current one up to 120 metres, without which the project will come to stand still...”

also told that there is a poor water yield at the current borehole site, can I suggest we drill a second borehole or alternatively deepen the current one up to 120 metres, without which the project will come to a stand still," he suggested. He undertook to avail resources within the limited means of the organisation in order to resolve the financial aspect of the challenges.

Mr Kudakwashe Kutshwayo, the PWD Chief Architect, expressed satisfaction on the work done amidst challenges like shortage of water at the site. He thanked the Secretary of JSC for giving hope towards work on the project.

The site meeting was attended by the Provincial Director in the Ministry of Public Works and National Housing Matabeleland North Province Mr Simbarashe Ushe, site engineers from Public Works, Matabeleland North Provincial Magistrate in Charge Ms Sekai Chiwundura, the Resident Magistrate for Lupane Court Mr Ndumo Masuku, the JSC Matabeleland North Procurement Officer Mrs Lindelwa Ndlovu and the Provincial Administrator Mr Felix Dzingisai.

4th quarter

IN PICTURES



The picture combo shows scenes from the JSC 2021-2025 Strategic Plan launch which was held at Harare International Conference Centre (HICC) recently.



Scenes from the tour of the new Chinhoyi Court building.



Honourable Chief Justice Luke Malaba, Deputy Chief Justice Elizabeth Gwaunza and Justice Garwe attending the State of the Nation Address (Sona) by the President ED Mnangagwa recently.



Fare thee well: High Court staffers bid farewell to Mrs Faith Rutendo Matuku who retired last month.



Magistrates and members from Prison Services pictured with the Chief Justice Luke Malaba in Chinhoi recently.



JSC Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana touring the new Lupane Court site recently.



CAUGHT ON CAMERA: A couple captured tying the knot at Gokwe Magistrates' Court during the Secretary's visit of the Midlands province recently.



Gokwe Magistrates' Court staff pictured with JSC Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana and other JSC senior management members during the Secretary's visit of the Midlands Province recently.

Chimbwanda calls it a day



TIME UP: Mrs Margaret Chimbwanda who retired on 1 October 2020.

BY LIVIAS MWANZA

Judicial Service Commission (JSC) Registry Unit supervisor Mrs Margaret Chimbwanda has retired. Chimbwanda's last day in the office at the Commission was 1 October 2020.

Having served the government of Zimbabwe for close to 41 years in different ministries, Chimbwanda (63), in her farewell speech said hers was a different retirement altogether. While others retire to pursue other career opportunities or other income-generating projects, it's a different scenario for Chimbwanda who said she needed this to be able to do much work in the Lord's house (church).

Chimbwanda joined the then Ministry of Justice in 1988 as a Supervisor in the Department of Immigration and for the past 32 years, she has been in the trenches.

However, life taught her a lot of things the hard way, among them tactics to deal with racism for one to get employment in the then Rhodesia.

"I came to stay with my uncle in Harare, New Canaan in Highfields. One of my cousins helped me get employment at Rainbow Cinema. I learnt a lot in terms of dealing with racism. Jobs were only for

“
I remember my first salary, I bought my mother a six-piece Jemina lounge suite and a packet of cream buns,...”

whites and coloureds. So I had to use my uncles' first name to appear as if I was coloured, with my complexion, most people did not doubt me. So, I joined the cinema group as Margaret Mathews. I was very lucky they never asked for my Identification particulars, said Chimbwanda who was Mathews then.

The job at Rainbow Cinema marked the beginning of a fruitful career that saw her join the Ministry of Finance, Department of Taxes as a Records Clerk.

"This was the happiest moment in my life at that time. There was much prestige in just being a government employee. I had longed for this for some time," Chimbwanda added.

Chimbwanda then decided to advance herself in as far as education was concerned by undertaking all course levels that were

offered by the Highlands National Training Centre. After the completion of her studies, she was promoted to Supervisor Stage 3.

She, however, did not last long on that position as in 1988, she moved to the Ministry of Justice where she worked as a Personnel Assistant at the High Court. While at the High Court, she pursued studies in Records Management up to Higher National Diploma with Harare Polytech before enrolling for a degree in Christian Education which she completed in 2012.

"So, when I retire, it will be the ideal time for me to go and use my degree to do much of the Lord's work."

Chimbwanda vividly recalled what she did with her first salary in a working career spanning for over 40 years.

"I remember my first salary, I bought my mother a six-piece Jemina lounge suite and a packet of cream buns," she said sending the interviewer into stitches.

She also took time to take the writer through processes within the Registry Unit.

"The Registry Unit deals with important files for the entire institution from the time they are created up to their final destination which is archiving. All records undergo a process called "Life cycle of Records". Record keeping dates back even during the ancient times where people used to revisit scrolls with different information so that is the same system we are still doing."

She added; "When a file cannot be located where the mark out card is in the outgoing box file this shows that a file had been given to someone. That file may take up to a month without being returned to the registry. So, what I would do is to search for that particular file. This is where I would motivate my staff by giving them two hours off to go home early after locating a missing file. During challenging times most people would distance themselves from the problem, however, the show must go on, we have since introduced an audit of all-out files when time permits."

Chimbwanda had her high moments during her time at JSC. She revealed that her best moments were each time she worked with other team members to accomplish set goals, obviously guided by Honourable Chief Justice Luke Malaba's 2020 Legal Year theme, "Transparency and Accountability to enhance access to justice and the rule of law".

"I am always impressed by the way the secretariat staff works, we complement each other so well. This makes each other's work enjoyable. The team spirit in the JSC shows or brings the atmosphere of belonging to a family."

Friends, workmates and relatives took time to wish her a momentous retirement from the Commission.

Siwardi promoted to Acting Head of Sheriff Services

BY MIRANDA STAFF WRITER

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has with immediate effect promoted Deputy Sheriff Gamuchirai Siwardi to the position of Acting Head of Sheriff Services. The promotion came into effect from 17 December 2020.

Siwardi takes over the reigns of the

Sheriff department from Mr Ignatius Mugova who was appointed to the post sometime in June.

Mr Mugova has been redeployed to the magistracy.

Other promotions within the commission include Arnold Munapo and Aggrey Maganga Nyapoko, who both were promoted to the positions of Auditors from being Assistant Auditors. Ivy Msarurwa was promoted to the Registry Supervisor post from her previous position of Registry and Information Assistant.



Ms Gamuchirai Siwardi

High Court staffers bid farewell to departing employee

BY LIVIAS MWANZA AND TARISAI MAFURA

Harare High Court staff members bade farewell to Mrs Faith Rutendo Matuku (60) who retired from her position as Secretaries' Supervisor.

Matuku retired on Monday 30 November 2020 after 38 years of dedicated service.

Farewell and dedication messages were sent by all the colleagues that she used to work with at the High Court.

Judge's Secretary Ms Theresa Masango had this to say about the retiring workmate; "Mrs Matuku was a mother to all of us. A professional lady who always encouraged us to work hard. She would tell us to do our work timeously and perfectly. We will always remember and emulate her work ethics," said Ms Masango.

Ms Patricia Mlakanjoka, a Transcriber, ran out of superlatives to describe Mrs Matuku whom she worked with for a long time.

"She is my mother, my advisor and mentor. She is an epitome of a hard worker who encouraged us to emulate her and that moulded me. I want to follow her footsteps.

I am running out of words to describe her," said Ms Mlakanjoka.

Mrs Matuku was employed at the tender age of 19 in the Ministry of Transport before joining the Ministry of Justice in 1988.

Mrs Matuku also had parting words to the family which she left behind.

"I am grateful to retire without

misconduct. I implore JSC co-staff to be honest in executing their duties, to be committed and one needs to live within his or her means.

"I have no regrets serving the government for so many years, being a civil servant offered me the opportunity to acquire valueless experience that I am eager to share with others," she said.



High Court staff members bid farewell to work mate Mrs Faith Rutendo Matuku who retired on 30 November 2020.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

A hidden war during Lockdown, as Chitungwiza records upsurge in cases



BY JERMAINE HANGAZHA

At the height of the deadly Coronavirus (Covid-19) the government of Zimbabwe introduced a raft of measures that saw a number of people staying home for more than six months with the exception of those that provided the so-called essential services.

Stress and anxiety that is associated with spending much of time as families, which hardly happens when things are normal, led to a sharp increase in cases of domestic violence, statistics gathered from Chitungwiza Magistrates' Court revealed.

For the past six months, domestic violence has been a hidden war in a number of households across the width and breadth of Chitungwiza.

A snap survey for Chitungwiza Magistrates' Court show that there has been an increase in the number of women seeking domestic violence interim court orders from the period of March to June 2020 as compared to the previous year.

The rate at which the cases are rising can be described as a shadow pandemic alongside the deadly Covid-19 as many people are trapped inside their homes at the mercy of their abusers.

Our homes might be deemed safe places to be, but for some during this lockdown period, there are no longer safe places at all.

During the lockdown period, there has been an upsurge in domestic violence cases which involve the pattern of psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. Acts of assault and intimidation are also considered as acts of violence.

For spouses under lockdown, particularly if neither spouse leaves

the home for work the opportunity for the abuser to impose further and strict rules increases.

Domestic violence can be regarded as an indoor crime with the aggressor or perpetrator who is potentially residing with the alleged victim. At Chitungwiza Magistrates' Court, 45 percent of all urgent cases during lockdown were of women seeking domestic violence interim orders with their husbands being the perpetrators.

Of all the *ex-parte* applications made during lockdown, only a small number involved victims of abuse seeking orders of exclusive possession. Exclusive possession is the right for a spouse to live in the home while the other spouse is ordered to live elsewhere.

However, at some instances there were also reported cases of women being the perpetrators of domestic violence to their spouses.

High court plunges into mourning again

Tarisai Mafura

A dark cloud hovered over the High Court following the untimely passing on of the youthful

Judicial Service Commission (JSC) employees Mr Richard Muchongoyo (26) and Ms Melody Muchenje (33).

JSC expressed its heartfelt condolence to the Muchongoyo and Muchenje families saying it lost its dedicated staffers.

Mr Muchongoyo's lifeless body was found at Wengezi turn-off in Chipinge on Saturday, the 31st of October 2020 after he disappeared from the High Court on Thursday, the 22nd of October 2020.

A post-mortem indicated that he committed suicide.

On Thursday 22 October 2020, Mr Muchongoyo reported for duty early in the morning and some staffers saw him exiting the High Court premises around past eight in the morning that same day.

He left his satchel at his office and was nowhere to be found from that moment and his mobile phone was unreachable much to the perturbation of all High Court staffers.

Mr Muchongoyo joined the JSC in July 2018 as an Office Orderly and was elevated to Supreme Court Appeals office at the High Court in Harare in early 2019.

Mr Muchongoyo's uncle, Mr Edmore Mbanyiwa described Mr Muchongoyo as a man who respected his elders, was intelligent and someone who was determined to pursue his dreams.

"We lost a son who was disciplined and intelligent, qualities that resulted in him selected to be a head boy at high school. We are left with wounds in our hearts taking into cognisance the way he passed on," Mr Mbanyiwa said.

High Court Assistant Registrar, Mr Tendai Mugobo who worked with Mr Muchongoyo at the Appeals Office echoed Mr Mbanyiwa's sentiments saying he oozed



The late Richard Muchongoyo



The late Melody Muchenje

“

"We lost a promising young man who oozed with confidence in whatever he did. We used to share ideas which helped us to execute our work smoothly. He also respected everyone,"

confidence in executing his duties, was intelligent, well-behaved and always eager to share ideas especially pertaining to their work.

"We lost a promising young man who oozed confidence in whatever he did. We used to share ideas which helped us to execute our work smoothly. He also respected everyone," said Mr Mugobo.

A little over a month after the passing on of Mr Muchongoyo, the High Court plunged into mourning again following the death of another staff member Ms Melody Muchenje, Accounting assistant on Wednesday, the 2nd of December 2020.

She succumbed to meningitis.

Ms Muchenje's fellow work mates were heartbroken after they learnt about her untimely passing on and tons of glowing tributes about her poured in.

"She was jovial and hard working, well

vested with all processes in revenue section. She was our anchor in the revenue section. Dedicated to her duties and would perform them accurately and perfectly," said Mr Muzokomba an Accountant at the High Court.

Ms Limit Mawire, Accounting Assistant who worked with Ms Muchenje echoed Mr Muzokomba's sentiments saying the late was a rare breed of hard working woman who also boosted morale at the workplace through her jokes that made them laugh lungs out.

"She was loyal, a hard working woman. She rarely made mistakes in discharging her duties. Melo, as she was affectionately known, was a people's person who brought smiles on our faces through her jokes. We will greatly miss her," lamented Ms Mawire. She is survived by two children.

Mr Muchongoyo's body was interred in Chipinge town cemetery and Ms Muchenje was buried at Mabvuku-Tafara cemetery.

Challenging

the status quo of the lion

BY ANXIOUS MBALANGA

During the 1970s' amalgamation of Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia, the then Zimbabwe experienced a colossal immigration of groups coming from Nyasaland (now Malawi) determined to carve out a fighting chance for a better life.

My father, an exodus contemporary who arrived in Zimbabwe as a wide-eyed 19-year-old shared with me a story from the emigration that has stuck with me from childhood. It is a tragic story, with a sweet and sour taste that could confuse your emotional palate but also bears serendipity to leave one with vaulting encouragement. This is the story of the unnamed man who challenged the lion's status quo and dared its credentials. Could we draw strength from this tragic legend? Let us see.

More than half a century has since passed since the terrors but the phrase "Lions of Njombe" still conjure gory imagery even for people who were not yet born at that time. This was a time when three generations of a pride of lions petrified dwellers of the lower East African region all the way into the heart of the African continent. Besides the marauding cats' voracity, what was even more baffling was the longevity of their terror and insatiable appetite.

For 15 years the lions chomped through a confirmed record of more than a thousand people, a notoriety that gained them a supernatural status as the grief-stricken communities refused to accept the natural existence of the lions. Instead they contended that the felines were shape-shifting demons on a retribution juggernaut. With such a fearsome

reputation it would be much scarier for the unnamed man as he encountered a break-away young male from the Njombe pride deep in the Chapata area at the confluence of Zambia and Mozambique.

Congruently to the urban legend's claim that the lions were supernatural meant that he was not just going to face nature in its predatory facet, but the apocalypse disguised in nature's skin. While two of his younger relatives who had accompanied him on a roaming spree in the jungles of Chapata recognized the danger and scampered up a tree, the large cat blindsided him and since he was caught flat-footed, the lion moved closer steadily ready to feast on its prey.

The lion lunged forward for the novel immobilizing neck bite but instinctively the man raised his arm and the lion had to settle for the limb. The suddenly turned vicious beast dragged the man towards the taller undergrowth to finish off his meal privately but this effectively marked the crescendo of the lion's upper-hand. Delaying the fatal throat bite awarded the victim a lifesaving moment. Using his free arm, he groped about and grasped at the first hard thing that felt potent enough and it was a short shank from a tree branch.

Wielding the twig like a knife he heaved his arm toward the lion's head and he jammed the stick squarely in the eye

and it ruptured. Half blinded and in searing pain, it rescinded its jaw lock on the arm. The standoff would go on to last about an hour. The lion now blinded in both eyes and lying motionless was in a fight for its life, albeit irredeemable. The survivor, battered and bloodied from scratches and bites crawled away from the impending carcass but it was as far as he would be able to witness his victory. A swipe of the lion's paw to the femoral artery sealed his fate as he bled to death.

So, you think this is a sad story? Well try the depressing narrative that is perpetually replicated by a good number of people in this enigma called life. We are a

In the end when we are challenged all we can deduce is that 'this lion before me is the king of the beasts, conqueror of the savannah so who am I to deny him the pleasure to taste my flesh?' But who crowned the lion?

superficial generation that is ridiculously fascinated by appearance. Because we do not probe the phenomenon behind the adornment, we are either defrauded or intimidated by something we know little or nothing about which many have referred to as the 'Fear of the Unknown'. This means we are constantly at the mercy of pre-existing tales passed on from generation to

giving

generation without any factual determinant as to whether these tales existed or were just a custom of deterrence by the elders.

When confronted by a seemingly gigantic and beastly situation we accept and blindly glorify what has been told about it, that everyone who has ever faced such a quandary has always succumbed to it. In the end when we are challenged all we can deduce is that 'this lion before me is the king of the beasts, conqueror of the savannah so who am I to deny him the pleasure to taste my flesh?' But who crowned the lion?

Is its character and physical attributes really worthy and more impressive than all the beasts like we have been made to believe, or is it just another ancient fraud? You should ask. After a closer look you will unmask the hoax that the lion is not really the fearless predator it has been viewed to be. Oh, and you will discover that according to recent studies it does not even appear on the top 10 list of the most fearless animals on earth! This gives you a fighting chance, all because you have finally managed to extricate yourself from an age-old notion which makes you think you are an easy meal of your situation.

Doesn't the story about the unnamed man provide us with inspiration not to surrender to our fears and give them outright passage? This man put up a fight and it is really outrageous to say he thought he could win. He knew that he would die but nevertheless put up a brave fight.

JSC Marondera, Harare employees form football teams

By Brian Nkiwane

Judicial Service Commission (JSC) employees based at Harare's Labour Court and Marondera Court station in Mashonaland East Province have organised themselves to come up with football teams which have been active since last year.

The formation of the two teams rhymes very well with JSC Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana's call to have all JSC employees taking part in different sporting activities. Last year, when the Secretary visited Manicaland Province, he challenged employees from different stations to start organising themselves and come up with teams that will compete in different sporting activities.

Bristol FC was established in 2016 with the majority of players being Harare Labour Court employees with other players coming from the High Court, Supreme Court and the Sheriff's Office.

However, due to transfers within the institution, some of the key players in the establishment moved to other provinces and momentum was at some point lost. Recently, the team restructured and a new executive committed to run the affairs of the club was put in place. Mr Charles Mawarire was elected the chairperson and is being deputised by Mr Mathias Zvidzai. Mr Kudzai Mutonono is the organising secretary with the treasurer's post going to Mr Simbarashe Chapu. Mr Levison Chiutsi is the team captain while Mr Titus Maminingo is his vice.

High Court Registrar Mr Donald Ndirowei is the patron.

The team has played several competitive matches since its formation. Speaking to The Miranda crew who visited St Giles grounds to watch their first match recently skipper Chiutsi said, the deadly pandemic has had a negative impact in the performance of most of the players as well as their fitness.

"We are now feeling the effects of the



Bristol FC line up for a group photo before kick off at St Giles School recently.

“

We are committed to making sure all our staff members join or form other teams for different sporting disciplines. Sport is always good for our health and well-being, . . .!

deadly pandemic. People are not in good shape. However, we will regain our match fitness soon. We need to be playing more games.

In Marondera, after the call by the Secretary, the station moved with speed to form a football team on 3 October 2019. Like in Harare, the team also moved with speed to put in place an executive to run the affairs. Mr Tsikwa is the chairperson, Mr Manga is the organising secretary, Mr Garakara is the treasurer, and Mr Mashimbwe is the events coordinator while Mr Mbalanga is responsible for public relations.

However, both teams have expressed several challenges that they have been facing

since formation.

"We would want the institution to support us with branded uniforms, soccer balls, tracksuits, and a medical kit," wrote the team from Marondera in their letter to the Secretary of JSC.

Other needs include transport for away games, fuel and refreshments during and after the matches.

"We are committed to making sure all our staff members join or form other teams for different sporting disciplines. Sport is always good for our health and well-being," said one of the executive members from Marondera.

Misconduct Watch



1. CASE NUMBER ONE

The member was a magistrate. He was charged as follows:

1.1. CHARGE

Contravening Paragraph 13 (a) of the Third Schedule of the Judicial Service Regulations, 2015 (Any act involving corruption or dishonesty, including any contravention of Chapter IX of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, [Chapter 9:23]



It was alleged that, sometime in 2017 the magistrate presided over a maintenance matter involving his landlord and the landlord's ex-girlfriend. This was an application for maintenance. In the application, the applicant sought \$4 000 maintenance being \$2 000 for the minor child and \$2 000 spousal maintenance. The magistrate presided over the case despite the fact that the respondent was his landlord, and he awarded maintenance in the sum of \$80 for the minor child and dismissed the application for spousal maintenance on the basis that the applicant had failed to establish the existence of a customary law marriage between the parties.

It was further alleged that the magistrate solicited a reduction in rentals from his landlord, who was the respondent in the application, based on the maintenance award that he had made in the landlord's favour during the court proceedings. The magistrate thus made the maintenance award of \$80 in order to profit from a rent reduction from the landlord's property.

The magistrate was found guilty of misconduct after a disciplinary hearing and discharged from the Judicial Service on the 31st of August 2020 in terms of section 53 (1) (a) of the Judicial Service Regulations, 2015.

2. CASE NUMBER TWO

The member was an Accounting Assistant. He was charged as follows"

Count 1

Contravening Paragraph 8 of the Third Schedule to the Judicial

Service Commission Regulations, 2015 (Theft of Commission's money)

It was alleged that, at the beginning of the year, between January and February, the member received various amounts of cash totalling eight thousand two hundred and twenty dollars (\$8220.00) being judicial fines, court fees, bail reimbursements and ZJ9J receipts. The member was required to keep the money in trust and bank it the next day after its receipt. However, the member did not do so. Instead, from the \$8220.00 which he received, he converted two thousand five hundred and twenty-eight dollars (\$2528.00) to his personal use. His conduct amounted to theft of trust property and contrary to his duties as an Accounting assistant.

Count 2

Contravening Paragraph 3 of the Third Schedule to the Judicial Service Regulations, 2015 (Failure to perform any duties related to one's work or improper or negligent, inefficient or incompetent performance of duties).

Between the same period again, 3 January 2020 and 3 February 2020, the member received various amounts totalling eight thousand two hundred and twenty dollars (\$8220.00) being judicial fines, court fees, bail reimbursements and ZJ9J receipts. The member was required to keep the money in trust and bank it the next day after its receipt. The member claimed to have banked the money but failed keep proper record of such transactions resulting in him failing to properly account for the money he received. As a result, from the \$8220.00 which he received, he converted two thousand five hundred and twenty-eight dollars (\$2528.00) is still unaccounted for.

He was found guilty and discharged from service with effect from 3 December 2020 in terms of Section 53 (1) (a) of the Regulations.



ENTERTAINMENT CORNER



THE MIRANDA PUZZLE NO.17
SET BY MAYOR

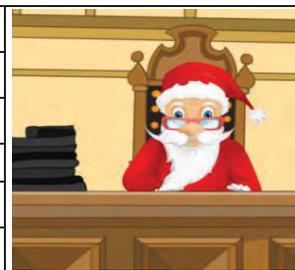
Using the clues below, find all the words needed to fill this crossword puzzle. The numbers inside the grid are meant to guide you in word positioning as each number represents the same letter throughout. Only the numbered letters are to be used. If you fit all the correct answers in the below workspace, the letters in the yellow boxes, spell **SOMETHING YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND AT THE COURTS.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	

6	8	2		5	9	10
	7		8			
	1		10		3	
6	11	12	13	2		
	5		4			
		14		7	15	

THIS PUZZLE'S CLUES

1	Attain a certain goal
2	Calculate
3	Nail (Jesus Christ)
4	Coded (Type of puzzle)
5	The season we are in!
6	Be merry!



LAST PUZZLE'S CODE

1	P	10	Q
2	A	11	U
3	Y	12	I
4	M	13	B
5	E	14	L
6	N	15	O
7	T	16	G
8	S	17	X
9	C	18	F

LAST PUZZLE'S WORDS
 Acquits; Assegai; Employs; Illegal; Inbox; Life; Scissel; Quips; Six



First with the previous puzzle's solution was Blessing Shumba (pictured). She is an interpreter at the Harare High Court. Shumba wishes you all **A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!** You too can grace this space. Just WhatsApp a screenshot of your completed puzzle, and brief profile, to Mayor on 0776 367 719.

NOTICE BOARD

RESIGNATIONS

Forbes Maobvera VIP Driver **High Court - Harare**
 Mahere Bianca Magistrate **Kariba Magistrates' Court**
 Trust Masimba Principal ICT Officer **Secretariat**
 Silas Soweto Accounting Assistant **Harare Magistrates' Court**
 Mwarianesu Makosa - Judges' Assistant
 Charleen Ringo - Judges' Assistant
 Nhara Yassin Professional Research Assistant **Constitutional Court**
 Lynn Sangare Assistant Registrar **Constitutional Court**
 Thandiwe Chabururuka Assistant Master **Master's Office - Harare**
 Revai M Marovatsanga Office Orderly **Zvishavane Magistrates' Court**
 Rosewinter Chiteka Senior Internal Auditor **Secretariat**
 Serima Milton Provincial Magistrate **Harare Civil Court**
 Shora Bruno Court Interpreter **Rusape Magistrates' Court**
 Isabella Virukai PA to the Secretary **Secretariat**
 Simon Muchenjekwa Clerk of Court **Gweru Magistrates' Court**
 Belinda Chitote Judges' Assistant **High Court- Harare**
 Adelaide Mbeure Provincial Magistrate **Western Commonage Magistrates' Court**
 Sydney Chakezha Accounting Assistant **High Court- Harare**
 Nyoni Marble Court Interpreter **Kwekwe Magistrates' Court**

DEATHS

Richard Muchongoyo Office Orderly **High Court- Harare**
 Melody Muchenje Accounting Assistant Sheriff **-Harare**

DISCHARGES

Stephen Banda Accounting Assistant **Filabusi Magistrates' Court**

RETIREMENTS

Margret Chimbwanda Records and Information Supervisor **Secretariat**
 Faith Matuku Executive Assistant **High Court**
 Chiutanyi Ayesi Accounting Assistant **Gokwe Magistrates' Court**
 Denison Mazana Accountant **Harare Civil Court**

PROMOTIONS

Gamuchirai Siwardi - Acting Head of Sheriff Services
 Arnold Munapo - Auditor
 Aggrey Maganga Nyapoko - Auditor
 Ivy Msarurwa - Registry Supervisor

MAGISTRATES PROMOTIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Stanford Mambanje - Regional Magistrate Beitbridge
 Sithembiso Ndebele - Regional Magistrate Plumtree
 Richard Ramaboea - Provincial Head Manicaland
 Rangarirai Gakanje - Resident Magistrate West Commonage
 Michelle Panavanhu - Resident Magistrate Gutu

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mhizha Sharon - Judges' Assistant
 Winnet Joni - Judges' Assistant
 Susan Manokore - Judges' Assistant
 Oratile Nare - Judges' Assistant
 Luckmore Chiteshe - Accounting Assistant
 Esinath Chagonda - Accounting Assistant
 Craig T Chipunza - Accounting Assistant
 Fungai Muringi - Judges' Assistant
 Casian Govheya - Accounting Assistant
 Tinashe Munda - Accounting Assistant
 Ivy Musavengana - Judges' Assistant
 Rumbidzai Mhandu - Judges' Assistant
 Blessing Makanga - Accounting Assistant
 Desmond Masunda - Accounting Assistant
 Jonathan Ngara - Accounting Assistant
 Mpala Promise - Court Interpreter
 Nkomo Sicelo - Court Interpreter
 Tendai Mwaita - Data Capturer
 Gift Kunyirimwe - Data Capturer
 Sakhile Moyo - Executive Assistant
 Moreen Siamindi - Executive Assistant
 Evidence Moyo - Executive Assistant

Graduations



Mr M Mutevedzi - Chief Magistrate who graduated with a Master of Laws with the University of Zimbabwe



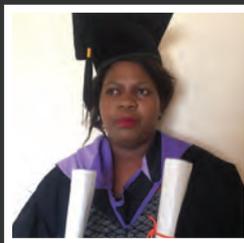
Mrs F Mushure - Deputy Secretary Judicial Service Commission-graduated with a Master of Laws with the University of Zimbabwe



Mr S Mutendamambo - Head of Human Resources-graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Management with the Midlands State University



Mr D.O Ndirowei-Registrar of the High Court-graduated with a Master of Laws with the University of Zimbabwe



Feresi Chakanyuka Provincial Magistrate JSC graduated with Master of Laws with the University of Zimbabwe



Mr Danana-Magistrate-graduated with a Master of Laws with the University of Zimbabwe



Mr TK Sekeni - Principal Human Resource Officer in the Chief Magistrate's Office-graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Management with the Midlands State University



Judicial Service Commission (JSC) Records and Information Assistant Linda Munemo (based at Secretariat) graduated with a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies with the Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU)

Wedding

Wedding Bells ringing louder.... Judicial Service Commission (JSC) Records and Information Assistant Kudzai Sarah Kanyungwe wedded Simon Mavhaire on 31 July 2020 at Mutare Magistrates' Court.





The Chief Justice, Board of Commissioners and entire Judicial Service Commission members would like to wish you a

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Happy Holidays!
Stay Safe!