Sports extravaganza to reignite domestic tourism - Kanjere

By Edward Mukaro

Sports Tourism Incorporated and Eco-Tourism Africa public relations and marketing director, Malvin Kanjere (left) and Prince Musikabantu pose for a picture

Sports Tourism Incorporated and Eco-Tourism Africa public relations and marketing director, Malvin Kanjere said Kanjere. The Victoria Falls tourism sports event comes on the heels of other Sports Tourism Incorporated initiated events that were held at Lake Chivero and Darwendale Dam, last year. “The background of the Victoria Falls Tourism Experience is a follow up to the Lake Chivero Rhino Run that we held last year, as well as the Darwendale 16-days Marathon that we held last year in commemoration of the 16 Days against Gender-Based Violence. “The idea of these sporting activities is to make sure that we reintroduce and we become a strong organisation that promotes sport, wellness and fitness in this country and also try and boost domestic tourism, and create a culture that allows people to visit the country, enjoy sport and also participate in activities, in order to also be able to save and feed families in the resort towns of Zimbabwe,” added Kanjere.
Call for women-only Zupco buses

By Vimbai Kamoyo

A local organisation has called for the introduction of women-only taxi and buses, as the nation’s transport system, anchored by the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO), struggles to meet the number of commuters, amidst the pandemic.

The government banned the operation of private transport companies, creating a highly criticized monopoly of public transport, Zupco. However, with the COVID-19 induced curfew, long winding queues have characterised bus termini across the country’s major cities, with Harare and Bulawayo mostly affected.

In a statement, the Women’s Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ) said, “We amplify the transport crisis and its intersection with women and girls’ rights and COVID-19. We continue to raise concerns on the creation and sustenance of the ZUPCO transport monopoly during a pandemic and in a context where there is inadequate transport to meet the needs of the commuting public.

“We raise concerns regarding the restructuring of the public transport system, which has weakened the fabric of the mass public transit system remarkably. “Against the backdrop of the pandemic, this move has not only posed devastating effects on infection control for COVID-19, but also on the safety and security of women and girls.

“We therefore recommend the introduction of women-only taxis and buses, so as not only to improve the accessibility of public transport, but also ensure the safety and security of women and girls in the public transport system,” stated WCoZ.

The non-governmental body also called for stern control measures at bus termini as there was growing ‘laxity’, which is a dangerous component as bus termini and other pick-up points are mostly overcrowded.

“In addition, it has been noted the bus pick-up and stations are persistently characterised by overcrowding with no social distancing and public sanitization support measures.

“Furthermore, we continue to decry bus shortages and delays in transit times, which consequently is placing women and girls in the public transport system, where incidents of rape and other forms of sexual offences are becoming rampant.

We urge enforcement of public health-guidelines and health protocol in the public transport system.”

EMA issues veld fire warning

By Edward Mukaro

The national environment regulator has warned of the dawn of the veld fire season.

In a statement posted on its social media platforms the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) cautioned the general public of the advent of the veld fire season saying people should be watchful of its repercussions.

“The 31st of July each year marks the beginning of fire season, which stretches to 31st of October on the onset of the first effective rain. During this period, environmental and weather conditions are conducive for the occurrence of veld fires. Therefore, all citizens are encouraged to exercise due care in the prevention of veld fires,” the statement said.

Veld fires have had a devastating effect in the country, destroying millions of hectares of crops, thousands of livestock, and in some instances of veld fires, thousands of homes were destroyed and a huge cost on social and economic front.

“We urge enforcement of public health-guidelines and health protocol in public transport system.”

According to an in-depth study done by academics Luckson Chinamutira, Spikilele Mtetwa and George Nyamadzawo, wild fires are caused by several agents. These include human negligence and deliberate arson, lighting and spontaneous ignition.

On the human effect the trio cited hunting, bee harvesting, burning of crop residues, land preparation, burning of homestead surrounding to improve visibility and outright arson as some of the causes.

The scholars also noted that veld fires have a huge cost on social and economic front. “Outbreaks have resulted in increased loss of agricultural produce, reduced food availability for both humans and animals, reduced growth rate of vegetation, and loss of equipment. Acute impacts such as trauma, loss of shelter and human life, e.g. the destruction of a home or damage to personal goods, can be a source of grief; stress and people whose lives and property are threatened by veld fires may experience a feeling of helplessness. According to Nyamadzawo et al. (2013), in most African cultures, poor homeless people are often stigmatized, and the loss of livelihoods sources may result complete disintegration of the family unit. The result is that the resource-poor smallholder farmers are ushered deeper into a poverty cycle,” part of the report said.

Efforts to get comment from EMA on how they intend to educate the rural population on the dangers of wild fires this year who might not be on social media or any other form were fruitless at the time of going to the print.
Employers wary of SI 27 of 2021

By Wellington Zimbwaba

EMPLOYERS have raised fears that SI 27 of 2021 gazetted in a bid to achieve currency stabi-

lity and tame the black market can trigger country’s recessions into the 2008 hyperinflationary era, arg-

uing that the move is tantamount to price controls during that era.

SI 27 of 2021 mainly seeks to instill discipline in the foreign exchange market through fining invidiouss and businesses that dis-

regard 27 of 2021, which mainly seeks to instill discipline in the for-

eign exchange market, by imposing fines on individuals and businesses who fail to adhere to Government’s policy on foreign exchange, trig-

erged mixed reactions from vari-

ous stakeholders and the public.

Employers’ Confederation of Zimbabwe (ECZ) stated this in

their latest July monthly newsletter; while also pinning the expected national economic recovery on high

Agriculture yields in the past season. Zimbabwe’s economic cri-

ses have been spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic with both government and multilateral insti-

tutional commitments such as the International Monetary Fund economic rebound in 2021; hinged on a successful 2020/2021agriculture season.

The newly gazetted statutory instrument implies that businesses that do not accept Zimbabwe dollars (ZW$)

at the official exchange rate for goods and services priced in United States dollars (USD) may face a maximum fine of ZWS50 000.

“Simply put, it is now illegal to price goods and services above the auction rate. This is tantamount to the re-introduction of sector-wide price controls last seen in the pe-

riod 2007/8 in the country. Just like what happened during the 2007/7 period, the current price controls can lead to a host of mar-

ket supply, severe shortages and strengthening of the black market as EMCOZ Mon,” stated ECZ.

The act compels businesses to peg goods and services prices against the official exchange rate, which is lower than the black market rate.

Violators can be fined up to RTGS $50 000 or its equiv-

alent in foreign currency. “SI 27/2021 is not economically justifiable in the sense that not every one or every business can easily access the Forex on the RBZ auction system. After all, the Zimbabwe dollar is currently overvalued on the auction market; hence its heightened

With the official exchange rate at ZWS55.64, parallel market pre-

miums have now increased beyond 50%. This implies that it is now 50% more expensive to buy US$1

on the black market relative to the official market. SI 27-2021 is a threat to business continuity and consumer livelihoods at large, as it will lead to steep price increases.

Despite the economic hurdles poised by the pandemic and the country’s “command economy”, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) still believes that the anticipated economic growth of 7.4% in 2021 is attainable, anchored,

mostly on fiscal sustainability, good agricultural sector perfor-

mance, and price and financial system stability,” noted EMCOZ.

Qatar Airways open trade with Middle East’

By Wellington Zimbwaba

THE recently unveiled direct Zimbabwe and Qatar flights have been endorsed by the Zim-

babwe Trade Organisation (Zimtrade), as a catalyst for key trade between the country and mineral-rich, Middle East continent.

Recently, the inter-

national airlines of Qatar

airways launched direct flights be-

tween Doha and Harare, a move that has been roundly welcomed for the coun-

try’s economic progress.

“The introduction of direct flights between Zim-

babwe and Qatar celebrated through the inaugural flight by Qatar Airways into Ha-

rare, recently, is expected to unlock export opportu-

nities of local products into the Middle-Eastern country.

“As Zimbabwe seeks to diversify its export markets, envisioned in the National Export Strategy – launched by President Emmerson Mnangagwa in 2019 – Quar-

tar presents a promising market for locally produced products and services.

Zimtrade noted that the launch of direct flights was an endorsement of President Mnangagwa’s “Zimbabwe is Open for Business” mantra. True testimony to the successes recorded under President Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe is Open for Business agenda.

“The introduction of direct flights between Ha-

rare and Doha will make it easier for local exporters to connect with buyers as well as make it faster

to land products in the market,” said Zimtrade.

Zimtrade notes that connection with the Gulf Cooper-

ation Council (GCC) is an important market for Zimba-

babwean products like horti-

cultural produce – will be-

come easier for exporters.

Previously, there have been huge freight costs for goods through connec-

tion with multiple flights, which was also time costly.

The government trade export agency stressed that there was need now for local exporters to understand the import structure in Qatar and re-

quirements for landing products into the market.

According to Trade Map, Qatar imported products worth around US$25.8 billion in 2020 and major supplying coun-

tries were the United States of America, China, Unit-

ed Kingdom, Germany, India, Turkey.

Zimbabwean exporters have an opportunity to supply an array of products in sectors such as horticulture, household and furniture products, meat, essential oils, and pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Wellington Makumure is the Regional CEO for Liquid Intelligent Technologies (LIT) Southern Africa. For more information on Southern Africa services, please visit: http://www.liquidintelligenttechnologies.com.

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Zambian election, a lesson for the continent

Dear Editor

I just want to take time and congratulate the people of Zambia for voting peacefully, and the handover of power was never met with resistance after President Elite Hakainde Hichilema won the polls. Zambians have given the region and Africa at large a lesson in the transition of power. I do hope that other nations will follow the Zambia example. Of course, there were incidents here and there, but overall, the Zambians showed maturity.

John, Harare

CCTVs essential in crime clampdown

Dear Editor

AUTHORITIES need to up their game as far as protecting civilians from armed robbers and errant drivers are concerned. Months ago, there was talk of authorities placing Closed-Circuit Television (CCTVs) in various points of the country’s roads. We are almost entering the last quarter of the year, but nothing has materialised on the ground. There are a lot of hit and runs, by motorists which are going unpunished, while innocent civilians are at the mercy of gun trotting robbers.

Tatenda Moyo, Harare

Commuter trains could be solution to commuters’ transport dilemma

Dear Editor

THE country’s public transport continues to persist, with the ZUPCO buses being overwhelmed by the huge numbers of the commuting public, thereby, creating room for mushroom-mushikas to continue their cat and mouse games with the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and Municipal Police. A long-lasting solution needs to be addressed. May be resuscitating the commuter trains is the solution because clearly, no intervention has been working as planned.

Concerned commuter
Labour shortages weigh down on Meikles tea production

By Wellington Zimbowa

ZIMBABWE Stock Exchange Limited (ZSE) listed, Meikles Limited has reported a 15 percent export drop with tea harvesting being affected by labour shortages in its recent trade update.

The US$ 282.2 million capital, according to African Financials listed company is invested in hotels, retail and agriculture sectors, with the latter, involving tea production in Chipinge through its subsidiary Tanganda Tea.

“...harvesting was affected by limited availability of labour. While reporting a positive performance in other portfolios due to improving foreign currency supply due to the official exchange rate stability and improved access to foreign currency by manufacturers of goods. COVID-19 lockdown restrictions during the period under review were moderate in comparison to the hard lockdown during the same period of last year. Resultantly, sales volume growth was achieved across Group operations in comparison to same period last year,” the group said.

Meikles posted a 21% and 198% group revenue shot in inflation-adjusted terms, with the agricultural segment classified as a discontinued operation and an asset held for distribution. However, revenue for the agricultural segment was 41% and 248% ahead of the same period of the previous financial year in inflation-adjusted and historical cost terms respectively.

The company now intends to invest in motorised labour. While reporting a positive performance in other portfolios due to improving foreign currency supply due to the official exchange rate stability and improved access to foreign currency by manufacturers of goods. COVID-19 lockdown restrictions during the period under review were moderate in comparison to the hard lockdown during the same period of last year. Resultantly, sales volume growth was achieved across Group operations in comparison to same period last year,” the group said.

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Previously, the company courted the ire of child rights activists and development agencies for its incorporation of children, specifically for tea picking under as its corporate social responsibility programme of work and earn meant to cater for vulnerable children proved unpopular, resulting in its termination in 2015.

The company now intends to invest in motorised labour.

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The company now intends to invest in motorised labour.

"For the agriculture segment, bulk tea production and export sales for the quarter were 15% below the same period of the previous year. Tea harvesting was affected by limited availability of labour.

Most of the available labour was assigned to harvest macadamia nuts and avocados during the period under review. The segment will invest in motorised tea harvesting machines as the shortage of labour is bound to recur during the same period going forward," said the company in its update.

Previously, the company courted the ire of child rights activists and development agencies for its incorporation of children, specifically for tea picking under as its corporate social responsibility programme of work and earn meant to cater for vulnerable children proved unpopular, resulting in its termination in 2015.

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T he Zimbabwe Insurance Crimes Bureau (ZICB) is now operational and set for launch any time soon, to tame the haunting surge of insurance fraud, the Insurance Council of Zimbabwe (ICZ) has revealed.

ZICB’s marketing and public relations manager, Ringisayi Batisa said already the arm has developed systems to deter and measure the economic impact of insurance fraud on the national economy in an exclusive email interview this week.

“It is now operational. The Bureau has provided the short-term insurance sector with a tool that will provide a means to measure the impact of fraud to our economy. The bureau shall be launched in due course,” she responded.

Insurance fraud refers to deception for financial gain by parties such as agents, corporates and policy holders on an insurance contract and in this case, policyholders.

Its worrying rise, with official estimations at 20 percent according to regulator Insurance and Pension Commission (IPEC), is worrying, as the bureau has triggered the creation of a dedicated insurance fraud industry statistics and reports; hence, ZICB is already seized with correcting the situation, according to Batisa.

Common insurance fraud is in short term contracts such as Homeowner’s Property, Vehicle Insurance, and Personal Liability Insurance.

“Fraudulent short-term insurance claims result from deliberate and opportunistic activities to obtain financial or economic gain at the expense of insurers. This includes planned and totally fabricated claims or exaggerated claim amounts,” she added.

According to ICZ, there are organised crimes by syndicates or corporates who steal large sums of money through business claims, while there is also connivance between policyholders, insurance staff and corrupt law officers or authorities.

Insurance sector staff has seen also pointed in inflating service costs or charging for services not rendered while policyholders who want to cover their deductibles on claims or view filing a claim as an opportunity to make extra money.

However, Batisa said globally insurers handle fraud cases internally to manage reputational risks with Zimbabwe being no exception adding that global fraud estimations in the sector are 30 percent.

According to ICZ, significant losses under fire insurance tend to originate from arson with suspicions that failing corporates are using fire insurance to cover their deductibles on claims or view filing a claim as an opportunity to make extra money.

Performance contracts for contractors key for development - ZNCC

By Edward Mukaro

The Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) has implored the Government to set performance contracts for contractors to enable timely completion of projects.

With the country’s road network having been declared a state national disaster, earlier in the year, ZNCC has been worried by the snail pace at which contractors have been conducting their business on the countries major highways, paying particular attention to the Beitbridge-Harare-Chirundu Highway.

“The project is behind schedule, with 180.45 kilometers of the 2020 target of 200km now open to traffic. The failure to achieve the 2020 target casts doubt on the achievement of the 2021 200km target. “There is a need for Government to create performance contracts for the contractors with clear deliverables. Under the current arrangement, each of the five (5) contractors is given a 20km stretch to work at a time, being given another 20km stretch once they finish the previous one,” said the chamber.

“Furthermore, the chamber lamented the failure by the Mid-Term Budget Review to “…indicate specific interventions meant to expedite the completion of the very important corridor, especially in light of the absence of the railway alternative.”

Infrastructure in Zimbabwe has been deteriorating for the past two decades. This has resulted in Zimbabwe being ranked number 127 out of 138 countries in the Infrastructure Index under the 2017 World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report.

The National Development Strategy 1 notes that over the past two decades, transport infrastructure has deteriorated as a result of long periods of inadequate maintenance, rehabilitation and upgrading. Of the total estimated 84,000 km of road network, equivalent to 93% of the network is in fair or poor condition and in need of rehabilitation or periodic maintenance.

“In this regard, the NDS1 will target to increase the number of kilometres of road network converted to meet prescribed standards from 14 702km to 24 500km by 2025 and to increase the number of kilometres of road network in good condition from 14 702km to 24 500km by 2025.
E4Impact comes to Southern Africa

The role that small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) play for growth and development in Sub-Saharan Africa has been seen as one of the main drivers of economic growth, poverty reduction and job creation. This role is continuously significantly growing. In response to the Education 5.0 adopted by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development which demands that universities must not only focus on teaching but focus on problem-solving for value-creation. Under Education 5.0 it is now demanded of the nation’s higher and tertiary education sector to not only: (1) teach, (2) research and (3) community serve but (4) innovate and (5) industrialise Zimbabwe. The potential to contribute to the country’s GDP has been established only if micro companies become part of the formal economy. However, with approximately 5 out of 7 new small businesses failing within the first year of establishment, the failure rate of small businesses remains a challenge. To achieve the envisioned economic growth, SMES require more support to improve their success rates. In response to the above mentioned the Catholic University of Zimbabwe (CUZ) under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor Professor Zinyemba created a team and developed the E4Impact Foundation an Italian organization.

CUZ was established in 1998 through a government statutory instrument, consistent with the regulatory requirements for establishment of Universities in Zimbabwe. The University opened doors in 1991 with 41 students studying for the Bachelor of Business Management and Information Technology (BBM & IT). The University now has 6 out of the 8 planned campuses across the country, and these are in Harare which is the main Campus, Bulawayo, Mutare, Chinhoyi, Gokwe and Masvingo which were launched in July 2019. CUZ is confident that the remaining planned Campuses in Gweru and Hwange will be opened in the near future.

E4Impact (that stands for Entrepreneurship for Impact) is an initiative launched in 2010 by ALTIS – Graduate School of Business and Society of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, with the objective to train impact entrepreneurs in Africa and Middle East in order to support the start-up and growth of their businesses. In 2015, E4Impact became a Foundation thanks to the support of some leading Italian companies now participants of the Foundation: Association Genesi (Moratti Group), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Mapei, WeBuild, Always Africa Association, Banca Intesa Sanpaolo, ENI, VueTel, Diana Bracco, Michele Carpinelli, Jean Sebastian Decaux. E4Impact through its Global impact MBA in Entrepreneurship, International certificate in Entrepreneurship, Accelerator programs and international capacity development projects. The Foundation operates in 17 African Countries and has trained over 3,000 entrepreneurs to date. More than 11,000 jobs have been created by E4Impact Entrepreneurs.

E4Impact comes to Southern Africa

Zimbabwe wins it again! Spencer Matonhodze CUZ E4Impact alumnus scooped the year’s Gian Marco Moratti Award - a prestigious award for Impact entrepreneurs. Spencer’s business, Fanset International won the prize for the best job-creating entrepreneurial venture during the Covid -19 pandemic. Jacqueline Kiage, Innovation Eye Centre-Kisii Eye Hospital (Kenya) was a co - winner of the award.

Development which demands that universities must not only focus on teaching but focus on problem-solving for value-creation. Under Education 5.0 it is now demanded of the nation’s higher and tertiary education sector to not only: (1) teach, (2) research and (3) community serve but (4) innovate and (5) industrialise Zimbabwe. The potential to contribute to the country’s GDP has been established only if micro companies become part of the formal economy. However, with approximately 5 out of 7 new small businesses failing within the first year of establishment, the failure rate of small businesses remains a challenge. To achieve the envisioned economic growth, SMES require more support to improve their success rates. In response to the above mentioned the Catholic University of Zimbabwe (CUZ) under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor Professor Zinyemba created a team and took up the challenge in collaboration with the E4Impact Foundation an Italian organization.

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The CUZ E4Impact Team

Dennis Matandaware- Programme Leader

Charles Zhuwau- Coach

Business CUZ- E4Impact partnership merges their visions to offer holistic education building largest network of impact entrepreneurs. They are carrying this role of developing SMEs with substantial stronger growth. This is a pivotal role more partners should join in industrial development and restructuring to ensure job creation, satisfy rising local demand for products/services, allow increased specialisation and supporting larger firms with inputs and services. SMEs become engines that drive long term economic development. The Zimbabwe Italy Friendship Association (ZIMITA) is playing a role to create partnerships between the SMEs and companies of the two countries. It facilitates the access to research, education and training to widen the scope of synergies. This cooperation will build a new bridge between Italy and Zimbabwe, creating further occasions to meet and cooperate in the name of sustainable development.

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In Southern Africa they launched the Global impact MBA in partnership with CUZ in 2018 offering an action oriented dual master’s degree program in Impact Entrepreneurship targeted at a new crop of African entrepreneur’s keen to create jobs for themselves and others in their own countries. The programmes has a Coaching and Mentorship programme running parallel with participation from captains of industry and professionals. An experienced local faculty carries out the lectures supported by the international faculty doing the bootcamps in Business Model, Strategy, Finance, Go to Market and How to Pitch to an Investor. This initiative contributes to the accomplishment of five of the United Nations 2030 Sustain-able Goals, namely 4 Quality Education, 8 Decent Work; 9 Industry Innovation. The first edition of 48 Entrepreneurs graduated in January 2021 and ongoing is the 2nd and 3rd edition and enrolment of the 4th edition to start 2022 January has begun.

Highlights
• Zimbabwe has won the Gian Marco Moratti Award twice in a row
• Collaboration between businesses and the strong network they are building
• Contribution to the university- bricks donated for Innovation Hub Entrepre neurship Centre building
• PPES production in times of Covid
• Contribution to job sector
CONGRATULATIONS

Doves would like to congratulate these phenomenal ladies and gentlemen on being recognised as Zimbabwe’s Iconic Business Leaders

Admore Kandlela  
Mr Anthony Mandiwanza  
Mr. Wellington Makamure
Zimbabwe Iconic Business Leaders

Dr. Blessing Mudavanhu
Dr. Chief Langton Chikukwa
Dr. Divine Simbi Ndhlukula
Canaan F Dube
Emmanuel Anesu Fundira
Godfrey Johnson Dube
Eng. Mabasa
Isaac Chamangira
Dr. John P Mangudya
Mr. Luke Madondo


"You don’t need to do something with your life, just do something with each day – Kevin Ngo"

By Chester Dimairho

I begin to write about one of the most uncomfortable periods in a business’ growth and development. That is the “shake-out” stage. It’s probably one of the most emotional stages of a business. As it implies, the “shake-out” stage means something which were the “norm” need to be changed. Everything has to be done slightly differently. During this period, many new circumstances have changed and so has its vision. Some businesses rarely go past this stage because of the unpleasantness surrounding it. If not handled well, it has the possibility of creating a lot of animosity, resulting in a poisonous working environment. During this stage, old team members may have to leave, and new ones may join. Business processes which everyone had gotten used to will need to be changed. Old equipment may need to be replaced to deal with larger output volumes or increased quality for current output. More importantly, this stage requires the founder to literally “let go” of the business. Picture this. When a young child is growing up, the parents are very significant factors in that child’s life. When the child decides to move out from the family home, it can be a very emotional affair, with both parents fearing for the welfare of their child. This fear is justified as there are so many unknown factors. The child, on the other hand, will also be going through a lot of emotional adjustment as well. During the early days of such moving out, you may realise that the child visits often and gradually reduces the number of visits up until such a time the parents actually call their child and ask for a visit. This is pretty much what a business faces. The owner is scared, justifiably, to let the business go. Management, on the other hand, are not sure if they are up to the task to carry the added responsibilities delegated to them. Assuming that the founder was not gradually handing over responsibilities to senior management during the “growth” stage, the “shake-out” stage may prove to be a very unpleasant experience. In spite of that, “Most obstacles melt away when we make up our minds to boldly walk through them – Orison Swett Marden”.

“Chester Dimairho is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, a Public Auditor and an Associate Member of the Institute of Directors. He founded his audit firm in 2020, and the firm got two international accreditations within the same year. He is currently serving as a non-executive director to the board of Chenguzezai Depository Company. The views expressed in this article are his personal views and should not be treated as professional advice. He can be contacted at chesterdimairho@gmail.com”

SMEs and IP 22: Voluntary registration of copyright – boon or bane?

By Moses Nkomo

F rom the 20th to the 28th of August 2021, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO), together with the Government of Uganda, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau and the Intellectual property Rights and Innovation in Africa (AHIP) are hosting a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the ARIPO Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights. The background to this is that the 40th Session of the Administrative Council of ARIPO held in Harare, Zimbabwe featured from 7th to 9th December 2016, identified the need to adopt a Protocol on voluntary registration of Copyright and Related Rights under the ARIPO framework and hence approved a roadmap for the establishment of a Voluntary Registration and Notification system at ARIPO. In pursuance of the objective, a feasibility study, policy and legal framework were developed. Following approval by the 17th Session of the Council of Ministers for the Legal Framework on establishing a regional voluntary copyright registration and notification system to be formulated into a Draft Protocol for adoption, a Diplomatic conference was initially scheduled for June 2020 but was rescheduled because of the Covid19 pandemic. It finally happened in 2021.

In this article, and a few subsequent articles, we shall explore the whole issue of voluntary registration of copyright to determine whether it’s good news or bad news, whether it’s boon or bane for creators and other stakeholders in the copyright space.

One of the celebrated advantages of copyright protection over the years has been that it is free of formalities. An original work automatically attracts copyright the moment it is created. Many creators of copyright work welcome this status of the law. They would rather avoid the hassle and cost of registration formalities that is associated with other types of intellectual property like patents, trademarks and industrial designs. There is a pervasive view that the protection of intellectual property is expensive, hence the low uptake of protection in Africa. So, a situation where one is assured of automatic protection was most welcome. The prohibition of formalities for copyright protection is the result of a historical process. Before the 1886 Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, each country had its own rules for recognition of copyright in a work. Consequently, authors had to comply with formalities on a country-by-country basis. The Berne Convention introduced the principle that authors in countries which were members of the Union had to deposit the formalities imposed by the country of origin of a work. This rule was replaced in the 1908 Berlin revision of the Convention by the current principle of formalities-free protection, reflected in Article 5(b) of the present Paris Act 1971, according to which “the enjoyment and the exercise of copyright shall not be subject to any formality.” This has been the prevailing international system, with some celebrating it while others have criticised it.

The Protocol on Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights, upon its adoption, will establish a Regional Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights and create and maintain a Regional Database for Copyright and Related Rights for the ARIPO Member States. It is hoped that this will benefit members through, inter alia, enhancing an effective and efficient network between the National offices in charge of Copyright and Related Rights and the Regional office, providing an effective means of presumption as to authorship and or ownership, facilitating commercialization, stimulating more creativity, expanding markets, attracting foreign direct investment and facilitating the enforcement of rights. Several countries, especially in the developed world, have established voluntary national registration systems for copyright and sometimes also for related rights. The justification for establishing voluntary registration systems has been the view that registration facilitates the exercise of copyright and related rights by providing right owners with a simple and effective means to clearly establish authorship and/or ownership of rights. National registration and recordation systems often hold valuable information on creativity, both from a legal and economic standpoint. As an office of record, a copyright registry can make available certificates of registration, certified copies of registry documents that provide, with varying legal effect, important information on a work or other subject matter, an author or owner, through a documented chain of transfers in its present ownership. Registration can also help to define the public domain, and consequently facilitate access to creative content for which no authorization from the right owner is needed. The information contained in national registries is not only valuable in legal and economic relations but also serves the public interest by providing a source of national statistics on creativity and culture. Finally, national registries may constitute a repository of cultural and historical heritage, as they represent collections of national creativity, including works and other creative contributions.

The advent of digital technology, the overwhelming flow of content and multiplying scores of creators, often completely unidentified, justifies a renewed interest in readily available and accurate ownership data and therefore in documentation and recordation under different forms. The focus, in this regard, has been placed on the potential for registration to address some of the problems related to use of creative content including in regard to works in respect of which the copyright owner cannot be identified or located (often termed “orphan works”).

With the massive potential of the creative industries in Africa, ARIPO must be urged for taking the initiative to come up with the Protocol. One can only hope that it gets overwhelming support from the ARIPO member states on its adoption and that the member states immediately domesticate it for the benefit of the creatives out there. The real work, however, starts now! “Lead Consultant,” IPQi Business Solutions (Private) Limited, Senior Partner – DNM Attorneys Feedback to donskomoko@gmail.com +263773426600

Chester Dimairho

Moses Nkomo
ZITF, Sanganai clash

By Vimbai Kamoyo

African Development Bank (AfDB)’s US$2.5 million grants to enhance regional power regulation

By Edward Mukaro

AfDB’s US$2.5 million grants to enhance regional power regulation

NNUAL major marketing events, the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) and the Sanganai/Hlanga Nani dates are set for a near collision, as the former event has been moved to September.

The ZITF was moved from August 23-25 to September 21-24. The dates that are very close to the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) organized Sanganai affair whose dates are set for the 16th – 18th the same month, raising fear of unhealthy competition and visitors’ fatigue.

Organisers of the ZITF justified the postponement on the lockdown measures that were announced by the government.

“Following the extension of the national Level 4 lockdown announced by His Excellency, the President of Zimbabwe Cde E.D. Mnangagwa last week, the ZITF company Board & Management wishes to officially advise exhibitors, service providers, registered buyers, business visitors, and other stakeholders of the decision to postpone the 2021 edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair to 21-24 September 2021.

“The decision to postpone the fair was reached with the approval of the Government of Zimbabwe and after consultation with a wide cross-section of stakeholders. With the continued ban on inter-city travel, it has been difficult for out-of-town exhibitors to effectively plan their participation and bring in their exhibits, particularly for those without Bulawayo offices,” said the organisers in a statement.

The organisers, however, saluted their clients for their suppleness and fortitude.

“Consequently, postponing the trade-show to September provides exhibitors with more time to adequately prepare for their participation without contravening national lockdown regulations. Navigating the business landscape in these turbulent times has required an unprecedented level of agility and resilience across the board.

“We, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to commend our various stakeholders for their continued patience and forbearance in these continually evolving circumstances, whilst simultaneously apologising unreservedly for any inconvenience caused by the postponement.

“In the meantime, we urge all our participants to take advantage of this extended planning horizon and continue to prepare for their participation to ensure that the show is of the same excellent standard, which ZITF has been traditionally known for. Ensuring stakeholder safety at our events and venues remains at the top of our agenda. To that end, we have shared the ZITF 2021 Safety and Risk Management Participant Guidelines that outline the rigorous measures, which will be in effect at the show. We will continue to keep our stakeholders informed of any new developments.

“We, therefore, continue to lend our voices to calls for the public to observe the prescribed health and safety protocols, particularly to mask up (covering nose and mouth), sanitise (observe) physical distance, get vaccinated.” However, the ZTA said it was not worried a lot as their event is going to be virtual.

“I don’t think it is going to cause confusion as we are holding a virtual event,” said Godfrey Kotti the organization’s spokesperson.

The African Development Bank (AfDB)’s US$2.5 million grants to support the regulatory environment in SADC and COMESA will go a long in assisting marginalised communities to access electrical energy.

AfDB reckons that despite the ripe environment for generation of electrical energy, the SADC region is still facing challenges in lighting up homes of its rural citizenry, a situation that could soon become a thing of the past, thanks to the grants, earmarked.

Said AfDB, “Despite SADC having the highest generation capacity of all African regions and ample water, biomass, solar, and wind energy potential, energy access within the bloc, particularly in rural areas, is low.

“This is partly because of an inadequate regulatory environment, a need for new infrastructure and an overreliance on coal and hydropower,” stated the bank, in a statement.

The grants, US$1.500.00 for COMESA and US$1.000.000 for SADC, will be sourced from the African Development Fund, the Bank Group’s concessional financing window. The projects will be implemented through the Regional Association of Energy Regulators for Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA) and the Regional Energy Regulators Association of Southern African (RERA), respectively.

Grants will fund technical assistance to promote the development and adoption of regional electricity regulatory principles, enhance capacity to monitor utility performances across the region, conduct a cross-border analysis of electricity tariffs, and develop a centralized database management system in both blocs.

Mr. Elijah Sichone, Executive Director of RERA, said “these two projects will be implemented through a combination of studies, capacity building and development of tools with the objective to facilitate the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks across SADC and COMESA regions to enhance electricity trade among SADC member states as well as improve access”.

RAERESA chief executive officer, Dr. Mohamedain Seif Elnasr said, “These Projects will contribute to ensuring that soft infrastructure requirements for the development of a regional power market are addressed to complement investments in hard infrastructure that the Bank and other development partners are making in the region.”
Andrew Matibiri – A giant in agriculture

By Vimbai Kamoyo

It was often said of Jan Smuts (the apartheid South African leader) that he shied away from the media glare, but would always be in newspapers and magazines. The same can be said of Andrew Matibiri, the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society (ZAS) boss. Matibiri a giant in agriculture who was often seen as an enigma. Matibiri has risen through the ranks of a number of agriculture companies since he joined the Tobacco Research Board (TRB) in December 1993 as research officer. Matibiri stepped down from the helm of TIMB in April 2021, and was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of ZAS in August this year.

“The flexible and inclusive approach towards dialogues has enabled more than 230 stakeholders to lend their voices in shaping Zimbabwe’s position for the Food Systems Summit. "Convening these dialogues has been one way of exploring opportunities to overcome the challenges of ending hunger and poverty while protecting the planet. Given the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda, sustainable food systems can act as a powerful catalyst for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," Ribeiro said.

"Your participation has helped to turn the Food Systems Summit into a “People’s Summit,” in the truest sense of the word, despite the continued constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. I also take heart from the diverse and inclusive dialogue participants in the national and provincial dialogues. We’ve heard from a broad range of actors in the food systems valuing the inclusiveness of the dialogues.

"We've heard from a broad range of actors in the food systems valuing the inclusiveness of the dialogues. There is a sense of the food systems that promote access to and utilization of nutritious food for all Zimbabweans. This includes promoting nature positive food systems; adopting climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; making food systems more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to threats and crises. The UN endorses the Government and all stakeholders to work together and ensure broad multi-sectoral collaboration, engaging in particular, disadvantaged groups such as women and young people, toward more sustainable, climate and environmentally smart food systems that promote access to and utilization of nutritious food for all Zimbabweans.

"Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board an organization that became almost synonymous with him. "From April 2005 to February 2007 I was the Technical Services Executive Director with the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board and then from February 2007 to 30 April 2021 I was the Acting Chief Executive Officer and later (in 2009) Chief Executive Officer, Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB)," he said.

"Dr Andrew Matibiri stepped down from the helm of TIMB in April 2021 and was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of ZAS in August this year. With such vast experience, it’s only prudent that Matibiri has to share some of his knowledge with students in different colleges and universities. "I am a part-time lecturer in Genetics and Plant Breeding Courses, BSc Agriculture degree course, Crop Science department, University of Zimbabwe. Part-time laboratory demonstrator in Plant Pathology, Entomology and Nematology Courses, BSc. Agriculture degree course, Crop Science department, University of Zimbabwe. Lecturer for Plant Breeding and Advanced Plant Breeding courses, BSc. Agriculture degree course, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Zimbabwe. I have a three-month attachment to the Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Department, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, to acquire practical fungal molecular biology and biotechnology skills," said Matibiri.

By Edward Mukaro

ZIMBABWE loses up to 35 percent of its food production, through food waste and post-harvest storage spoilage, Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural re-settlement, Dr Anxious Masuka has said.

The nation is experiencing a rapid population growth and rapid urbanization, which has led to high demand for food, however, without embracing sustainable production systems that will protect the environment, efforts may be in vain.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic’s induced disruptions, Zimbabwe hosted a National Dialogue (Stage 1) on the 3rd of June 2021 and conducted Provincial level consultations (Stage 2) from 20-29 June 2021. At this 3rd Stage National authorities and stakeholder leaders exchange views about the pathways towards sustainable national food systems by 2030, while identifying the intentions and commitments of different actors.

Addressing delegates at the Third Stage Food Systems Pre-Summit National Dialogue, Dr Masuka implored producers and stakeholders in the value chain to improve storage facilities.

“The post-harvest spoilages negatively affect food safety, as infested food is less nutritious, exposes farmers to risk of infections and disease burden. Further, farmer incomes are lost through lower prices at markets. “There is need to improve storage facilities across the value chain to secure and preserve nutritional quality of the crops harvested,” he said.

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Maria Ribeiro expressed optimism of the nation’s interventions and position for the Food Systems Summit, noting the inclusive chain ranging from producers to suppliers and consumers.

“The flexible and inclusive approach towards dialogues has enabled more than 230 stakeholders to lend their voices in shaping Zimbabwe’s position for the Food Systems Summit. "Convening these dialogues has been one way of exploring opportunities to overcome the challenges of ending hunger and poverty while protecting the planet. Given the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda, sustainable food systems can act as a powerful catalyst for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," Ribeiro said.

Through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, the collective efforts of the UN and partners seek to contribute to the transformation of food systems across the various spectrums. This includes promoting nature positive agricultural production; adopting climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; making food systems more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to threats and crises. The UN endorses the Government and all stakeholders to work together and ensure broad multi-sectoral collaboration, engaging in particular, disadvantaged groups such as women and youth, towards more sustainable, climate and environmentally smart food systems that promote access to and utilization of nutritious food for all Zimbabweans.

By Vimbai Kamoyo

Post-harvest loses cost Zimbabwe 35% of food

By Dr Andrew Matibiri

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YOUths more immune to Covid-19, but bear major Covid-19 brunt’

By Wellington Zimbowa

OUNG people can withstand the Covid-19 illness strain and subsequent deaths, unlike the older generations, but will heavily bear the ugly socio-economic brunt as a result of the devastating wreak induced by the pandemic, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has noted.

In a post on its website to mark the 12 August International Youth Day, WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus acknowledged the resilience amongst youths, globally, in the wake of the horrendous pandemic.

He also noted that creativity and dedication was key in finding solutions that strengthen communities in the New Normal.

“COVID-19 may have taken the most serious physical toll on older patients, but it is young people who have experienced the brunt of the pandemic’s impact worldwide. “Young people are less at risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19, but will be the most affected by the long-term consequences of the pandemic, which will shape the world they live and work in for decades to come,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

He added that the WHO Covid-19 safety protocols, also adopted by governments across the globe to deter the disease’s spread, have hindered youth’s progress sharply.

“Stay-at-home policies and social distancing measures have interrupted youth education, made it difficult to retain or find employment, and led to an increase in mental health conditions. Many children are not progressing in school, with 101 million falling behind on reading proficiency in 2020, threatening two decades of gains in education. In the same year, global adult employment fell by 3.7%, while youth employment declined by 8.7%. The unemployment figures for young women are even more bleak, and they face additional, unique challenges, including increased vulnerability to domestic violence and child marriage,” said Dr Tedros.

This comes against a background of the WHO’s launch of the Youth Council, and the creation of Global Youth Mobilization (GYM), an initiative to invest in and replicate youth solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic.

State of roads delaying vaccination deliveries - Tsholotsho

By Edward Mukaro

TSHOLOTSHO residents have decried the shortage of COVID-19 vaccines at most vaccination-designated posts in particular Wards, a scenario that has seen residents walking for many kilometres to receive the jab.

According to details from a recent Heal Zimbabwe Community Peace Clubs (CPCs) virtual meeting, communities in Tsholotsho North have expressed concern over the prevailing situation.

Heal Zimbabwe noted, “Participants noted that most clinics in Wards 4, 8, 1 and 5 have run out of the vaccines and this has seen many people travelling to Tsholotsho centre where the vaccines are readily available. “Here in Ward 8, most clinics have run out of vaccines and most of us here are still waiting for the second dose. People are being forced to travel long distances to Tsholotsho centre where the vaccines are readily available,” said one participant.

However, state of the road network has been blamed for the shortage of vaccines.

More recently, Ministry of Health officials failed to access Ngamo clinic in Ward 3 because of the poor road network. This delays distribution of vaccines to health centres located in some remote wards, another participant stated.

Most communities in Zimbabwe are warming to the idea of getting the jab, ignoring myths surrounding vaccination, which surfaced way before the globe began vaccinations.

As of 18 August, Zimbabwe had recorded 121 498 cumulative cases, 15 480 active cases, with 101 837 recoveries, presenting a recovery rate of 84 percent.

Vaccinations done on the same day were 47 809 (first dose) and 43 572 (second dose), while, while cumulative vaccinations stood at 2 193 346 (first dose) and 1 205 922 (second dose).

The virtual meetings by Heal Zimbabwe are part of efforts to empower local communities to help safeguard against human rights abuse and also help build peaceful communities.

Heal Zimbabwe utilises various strategies to address conflicts in local communities to discuss and collectively identify ways through which they can proffer solutions to problems in their communities.

Bad roads stall vaccination - Tsholotsho’s
Arsenal have signed midfielder Martin Odegaard from Real Madrid for a fee in the region of £30m while goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale has completed a medical before a move from Sheffield United.

Norway international Odegaard, 22, spent the second half of last season on loan at the Emirates.

He made 20 appearances in all competitions and scored two goals.

England Under-21 international Ramsdale made 38 Premier League appearances for the Blades last season.

He will join Bernd Leno and Ranar Alex Runarsson as Arsenal’s goalkeepers.

“The is still some paperwork but his medical is done, still a few things to sort with Sheffield,” Gunners boss Mikel Arteta said.

“Aaron is a talented young keeper with huge experience and has international experience for England. He will bring competition and that’s what we want to create for creativity.

“He is still a really young man but he has huge experiences in clubs already and has unique talents for the way we want to play so I am really pleased the club have made the effort.”

The Norwegian joined Real Madrid from Stromgodset in 2015 but only made eight league appearances for the Spanish side.

He also spent time on loan at Heerenveen, Vitesse and Real Sociedad.

Arteta had made it clear at the end of last season that he wanted Odegaard to return to the Emirates on a permanent basis, and has since spoken about wanting to add more new signings to his squad before the transfer window closes on 31 August.

Asked what Odegaard would add to his squad, Arteta added: “A lot of things that he brought last season, he made us better, we need more options and alternatives for creativity.

“Martin Odegaard signs for the Gunners

BBC Sport

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