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MASHONALAND EAST

Bruno Shora (Marondera Magistrates' Court)

MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Holder Mangumbi (Bindura Magistrates' Court)

MASHONALAND WEST

Takesure Gora (Chinhoyi Magistrates' Court)

MATABELELAND SOUTH

Servious Dube (Gwanda Magistrates' Court)

MATABELELAND NORTH

Isaac Siyakwiye (Lupane Magistrates' Court)

EDITOR'S MEMO



Welcome to the maiden edition of Miranda for the year 2020!

We wish you a prosperous year during which we shall be giving you valuable insights on developments in the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

In this issue, we carry a special story on the need to provide shelter for witnesses at the courts of law, amid reports that people wishing to testify in the courts are being made to sleep in the open, exposed to the vagaries of weather and at the mercy of robbers.

Witnesses deserve better treatment, given their role in the settlement of cases before the courts of law. This will however, soon be a thing of the past as Acting JSC secretary Mr Walter Chikwana promised to act immediately to alleviate the situation.

The housing deal for magistrates which was entered into between JSC and the National Building Society (NBS) has taken off at a tremendous speed as the intended beneficiaries have started applying. There are two options where beneficiaries will be given finished houses and where they will be assisted with finances to build homes of their choice.

We carry in this issue, a story of a bus conductor who was jailed for bashing an additional sheriff who sought to serve him divorce papers in Bulawayo.

Cases of court officials being attacked during the course of their duties have been on the increase, spelling the need to send a clear and bold message to would-be offenders that assaulting court officials was not only against the law, but could land one behind bars.

In line with the JSC drive to enhance efficiency, eight new magistrates were sworn in. This comes at a time when the commission has fought hard to ensure there is gender balance in the magistracy. As it stands, of the 243 magistrates in service, 136 are women.

Special anti-graft courts to handle corruption cases were opened in Marondera and Bindura, bringing to seven the number of such countrywide. Plans are already underway to set up similar courts in other provinces to ensure full national coverage.

Cabinet allowed judges to serve up to the ages of 75 provided they are certified medically fit to do so by doctors.

The JSC ICT department has developed a mobile application for interaction with the commission's internal and external publics.

Enjoy for read.

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From the Secretary's Desk

Mr Walter Chikwana
Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission

This edition of the Miranda is significant in two aspects:- not only does it mark the end of 2019, but it also marks the end of a decade.

The past decade is of significance to us in the Judiciary- it was the decade of our transformation. The Judicial Service Commission, in its expanded form, was established at the beginning of the decade. Following its establishment, Zimbabwe now has a unitary judiciary. They say united we stand, divided we fall. The events of the past decade have made the old adage come true.

Not only have we, together, come up with our own strategic plan to guide our operations, but our facilities and infrastructure have been revamped in order to enhance access to justice.

We have established Regional courts in places like Beitbridge, Kadoma, Plumtree, Murehwa, Chipinge and Chiredzi. The Labour Court at Harare now has a permanent home. Masvingo and Mutare now boast of permanent High Court stations. The Supreme Court now sits as a circuit in Bulawayo and Zimbabwe now has a Constitutional Court.

Think of the JSC website; the case tracking and case management system; our own newsletter, the Miranda; our own law report and our own Service Regulations. It has all happened in the past decade.

All this would not have been possible had it not been for the commitment, dedication to duty and hard work of each

and every one of you who see to it every day that Zimbabwe gets the justice it deserves. Yes, we have had our highs, and we have also had our lows, but we have stood stronger together. As always, I am humbled to be a part of such a vibrant and life changing team.

Its game on as we head into 2020, the beginning of yet another new decade. The focus now should be on how we can further strengthen the justice delivery system. The successes of the past decade should be our stepping stones to a level higher. We will, together, relentlessly pursue our mandate as the Judiciary.

Here is wishing you a prosperous and professionally fulfilling decade.

MIRANDA WRITER

THE absence of shelter to accommodate witnesses during long trials has resulted in some sleeping in the open at night, spelling the need to build facilities to accommodate them at court stations countrywide.

The accommodation crisis is mainly experienced in rape cases or other offences handled by the Victim Friendly Court (VFC).

In cases where trials go for days, witnesses and survivors of sexual abuse, may find it impossible to walk several kilometres back home and return to court the following morning.

They end up sleeping outside court premises.

The Government may have travel allowances, but some rural parts of the country do not have reliable transport services.

All provinces have VFCs, but only two stations, Mutasa Court in Manicaland and Hwange have witnesses' quarters.

Survivors of abuse and witnesses, waiting to testify, have to endure sleeping outside, exposed to the vagaries of weather.



SC Acting Secretary Mr Chikwana

Witnesses endure nights in the open

"We still hear of unacceptable tales of survivors and other witnesses sleeping in the open while waiting to testify in court. Resources permitting, the construction of quarters to accommodate witnesses overnight near all court stations across the country, is a priority for all of us,"

Speaking at the launch of the Multi-Sectoral Protocol on the Management of Sexual Abuse and Violence in Harare recently, JSC Acting Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana expressed disquiet over accommodation challenges at most court stations.

"We still hear of unacceptable tales of survivors and other witnesses sleeping in the open while waiting to testify in court. Resources permitting, the construction of quarters to accommodate witnesses overnight near all court stations across the country, is a priority for all of us," said Mr Chikwana.

He said victims of sexual offences, especially those living with disabilities, must be well-protected.

He called for allocation of more funds to the VFC operations.

"The Commission is worried that more than 60% of the budget went towards the production of the protocol and capacitation of stakeholders.

"The budget allocated for real operations aimed at alleviating the plight of survivors and prosecution and trial of sexual abuse and violence offenders, remains inadequate, in our view," said Mr Chikwana.

Mr Chikwana urged all stakeholders

to allocate adequate resources to vital operations.

"I implore all stakeholders to prioritise core mandate aspects and consider allocating more resources to key operations," he said.

Speaking at the same event, Acting Chief Magistrate and VFC chairperson Mr Munamato Mutevedzi decried VFC's structural loopholes that need to be plugged to offer post-trial support to sexual abuse victims.

"In another major structural weakness, our system still lags behind in offering post-trial support to survivors of sexual abuse and violence. This is an important aspect of any vibrant victim friendly system," said Mr Mutevedzi.

The launch was graced by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) country representative Dr Esther Muia, Deputy Prosecutor General Mr Nelson Mutsoniwa, Save The Children representative Mrs Damasani among others.



Above and opposite page: Justice Matanda-Moyo commissions Marondera and Bindura anti-graft courts recently.

ANTI-GRAFT COURTS FOR MARONDERA, BINDURA

ANXIOUS MBALANGA AND HOLDER MANGUMBI

Judicial Service Commission (JSC) this quarter opened anti-corruption courts for Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East provinces.

The commissioning ceremony was held in Marondera, bringing to seven, the number of Special Anti-Corruption Courts that are now operational countrywide.

Officiating at the launch, Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) chairperson Justice Loice Matanda-Moyo spelt the need to have the special courts in all provinces.

"The obvious advantage presented by the establishment of the special courts is that corruption cases are

prioritised. They no longer need to join the routinely long queues which the ordinary cases go through to be heard in court.

"That results in the expeditious resolution of the cases, which in turn, boosts public confidence in Government's efforts in dealing with corruption," she said.

The ZACC boss said the country's economic recovery was heavily anchored on the eradication of corruption and all players in the administration of justice, must play part in nipping the scourge in the bud.

She noted that the opening of specialized Anti-corruption courts remains inseparable from Government's vision to transform

Zimbabwe into an upper middle-income economy by 2030. Thus every Zimbabwean has a role to play in the fight against corruption to create a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investments. However, she said fighting corruption was never a stroll in the park.

She called for teamwork in the fight saying all stakeholders in the justice delivery system, locally and internationally, must play ball.

"I must acknowledge from the onset that the on-going establishment of specialized Anti-Corruption courts across the country is an initiative adopted not only by Zimbabwe's Judicial Service Commission (JSC) but also by other jurisdictions which



are serious about tackling corruption head-on" she said.

It is from this backdrop, she said, that Zimbabwe is signatory to the SADC Protocol on corruption, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and the United Nations Convention against corruption.

Thus Justice Matanda-Moyo applauded ZACC, the police, prosecution and the JSC for cooperating in the fight against corruption in the country.

A number of high ranking public officials, have been arrested and convicted while several other cases were still pending.

However, other corruption suspects were also cleared of the charges.

Justice Matanda-Moyo implored Government to capacitate all institutions involved in the anti-graft war with the necessary resources.

She proposed the recruitment of more staff in the critical areas and improving on remuneration.

"The remuneration of all officers

for ZACC, NPA, the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecution Unit, the Special Anti-Corruption unit in the ZRP and the Judicial Officers, must be reviewed upwards to insulate them against temptations to accept bribes and other undue considerations".

Prosecutor-General Mr Kumbirai Hodzi, Minister of State for Mashonaland East Provincial Affairs Apolonia Munzverengi and Minister of State for Mashonaland Central Provincial Affairs Monica Mavhunga attended the ceremony.





A carpenter refurbishing Courtroom B at the High Court in Harare which will be used for anti-graft cases.

SPECIAL ANTI-GRAFT DIVISION FOR HIGH COURT

... five judges selected

...courtrooms under refurbishment

MIRANDA WRITER

THE Judicial Service Commission (JSC) is refurbishing two courtrooms at the Harare and Bulawayo High Court stations to accommodate a special court to effectively deal with corruption cases.

Five judges, three for Harare and two for Bulawayo, have since been identified and efforts are underway to ensure the special courts officially open early this year.

JSC Deputy Secretary Mr Sithembinkosi Msipa said the five

judges had since been formally advised of their new roles.

"We have started refurbishing one courtroom at the High Court in Harare and another one in Bulawayo to ensure the courts become operational the beginning of 2020.

"Three judges will be presiding over the cases in Harare while two others will be at Bulawayo High Court.

"The five have since been formally advised and are ready to preside over the cases once we are done with the refurbishments," he said.

Mr Msipa said the opening of the special court was in line with the

Government's anti-graft thrust to boost investor confidence and make Zimbabwe a safe investment destination.

"President Mnangagwa has since declared zero tolerance to corruption. We, as the Judiciary, support the stance and we have to play our part in curbing the scourge through effectively presiding over corruption cases. We intend to offer speedy and quality justice," he said.

Mr Msipa said the special courts will further decentralise to other provincial stations like Masvingo and Mutare.

Meanwhile, at the magistrates' courts level, the special anti-corruption courts are now operational in Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Mutare, Gweru, Marondera and Bindura.

Harare and Bulawayo were the first to be established in 2018 while five others were opened last year.

Matabeleland South and North as well as Mashonaland West provinces are yet to have anti-graft courts.



JSC develops mobile app

MIRANDA WRITER

THE Judicial Service Commission (JSC)'s Information Communication Technology (ICT) department has developed a mobile application to enhance interaction with their internal and external publics.

The application, which can be found on android and IOS phones, was designed to ensure easy access to justice by all in line with the commission's strategic plan.

Little cost is associated with the application, making it accessible to the masses.

"The ICT Department has developed a mobile application in order to accommodate a constituency of Judicial Service Commission internal and external stakeholders who have mobile devices," said the ICT manager Mr Obey Manyenga during a recent presentation.

Through the application, users can access court judgments, court rules, Statute Law, journals, cause lists, presentations made by JSC staff, court statistics and newsletters.

There is also an online suggestion box which allows litigants to send their complaints, queries, enquiries and suggestions to any court within Zimbabwe.

One does not have to travel to the courts with complaints.

Contact details of all established courts and circuit courts within Zimbabwe are accessed on the application.

Vacancies within the JSC are also accessible via the

platform.

The application is expected to offer high quality service to the public through expeditious delivery of affordable justice to all court users.

It promotes equitable access to justice through elimination of cost, infrastructure and knowledge barriers.

Affordability and accessibility are realised as people use the same data bundles they use for WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to access judgments, court rolls, Statutes and court rules.

The same data bundles can be used to send queries, enquiries, complaints and suggestions to any established and circuit courts within the borders of Zimbabwe

It will also reduce congestion at courts.

According to the strategic plan (2012-2016) page 25, JSC 's vision is to inform the public about the location of courts and offices through various channels, creation of multiple channels for dissemination of public information relating the services and operation of the JSC.

The mobile application has a contacts book where users can get the contact details (physical and postal addresses, phone numbers) of all the established and circuit courts found within Zimbabwe

The mobile application contains newsletters and annual reports which can keep members of the public aware and up to date with the work and activities being done by the organisation.



Eight new magistrates who took oath before Acting Chief Magistrate Mr Mutevedzi in Harare recently.

MIRANDA WRITER

ZIMBABWE'S judiciary now boasts of more female magistrates than males, confirming the Judicial Service Commission (JSC)'s efforts to afford opportunities to competent women in line with the Constitution.

Gender parity is now evident in the Judiciary with at least 136 women, out of a total of 243 magistrates, now on the bench.

Men have now been outnumbered with statistics showing that 107 male magistrates are currently in post.

Acting Chief Magistrate Mr Munamoto Mutevedzi disclosed this at the recent swearing in ceremony for eight new magistrates in Harare.

The eight comprised seven women and a man.

Mr Mutevedzi said JSC had succeeded in promoting gender parity as male magistrates had been outnumbered

FEMALES OUTNUMBER MALES IN MAGISTRACY

by women.

"The gender balance is skewed in favour of women and that has been a deliberate attempt to ensure that we comply with requirements of the Constitution that in every situation there be gender balance," said Mr Mutevedzi.

He said more women were enrolling with law schools, with some doing much better than their male counterparts.

"We have more female magistrates than males because there are more females who are enrolling in law school and they are doing really well." Those sworn into office in October are

Charity Mutonongera, Vavariro Gavi, Patricia Kamanda, Tamara Chivindi, Nomagugu Maposa, Grace Tupiri, Samukelisiwe Gumbo and one man, Chiuta Dube.

In an interview, Mr Mutevedzi hailed the appointment saying it will go a long way reducing the backlog of cases and improving justice delivery. The eight, Mr Mutevedzi said, were appointed after a rigorous selection and induction process.

"We believe that the new magistrates will assist in the backlog of cases. We used to have an alarming number of cases, but it's now a thing of the past," he said.

Teamwork pays off for Marondera Court

ANXIOUS MBALANGA

MARONDERA Magistrates' Court successfully hosted the commissioning of the specialised Anti-Corruption Court for Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central provinces, earning praises from the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) top echelons.

JSC secretary Mr Walter Chikwana commended staff at the court for their teamwork.

Culturally, the best sign of a warm welcome for guests is a clean, sparkling home.

Marondera Magistrate's Court is a massive establishment with one employee manning the grounds, and a few office orderlies. There are also people sentenced to do community service who also do the cleaning.

To save the situation, everyone from the magistrate all the way down the pecking order, got down to cleaning business.

If there is anything that history has taught JSC staffers is, that quality small armies with good commanders could upstage large and fierce armies at any time.

In a style reminiscent of Alexander the Great and his small but incredibly conquering Macedonian army, Mr Elisha Singano, the provincial head of Mash East province led from the front.

Just like the legendary commander, whose conquests have been attributed to the gusto that he instilled in his army, the Mash East provincial head would often times hang up his coat literary and figuratively.

According to staff members, nothing could be any more inspiring than to see the provincial head slash the grass alongside his charges, at the same time executing important deliberations for the setting up of the huge event.

Sprucing up the imposing building was a big balancing act and it meant

that everyone had to swing between their official duties and the clean-up duties.

Nevertheless, deadlines still had to be adhered to and court business was not going to screech to a halt, despite everyone being conscious of the magnitude of the impending event.

Although the demands of juggling two such tasks simultaneously sounded insurmountable switching between the tasks ran like clockwork.

At the end of the event, the Secretary, moved by sheer determination shown by Marondera Magistrate's Court staff, had appreciative words.

"What has been shown here is an example of what the JSC is all about and that is teamwork and resilience to achieve the best at all costs.

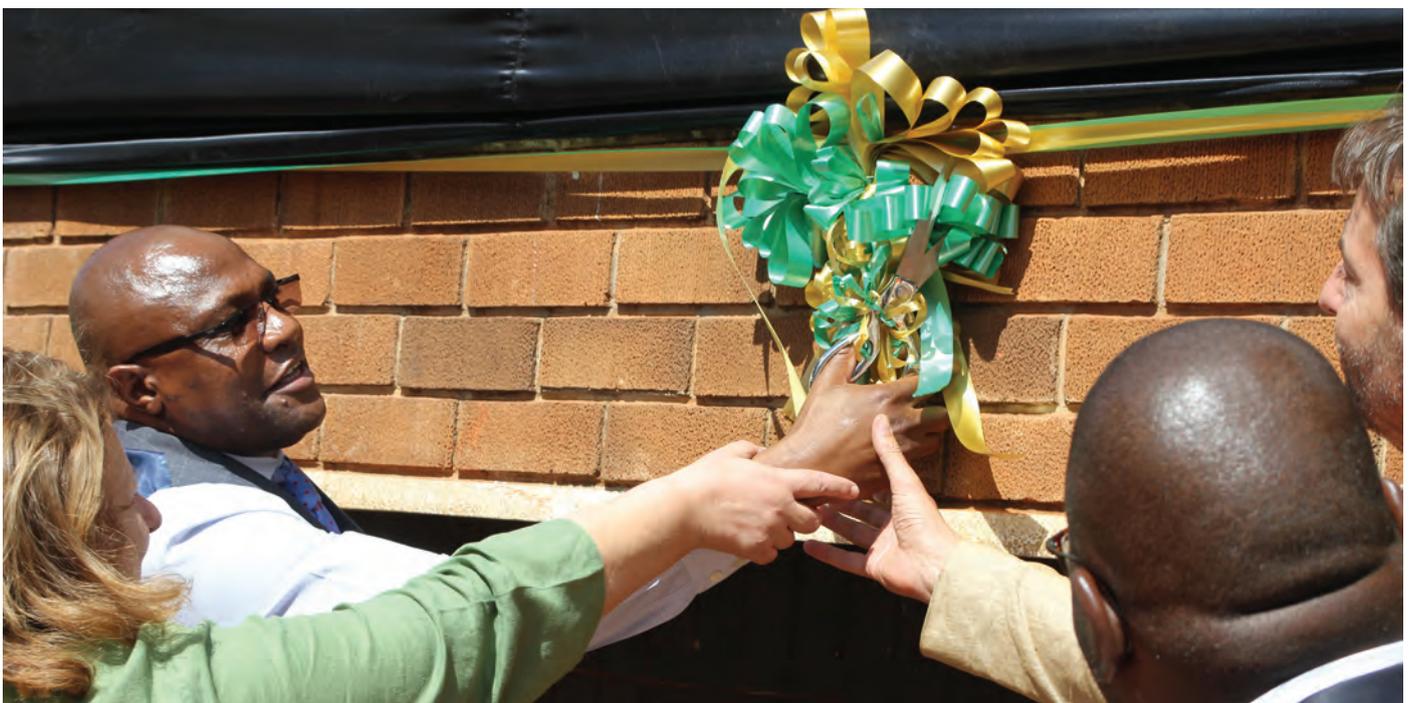
"I acknowledge how you have sacrificed your normal time, having to work into the deep hours of the evening and even performing duties that are not part of your job description. To this I say, well done,"



Marondera Magistrates Court staff pose for a group photo after the opening of the anti-corruption court in the province recently.

2019 4TH QUARTER IN PICTURES







A team of researchers who attended the Capetown training workshop.

CAPE TOWN VISIT SHARPENS RESEARCH UNIT

TARISAI MAFURA

THE recent visit to Cape Town, South Africa, by Judicial Service Commission (JSC) research assistants in October 2019 has paid off as they were exposed to a three-day tutelage in legal research components by the South African legal team.

They had a feel of a research course outside their jurisdiction to expose them to international best practice.

In an interview with The Miranda recently, JSC Head of Policy and Legal Services Mrs Faith Mushure, who was part of the delegation, expressed the research assistants' phenomenal appreciation of best international legal research tenets.

"From what the research assistants are saying, I think the training was beneficial and I want to believe that because of the components covered by the training. It expanded their

mandate and I think they are now more skilled in judgment, memo and speech writing, and in understanding legal research components," said Mrs Mushure.

She hailed the inclusion of judges' assistants in the research training programme as JSC moves with speed to cascade research services to the High Court and Labour Court.

Research services were mainly utilised by Constitutional and Supreme court judges.

"The incorporation of judges' assistants into the research training programme was informed by the need to expand research services to High Court and Labour Court judges," she said.

High Court research assistant Mr Bright Machezana described the training as an eye-opener.

Machezana said they learnt core principles of judicial ethics,

understanding basic principles of judgment and judicial memo writing, to be able to access necessary legal research tools among an avalanche of important judicial legal components.

"We actually learnt a lot and all the legal components instilled in us will go a long way in making our research work effective.

"The trainers also showed us data bases that are user- friendly and that promote efficiency in justice delivery. That was an eye opener and it has made our work easier when doing my research, writing legal memos and opinions," he said.

JSC sent out 19 research assistants to attend the training course.

The training, which ran from October 21 to 23 2019, was facilitated by the Judicial Institute for Africa and fully sponsored by the International Commission of Jurists in collaboration with JSC.

Top judges to serve up to 75 years



Minister Ziyambi

MIRANDA WRITER

CABINET recently approved the amendment of the Constitution of Zimbabwe to enable the Chief Justice, his deputy and other judges of the Supreme and Constitutional Courts to work beyond the age of 70.

The retirement age for judges of the High Court, Labour Court and the Administrative Court remains 70.

The rest of other civil servants retire at the age of 65.

According to the 45th Cabinet meeting decision matrix, Cabinet considered and approved the

Constitutional Amendment Bill, which the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Ziyambi presented as chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation.

The Bill seeks to allow top judges to continue working for an additional five years on condition they produce medical proof of fitness.

"The Chief Justice, the Deputy Chief Justice, and judges of the Supreme and Constitutional Courts will hold office until they reach the age of 70 years, and thereafter may have their contracts renewed annually,

upon production of a medical fitness certificate for a period not exceeding five years," read part of the minutes.

A number of judges of the superior courts have separately retired in the past four years after reaching 70.

The late former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe Godfrey Chidyausiku retired at 70 in early 2017.

Justices Vernandah Ziyambi and November Mtshiyi called it quits in 2016 at the same age.

In November 2017, Justice Lawrence Kamocha also retired at 70.



EU, UN TO HELP ZIM FIGHT GBV

TARISAI MAFURA

THE European Union (EU) and United Nations (UN) have pledged to support Zimbabwe's fight against gender-based violence (GBV) through capacitating stakeholders in the justice system to effectively deal with the scourge.

Representatives of the two international organs threw their weight behind the Government at the commissioning of the 2019-2020, "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" in Harare recently.

UN Ambassador Ms Maria Gomes Do Valle Ribeiro and EU Deputy Head of Delegation Mr Thomas Von Handel vowed to escalate fight against all forms of violence against women and girls.

Mr Handel called for swift action on all cases of violence against women

and girls and lauded the Spotlight Initiative, a programme between the EU and the UN in partnership with the Government and civic organizations, as an effective way to combat gender-based violence.

"The EU joins the call to act swiftly and decisively against rape and all other forms of violence against women and girls.

"The Spotlight Initiative aims to end sexual and gender violence in a comprehensive manner by focusing on legislative and policy frameworks, strengthening institutions, working on prevention and changing social norms, delivery of services, data collection and supporting gender equality in general," said Mr Handel.

Said Mrs Ribeiro: "UN is working to end all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030 in line

with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Zimbabwe's justice system will indeed benefit under the Spotlight programme from the capacitation programme and be able to discharge its mandate in addressing gender-based violence," Ms Ribeiro said.

Speaking at the same occasion, JSC Acting Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana reiterated JSC's firm commitment to curb sexual and physical abuse.

"I wish to applaud all partners who have come together with us especially the UN women and to congratulate you for organising an event of that nature."

Zimbabwe joined the rest of the world in observing 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.



All now set for construction work at Epworth Magistrates' Court in Harare. Material is now on site

VETERAN MAGISTRATE KADYE RETIRES

HOLDER MANGUMBI

AFTER 36 years of dedicated service, Bindura provincial magistrate Mr Eric Kadye retired on September 13 2019 at the ripe age of 65.

A colourful ceremony was held at Nyuke Lodge in Bindura to celebrate Mr Kadye's illustrious service to the Judiciary.

He retired after working at various court stations countrywide.

Those who worked with Mr Kadye spoke glowingly of him describing him as a mentor.

Provincial magistrate Mr Nixon Mangoti said the retired judicial officer had taught him how to handle pressure at work.

"Being a magistrate entails a number of responsibilities and is associated with work-related pressure.

"Mr Kadye groomed us and taught us how to manage pressure. He also taught us to be humble," he said.

National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) representative Mrs Alice Mujakachi described Mr Kadye as a fountain of knowledge and a mentor who executed his duties with wisdom.



Mr Kadye

A court interpreter Mr Lewis Ranjisi, who worked with Mr Kadye for a considerably long period of time, described him as a father figure who provided guidance and protection to his subordinates and colleagues.

In his farewell remarks, Mr Kadye said: "I am happy to leave JSC with a clean



Mr Kadye and provincial Magistrate Mr Mangoti share lighter moments during the farewell party

record.

"I would like to thank you all, members of the JSC, NPA and other stakeholders for the time we had together.

"We had a sound working relationship and it is my prayer that God guides and protects you in all your endeavors," said Mr Kadye.



NBS model houses

MIRANDA WRITER

MOST magistrates have submitted applications for mortgages and loans to the National Building Society (NBS) as the housing deal to empower judicial officers with houses takes off.

In September last year, the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) and NBS signed a memorandum of understanding to provide mortgages for judicial officers. All magistrates, in terms of the deal that was sealed recently, are now legible for the mortgages and have the option to buy complete houses or to get funding to develop their own stands.

Early November, magistrates started submitting their papers at the JSC head office, but Circular Number 4 of 2019 directed them to approach the bank directly with their papers for processing of the loans and mortgages.

JSC human resources manager Mr Sam Mutendamambo said the response by magistrates was overwhelming.

"A number of magistrates have shown interest in the housing deal and are submitting their applications at the bank.

"At first, several had sent their papers here but we later directed them to the bank," he said.

JSC Circular 4/2019 reads: "Applicants will individually visit any of NBS branches and approach the branch manager or customer service manager for the calculation of loan amount available.

HOUSING DEAL FOR MAGISTRATES TAKES OFF

"These officers have already been directed to receive and process the applications..."

"A number of magistrates have shown interest in the housing deal and are submitting their applications at the bank.

"At first, several had sent their papers here but we later directed them to the bank,"

The bank will consider a number of factors before allocating each judicial officer the mortgage loan limit.

"The limit will depend on the income level of the individual, taking into account other factors such as age, remaining years before retirement, whether one has other facilities already in existence, net income and others," reads the circular.

Over the past years, JSC has been promising to provide decent accommodation to magistrates, but this time the Commission has walked the talk.

Speaking after the signing ceremony at JSC head office in Harare, Acting Secretary Mr Walter Chikwana hailed the partnership, saying it will go a long way in easing accommodation challenges.

Mr Chikwana said the undesirable situation where magistrates lodge at criminals' houses will soon be history.

He said the move will promote judicial independence.

RUSAPE VFC SUB-COMMITTEE TACKLES CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

BRUNO SHORA

A SINGLE bracelet does not jingle.

Everything requires team effort to achieve the best results. Authorities must have seen the wisdom in the old adage and explored ways of dealing with child sexual abuse, which has become a menace in our society.

The courts alone, even if they are to pass long sentences to offenders, may not succeed in ending child sexual abuse.

This is the reason why the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has always advocated a multi-sectorial approach in dealing with sexual abuse cases.

This initiative brings together all stakeholders involved in handling sexual abuse matters.

Already, representations have been made at ministerial, directors' and commissioners' levels in the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), National Prosecution Authority (NPA), the Department of Social Welfare, The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service (ZPCS), Civic Society and the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, to mention but a few. The same model has been decentralised to almost all districts in which there is a Regional Court.

On November 1, 2019 and at Rusape Magistrates Court, delegates gathered for what has become a monthly Indaba in which issues relating to sexual abuse cases are deliberated upon.

Those who attended the meeting include Rusape District Medical Officer, Dr Tendai Nyafesa and representatives from the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS), Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Social Welfare Department, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and a

non-governmental organisation called "CATCH".

Rusape Regional Magistrate Mrs Lucie Anne Mungwari chaired the meeting.

A wide range of issues were tabled. The house was very much grateful to the olive branch which is usually extended by members of the civic society, particularly Simukai Trust who usually provide overnight accommodation and meals to court witnesses, who would have travelled from afar and cannot get back since it will be late.

The delegates also reiterated the need for transport vouchers and more money to be channelled towards sexual abuse court witnesses who have to travel from faraway to get to court.

More often than not, such witnesses have failed to travel to court due to high travel costs and at times, this has negatively affected the desire to expeditiously finalise rape cases.

Dr Nyafesa took the house through the paces of what happens at a medical centre from the time a survivor is brought for medical examination. He explained what they look at in order to determine whether penetration was effected or not. Apparently this is a very crucial aspect in rape matters and usually, amongst other factors, the court has to rely on such medical evidence in order to make a determination. Another area which the medical personnel assists the court with is availing age estimate reports for young offenders and survivors most of whom do not have birth certificates. Unfortunately, the police was struggling to timeously obtain age-estimate reports since some medical officers have not been coming to work citing incapacitation.

Dr Nyafesa also promised to assist ZPCS, if approached, in ensuring that inmates who require mental assessment also get such timeously.

This is also important as in some cases the court needs to be clear on the mental status of an offender before a rape trial starts.

Mrs Mungwari was also concerned by the fact that most rape victims were being brought to court in school uniforms, something which goes against the basic tenets of a Victim Friendly Court concept and also the need to protect the identity of minors.

The police promised to bring a stop to that.

A representative from CATCH said he had at times encountered sexual abuse survivors who will be out of time for the administration of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

He appealed to the police, that should they be facing any challenges in taking victims for the administration of PEP within 72 hours, they should communicate since there are some partners with emergency funds to take care of such situations.

On December 6 top police provincial leadership attended the meeting. Assistant Commissioner Henry Dhlakama, responsible for crime attended the meeting in the company of his colleagues.

Asst Comm Dhlakama did not mince words as, with a military voice, he stressed the police's main objective of eradicating crime, rape included.

The presence of such senior officers in these meetings has provided solution to some sticking issues or stumbling blocks in the investigation and finalisation of rape cases.

Such challenges include failure to timeously serve witnesses, effecting warrants of arrest and bringing exhibits such as knives and torn pants to court.



BASHING SHERIFF BACKFIRES FOR BUS CONDUCTOR

MIRANDA WRITER

A **BULAWAYO bus conductor was recently jailed three months for beating up an Additional Sheriff who sought to serve him divorce papers.**

The conductor (name withheld) who was embroiled in a messy divorce with his estranged wife, on November 19 last year slapped the Additional Sheriff Ms Tsitsi Muskwe and strangled her in full view of travelers and bus crews in the Bulawayo central business district (CBD).

Ms Muskwe was injured and publicly embarrassed for simply doing her job. The Additional Sheriff had been instructed to serve the man with a notice of set down amid reports that he intended to travel to South Africa the same day.

Ms Muskwe was offered a lift by the man's wife and they went to the bus terminus with the papers.

While at the rank, the woman positively identified her estranged husband and asked the Additional Sheriff to serve him with the notice of set down.

All hell broke loose when the Additional Sheriff approached the man with the papers.

The man turned violent and rejected service.

He shouted at the Additional Sheriff and caused a scene that attracted his fellow conductors and other people.

Upon noticing that the man was being incited by his colleagues to reject the papers, she placed the papers on his feet and considered him served.

Consumed with rage, the man charged towards his wife's car where the Additional Sheriff was heading, pulled the keys from the ignition and slapped her in the face.

He strangled her and banged her against the car door in fury.

The man only stopped assaulting the sheriff after his wife begged him to stop.

Muskwe then proceeded to the Bulawayo Central Police Station where she filed a report.

Investigations led to arrest and prosecution of the man.

The safety of the members of the Sheriff's office is at stake and a number a number of them have either been verbally harassed or assaulted while on duty.

Recently, an Additional Sheriff was assaulted by overzealous council officers while attaching property at Gweru Town Council.

The officers were jailed for the offence and the High Court later awarded the Additional Sheriff civil damages to the tune of \$4 500.

AGAINST CORRUPTION TOGETHER

Corruption is not incurable
Indeed, it is a grave cancer,
But pretty much manageable
And seldom insoluble;
Only if we abstain
And feign not, but innovate our lofty leap from strain
We will make corruption history!
A golden triumph which mustn't be a mystery
To our neighbours and posterity
That a treacherous culture of impunity
And brazen abuse of office
Is like mass murder or outrageous arson
By which reason
We must indefatigably act against corruption together.

BY NYASHA M. MUDZIPURWA

ONLY IF

Only if you ponder
Way, way yonder
Only if you hear
Only if you see
Only if you smell
Only if you feel
Only if you taste
The untold, grave repercussions,
Never will you be seduced
To indulge in cancerous corruption
And, behind bars, break down with sobbing lamentations
Only if I had known
Only if I had known

BY NYASHA M. MUDZIPURWA



LEGAL CODEBREAKER QUIZ NO.13

BY MAYOR

The words required to fill this puzzle answer to the clues to your right.

Each number in the grid represents the same letter throughout.

	21	13	13	2	21	11	14	
	19		2		10		8	
9	5	7	12	2	14	14	2	14
	12		4		6		11	
	15		5		16		17	
17			12		12			11
3	5	12	15		4	16	20	2
16								1
22	21	3	23		24	18	3	25

EXTRA CLUE: Along the yellow blocks below reads something meaning OUTCOME

WORKING SPACE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



Comments & Suggestions Welcome
+263776367719



CLUES	ANSWERS
Flee court appearance(7)	
Firing(5)	
Complains to higher court(7)	
Charge(4)	
Panel of judges(4)	
Fall asleep while seated(4)	
Awaiting(7)	
Bible book(4)	
Cartel(4)	
Ledge(5)	
Those who saw(9)	
Since(4)	

SOLUTIONS FOR NO.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	O	C	K	E	T	S	L	I	M	A	N	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	H	Q	B	U	F	P	Y	X	V	G	W	Z



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