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THE MIRANDA

M A G A Z I N E

March 2022

27th Edition



JSC COMMEMORATES WOMEN'S MONTH



JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER





Editor's NOTE

The year 2022 started on a high and positive note, the number of events, activities and milestones recorded thus far attest to JSC's eagerness to achieve set targets. There is no time for procrastination and or slumber the commission is moving.

We are proud to bring you the first copy of the year 2022. The feedback we have been receiving from you, our readers has greatly shaped our editorial and we are on a continuous quest to improve the MIRANDA.

In this edition we bring you highlights of events that took place in the 1st Quarter of 2022 including the Legal year opening, the official opening of the virtual courts and the Judges' Symposium. We also bring you a Grooming and Etiquette article, the JSC Women's day wellness program and so much more.

The Secretary resumed his Monitoring and Evaluation (M and E) visits to provinces during this quarter and his first port of call was Mashonaland West. The practical M and E visits resulted in some necessary

interventions being implemented. Out of the whole province, Kariba Magistrates' Court scored very high and recorded an impressive performance. Kudos to Kariba!!! Keep up the good work. Turning to COVID-19, many of us have let the guard down in our response to the deadly virus, we have become comfortable, infact, we seem to have become very familiar with the virus and many of its variants. Let me remind you dear readers that the virus is still aggressive and claiming lives. Let's mask up, sanitize and social distance.

Share your feedback with us on krusakaniko@gmail.com, follow and like our social media pages @JSCZim on twitter and @Judicial Service Commission on Facebook.

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MIRANDA TEAM

Kudzai Rusakaniko | Shepherd Chibune
Tarisai Mafura | Obvious Magaso

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From the Secretary...



MR. W. T. CHIKWANA
Judicial Service Commission
Secretary

It has only been three months into the year and oh my goodness! We have made so much progress! The opening of the 2022 Legal year set the tone for our vision this year and we are riding on a wave of implementing and achieving all our set targets. I am quite optimistic about this year and the milestones we have achieved thus far are any measurement of what we will attain in 2022, then I can confidently say the future looks bright!

For us, this year is for walking the talk guided by our strategic priority areas. We have to make justice accessible and in pursuit of that goal, we have a number of construction projects that are at different levels of completion. We are also rolling out IECMS which will enhance our justice delivery system through the use of technology. Our focus is on delivery and nothing short of that.

Of note this quarter were our preparations for the official opening of the Commercial Court Division of the High Court of Zimbabwe. We are going paperless and this court represents the future but most importantly our seriousness in dealing with investment disputes as a country. We are cognizant of how this particular court contributes to our status on the ease of doing business rankings. Government is luring foreign direct investments and in support of that vision

we are operationalizing a commercial court with world class standards. Our efforts are aligned with Government's vision underpinned by NDS 1.

Our Monitoring and Evaluation exercise has proven to be a powerful and practical tool that unearths operational gaps and provides necessary timely interventions. JSC has efficiency running at the core of its operations and my visit to Mashonaland West gave me insights that led to the formation of the Transport and Logistics Department. Considering the fleet that is managed by the authority, this move was long overdue. We wish the new baby and its leadership all the best.

As we close this first quarter, I encourage you all to roll up your sleeves and position yourselves for increased efficiency and success on all fronts. We are a team and we should move as such, let us all constantly read the 'CJ Asks' that are in our offices. We should never be on a frolic of our own but on a constant quest to achieve our goals collectively. It would be remiss for me not to reiterate that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, dear colleagues, we are pushing for automated courts so that we do not have to close courts due to a COVID-19 outbreak. I encourage you to safeguard your health and follow all the laid down procedures. Mask up, sanitize and social distance!

INAUGURAL CHIEF JUSTICE'S DINNER



Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Luke Malaba

It was glitz and glamour at the inaugural Chief Justice's dinner. Invited guests perfectly understood the theme and dressed in immaculate regency ball gowns for ladies and designer suits for men. In royalty fashion, guests were treated to a grand entry characterized by a red carpet all the way into the venue and photoshoots on decorated backdrops.

The major objective of the night was to introduce the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) to stakeholders with key players such as the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Law Society of Zimbabwe endorsing and committing to the successful implementation of the system.

The Chief Justice of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Mr. Luke

Malaba officiated at the event and emphasized that the dinner created a platform for the Judiciary to meet with its partners and continue with the conversation on how JSC intends to roll out the IECMS to stakeholders as well as to litigants. He added that the system which marks the genesis of a new age in the history of the Judiciary and the contemporary system of doing business, will do away with the traditional means of administering justice that have become incompatible with the exponentially increasing demand for court services and the constitutional obligation of ensuring an efficient judiciary.

The key take away from the dinner was the issue of collaboration and interactions among stakeholders in the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) as this is a key ingredient in the roll out of IECMS. There is no going back on the implementation of IECMS!



JSC RECEIVES 5 NEW BUSES FROM THE PRESIDENT



His Excellency, President Emmerson Mnangagwa handing over bus keys to the JSC Secretary Mr. Walter Chikwana

By Shepherd Chibune.

His Excellency, President Emmerson Mnangagwa has allocated five buses to the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) as part of the Second Republic's drive towards capacitating government institutions and employees.

The brand new buses were received by the JSC Secretary, Mr. Walter Chikwana on behalf of the Commission during a ceremony held at State House on 28 February 2022. Speaking during the handover ceremony, President Mnangagwa said government was highly cognizant of the transport needs of state owned arms and line Ministries hence efforts were being directed towards the provision of buses and establishment of a coordinated transport system.



JSC management pose for a photo during the hand over ceremony of the buses

JSC INTEGRATES WITH STAKEHOLDERS.

By Shepherd Chibune



Honourable Minister K. Kazembe

...the move further attests to the seriousness of the Judiciary and other key stakeholders in ensuring the proper administration of justice.

The Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Honorable Kazembe Kazembe has applauded the Chief Justice, Hon Chief Justice Mr. Luke Malaba and the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) on the introduction of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) which will be rolled out in the 2nd quarter of 2022.

Minister Kazembe reiterated the benefits of the system while addressing delegates on the occasion of the inaugural Chief Justice's dinner at Rainbow Towers Hotel in Harare on the 10th of January this year.

"I am particularly impressed by the fact that for the system to operate at an optimum level, integration with other key stakeholders in the justice delivery system is required. This literally means all stakeholders will move at the same wave length and I am advised that the implementation of the system will have a positive impact on the effective and efficient delivery of justice. This is fundamental to the maintenance of the rule of law and the achievement of an

efficient justice delivery system."

He further revealed that the move further attests to the seriousness of the Judiciary and other key stakeholders in ensuring the proper administration of justice. He added that they 'feel honored as the Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage to be part of this journey' and it is his 'hope that the system will indeed smoothen the wheels of justice for the betterment of Zimbabwe".

Hon. Kazembe reassured stakeholders that his Ministry will continue to rally behind the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) in the implementation of the IECMS by providing them with the necessary hardware such as computers and laptops and also ensuring that they get the requisite trainings.

Turning to corruption, Hon. Kazembe said his Ministry has experienced "corrupt related tendencies where fake marriages are issued and are used to commit heinous crimes in the country". He also exhorted the Judiciary to include other departments like the marriages registry onto the system.

JSC addresses Prisoners' complaints.

By Shepherd Chibune

“prisoners are human beings who also have the right to be heard and to be treated justly”

Stakeholders have applauded the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) for the manner in which it receives and addresses complaints by prisoners saying the move demonstrates efficiency within the justice delivery system. Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services, Commissioner General Moses Chihobvu said “worth noting is the great service the Judicial Service Commission has been providing for our prisoners. The Judicial Service Commission

has been receiving and addressing complaints by prisoners, in cases in which prisoners are dissatisfied with the decision or conduct of a judicial officer. He added that “prisoners are human beings who also have the right to be heard and to be treated justly” and the service being offered by the JSC “has seen prisoners being assisted to obtain their transcribed records of proceedings from the courts for the purposes of appeals”. The JSC “has also assisted prisoners in so many other ways further enhancing

the quality of justice delivery in our nation especially in these Covid-19 times we live in”. JSC has established virtual courts at the High Court and Harare Magistrates’ Court in Harare which link up with the Harare Central and Chikurubi Maximum Prisons through the Zimbabwe Virtual Court Management System (ZVCMS). The system allows prisoners to be remanded virtually, thereby eliminating physical appearances in courts.



Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services, Commissioner General Mr. M. Chihobvu

We are partners -ZRP

By Shepherd Chibune

The move by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to enhance access to justice for all by establishing more courts across the country has been applauded by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP). This was said by the Police Commissioner General Godwin Matanga at the Chief Justice's dinner.

"As the Zimbabwe Republic Police, I can testify that we stand to benefit the most from all these developments. Increasing the number of courts ensures that cases are brought before the courts and heard expeditiously", he said.

The Police Commissioner General added that "accused persons are therefore acquitted or convicted timeously as per the nations Constitution resulting in high maintenance of law and order. The Judicial Service Commission has therefore made execution of our duties as the police force in Zimbabwe much easier".

Commissioner General Matanga further assured the nation that the police shall "continue to work together with the Judicial Service Commission in a smart and coordinated manner to ensure that all citizens enjoy a crime-free Zimbabwe.

“

As the Zimbabwe Republic Police I can testify that we stand to benefit the most from all these developments. Increasing the number of courts ensures that cases are brought before the courts and heard expeditiously

”



The Commissioner General of Police, Mr. G. T. Matanga



Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi officially commissioning the Virtual Court

First ever Virtual Court commissioned

By Tarisai Mafura

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has commissioned the first virtual court system at the Harare Magistrates' court, a development that is set to enhance efficiency in justice delivery. Virtual courts are accessed online through video-conferencing and tele-conferencing. The first phase of the virtual court system links Harare Magistrates' court and Harare High Court with Chikurubi Maximum and Harare Remand Prison.

Speaking at the launch of the virtual court system on the 7th of February 2022, Chief Justice Hon. Mr. Luke Malaba said the virtual court system enhances the processes of

conducting court business. "When court proceedings are held virtually, it is convenient not only to the court officials including judicial officers, but also to the litigating public. The digitization of courts is the way to go as it is now part of international best practices. The Chief Justice added that the virtual court system is the panacea to transport woes that usually affect the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS) as inmates can now appear through the virtual hearing platform. "Through the virtual hearing platform, it is no longer necessary for them to appear physically in court. They can interact with the court virtually whilst they are at prison. They can even make an application for bail virtually.

He expressed gratitude to various stakeholders such as Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs ministry, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the government and Law Society of Zimbabwe for



Chief Justice Mr. L. Malaba addressing delegates



Delegates following Virtual Court proceeding



JSC staff during Virtual Court demonstration

their support in enhancing the administration of justice. Virtual courts have been installed at Chinhoyi Court Complex, Bindura Magistrates' Court and Marondera Magistrates' Court and it is an ongoing exercise which will result in the installation of equipment across the 10 provinces. Countries that have successfully implemented virtual court system include South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, Gambia, India and England.

Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, the then Prosecutor General Mr. Kumbirai Hodzi, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representative Ms. Mia Seppo and officials from Security Services sector attended the official launch of the virtual court system.

End of first term Judges' symposium held

By Kudzai Rusakaniko



Scenes from the Judges' end of first quarter Symposium in Masvingo



The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) through the Judicial Training Institute of Zimbabwe (JTIZ) successfully conducted the end of 2022 first term symposium for Judges which allows the latter to engage on matters pertaining to their performance and appraisal of work done in the first quarter of the Judicial calendar.

A total of 59 Judges drawn from the Constitutional, Supreme and High Courts attended the symposium which was held on the 1st and 2nd of April 2022 in Masvingo.

In his opening remarks at the symposium, Honourable Chief

Justice Mr. Luke Malaba told Judges that the adoption of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) is imminent and he implored them to embrace the system which will be launched on 1 May 2022.

"The topical issue at the moment is the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS). There is no going back on IECMS. Inclination to hang on to the old methods would not help. It is not your choice (Judges) not to get integrated," Chief Justice Mr. Malaba told the judges.

The Chief Justice commented on the topic of 'Precedence' which was presented by one of the invited guests, Professor

Lovemore Madhuku. He said "it speaks to the Judges' sense of belonging; it speaks to a Judges' sense of identity in an objective legal self; ... this is a topic that has been deliberately chosen to ensure that Judges do not act like stray missiles". He also said that is where discipline and jurisprudence come from.

Honourable Chief Justice Mr. L. Malaba exhorted the judges to be good ambassadors of the Judiciary outside their workplaces. He also told the delegates that the Judge President will soon nominate Judges of the Commercial Division of the High Court.

Bristol House nears completion

By Shepherd Chibune and Tarisai Mafura

The Chief Justice Hon. Mr. Luke Malaba toured Bristol house on the 28th of February 2022, to assess the progress made in the construction of the first paperless court in Zimbabwe. The construction of the court began in 2019 and is expected to be completed by the end of the 1st quarter of 2022.

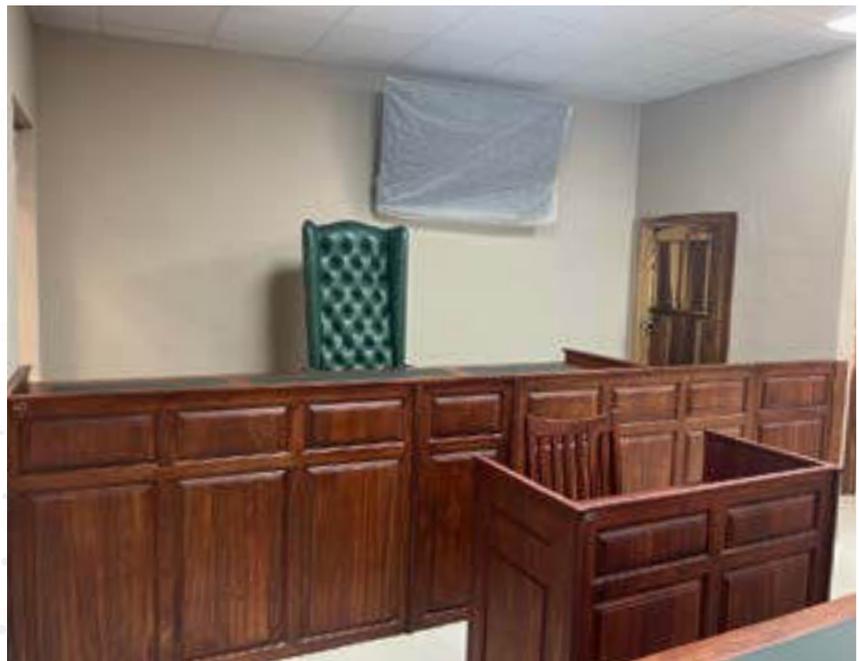
Considered to be a national project, the first commercial court in Zimbabwe will deal with investment matters and improve Ease of Doing Business in Zimbabwe.

Chief Justice Malaba expressed satisfaction with the standard of workmanship and level of commitment by JSC. He urged contractors to meet the deadlines and ensure that all stages are completed by the launch date.

The High Court (Commercial Division) rules were gazetted as statutory Instrument 123 of 2020 which birthed the Commercial Division of the High Court. The rules resulted in the transfer of all commercial disputes before the High Court to the new Commercial Division.

The Commercial Court will be totally paperless and pleadings will be filed electronically through IECMS..

...the first commercial court in Zimbabwe will deal with investment matters and improve Ease of Doing Business in Zimbabwe.





Commercial Court set to oil wheels of doing business



By Tarisai Mafura

The coming on board of the Commercial Court Division of the High Court and its imminent automation has set the right tone for accelerating ease of doing business and attracting the much needed foreign direct investment into the country.

In an interview with The Miranda, Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) Chief Investments and Corporate Affairs officer, Mr. Tino Kambasha welcomed the establishment of the Commercial Court Division of the High Court describing it as an exciting phase that improves the business operating environment. He called for collaboration among public and private institutions to create an enabling business environment which entice investors.

Mr. Kambasha added that their mandate to promote and protect investment in the country is complimented by several government institutions including the Judiciary. “The Zimbabwe



Mr. Tino Kambasha

Investment and Development Agency is tasked with investment, promotion and protection of investments and this is complimented by various arms of government, specifically the Judiciary,” said Mr. Kambasha.

IECMS IN SYNC WITH NDS1

By Tarisai Mafura

THE Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) spearheaded by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) is a massive government project in sync with the National Development Strategy 1, Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Luke Malaba has said. Various government institutions have ratcheted up transformative drives through the adoption of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and JSC is working round the clock to implement IECMS. The Chief Justice said IECMS is a massive national government project which has been deliberately undertaken by the Judiciary in recognition of the transformative objective of the Judiciary. He said it would be difficult to successfully implement the IECMS project without government support and implored government to ceaselessly provide resources to the Judiciary.

Meanwhile, synergies among government institutions have also been lauded by Chief Justice Mr. Malaba, intimating that all government institutions are created under the auspices of the constitution to serve people.

“The coming in of the ICT Ministry demonstrates the kind of cooperation that the Judiciary is seeking with other institutions of government. The Judiciary is part of government; it is not an institution standing on its own. We are all children of the Constitution and the Constitution created all these institutions of government to serve the people,” added the Head of the Judiciary, Chief Justice Mr. Malaba.

“The coming in of the ICT Ministry demonstrates the kind of cooperation that the Judiciary is seeking with other institutions of government...”



Judges attending the ICT training in Harare

ICT TRAINING FOR JUDGES COMPLETE

By Tarisai Mafura

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) through the Judicial Training Institute of Zimbabwe (JTIZ) in collaboration with the Information Communication Technology Ministry equipped judges and judicial officers with requisite ICT skills through a two-week ICT training held in Harare.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the end of training, Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Luke Malaba said the ICT training will greatly improve the administration of justice. “The training is intended to improve the judiciary’s ability to use computer hardware. Following the completion of the trainings and the launch of the IECMS, court productivity will be drastically improved at both the individual

and institutional level. Judgements and court documents will be shared and produced electronically,” said Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Malaba.

He added that IECMS is the best antidote to corrupt tendencies by Judicial officers and stakeholders in justice delivery system. “Most importantly, we are able to maintain our dignity as Judicial officers because it is not easy to approach a Judge in a set-up of this nature (IECMS) and try to corrupt that Judge. And it is not easy for the judge who is corruption minded to do it without being detected. The system has an inherent disciplinary function.” Judges received ICT training in batches since July 2021 and all Judges have successfully completed ICT course.



Delegates pose for a photo after the certification ceremony

Circuit courts explained

By correspondent

ZIMBABWE has a total of 53 Magistrates' Courts and 43 Circuit Courts dotted across the country's ten provinces. Of the ten provinces, six of them have more than three circuit courts while the other four have one or two of these courts.

Manicaland and Mashonaland West have the highest number which stands at nine for both provinces followed by Matebeleland South which has seven, Mashonaland central six while Masvingo and Mashonaland East provinces have three circuit courts each. Midlands and Harare provinces have two circuit courts each while Matebeleland North and Bulawayo Metropolitan Provinces have one each.

Circuit Courts for superior courts sit in Gweru

and Hwange for the High Court, Bulawayo for the Supreme Court while the Labour Court Circuits are in Mutare, Hwange and Masvingo.

Circuit courts require Judges to travel to different areas to ensure wide visibility and understanding of the cases in a region. These courts hold trials and other proceedings in some kind of rotation at a series of multiple locations. They also sit in more than one place in a judicial district as a state court usually with original jurisdiction and sometimes with appellate jurisdiction.

Some circuit judges specifically deal with civil or criminal cases while some are authorized, in some instances, to hear public and or private law family cases.

Long Serving Interpreter Hangs the mic

By Sheriffah Ndlovu.



Mrs. Thandiwe Tshuma

Veteran interpreter, Mrs. Thandiwe Tshuma, also known as Sis Thandi has bid farewell to the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) after an illustrious career spanning decades.

Mrs. Tshuma joined the Commission in July 1987 at Tredgold in Bulawayo when prospective interpreters were required to have at least 3 local languages over and above English. She was among the first group to be trained in Victim Friendly Courts (VFC) where she was trained to be a trainer of intermediaries and would only go to other stations on relief. Among her duties, she did High Court circuits in Gweru and Hwange and dealt with Supreme Court appeals every end of High Court term.

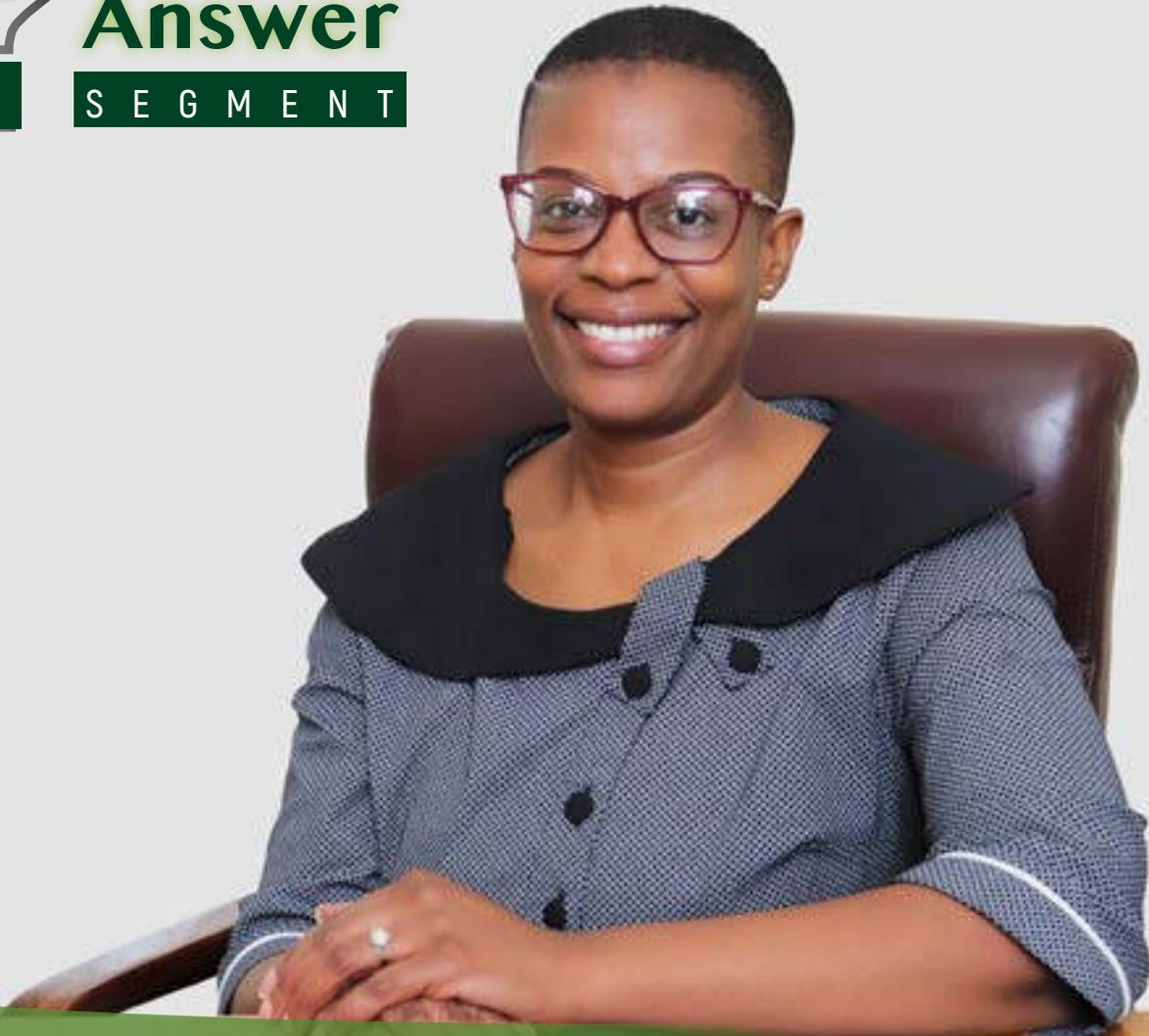
She was promoted to Chief Interpreter for Matebeleland South in January 2016, becoming the first female substantive chief interpreter in the country. Mrs. Tshuma will be remembered for her unbroken record of survivors opening up to her where all others would have failed.

All the best Sis Thandi, Mrs. Tshuma!!

Question & Answer

SEGMENT

By Kudzai Rusakaniko



Chief Magistrate Mrs. Faith Mushure

Q You have risen through the JSC ranks, Can you please share your career journey from the day you left law school to date?

A My career in the Judicial Service Commission started in October 2004 when I was appointed as a Magistrate. I was in the Magistrates' Department until 2013, but between 2007 and 2011, I worked in the Chief Magistrate's Office. In 2013, I became the Registrar of the Labour Court. From 2016 to 2019, I was the Registrar of the High Court, following which I was appointed Head of Policy and Legal Services in the Judicial Service Commission. In 2020, I was appointed Deputy Secretary in charge of Legal and Policy Services, a post I held until 29 September 2021 when I was deployed as the Acting Chief Magistrate. On

7 January 2022, I was appointed Chief Magistrate.

Q What are your key administrative and judicial targets for the Magistrates' department during your term?

A The vision of the organisation as expanded in the JSC Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is a Zimbabwe in which world-class justice prevails. That is the target. The goal, therefore, is to lead Team Magistracy to play its part in ensuring that Zimbabwe gets world-class justice anchored on the principles of independence, accountability, transparency, integrity and the rule of law.

Secondly, for the ordinary man on the street, the only brush they may ever have with the courts is the Magistrates' Court, and when they come, they expect us to do justice between man and man in

the shortest time possible.

Coming against the backdrop of limited court operations introduced to combat, contain and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years, there is an even higher expectation that the courts will deliver quality and expeditious justice to all manner of people. The target is to make that possible.

I aim to ensure greater access to quality and expeditious justice through quick turn-around of cases; reduction of backlog; ambient court infrastructure; the presence of courts even in remote areas; improved collaboration with stakeholders in the justice delivery sector; and a motivated workforce.

Q The JSC gender policy has seen women rising and occupying top positions, what can you say about such a positive development?

A Zimbabwe is founded on the principle of supremacy of the Constitution. By appointing women even to the highest echelons of the Judiciary and the Judicial Service Commission, JSC is simply giving effect to the values espoused in section 17 of the Constitution which call for the promotion of full gender balance in the Zimbabwean society. For JSC, it does not end there. If you go through the JSC Annual Reports, you will notice that the female population in JSC has been higher than the male population since 2018. This only reinforces that the Judicial Service Commission’s merit-based approach has seen women breaking the glass ceiling.

Q Corruption has proved to be a serious pandemic, affecting almost every sphere of our country and if we may know how you are going to deal with it as the Chief Magistrate of the Magistrates’ Court?

A The Government of Zimbabwe has adopted a zero-tolerance towards corruption. The Honourable Chief Justice and the Judicial Service Commission are on record for leaving no stone unturned in the fight against corruption. This is the same approach that any leader would adopt.

Where allegations of corruption are raised, they will be properly investigated and corrective action will be taken.

I also appreciate our role as the Magistrates’ Court in dealing with corruption cases. My predecessor Honourable Justice Mutevedzi took great effort to capacitate the courts in terms of skills and facilities to be able to deal with these cases. I aim to continue from where he left.

Q Covid-19 has greatly disrupted the justice system including the Magistrates’ Court, what do you think needs to be done to counter challenges introduced by the virulent virus which has brought the justice system to an almost standstill?

A Where it becomes impracticable for court users to attend court sessions in person, the solution is for court users to still be able to attend court virtually and file court documents electronically. The impending introduction of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) counters challenges posed by in-person court attendances amid a pandemic like COVID-19.

Now that normal operations have resumed, it is equally important to work at full throttle to try and mitigate the backlog which resulted from that standstill. Work for us has begun in earnest.

Q The first-ever Virtual Court in Zimbabwe was commissioned at Harare Magistrates’ Court, what is your take on the introduction of Virtual Courts?

A COVID-19 was a wake-up call. When the country closed down, courts were declared essential services. Court business still had to be done but in a manner that safeguarded the health of court users. It, therefore, challenged us to think outside the box and to be innovative.

Fortunately for us, before the pandemic knocked on our doors, there were plans to launch the IECMS in Zimbabwe. The pandemic only served to underscore the urgency of going virtual and paperless. I am glad that the process is at an advanced stage and the commissioning of the first-ever virtual court is a right step in the IECMS journey.

Besides the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch of the virtual court was long overdue. We cannot afford to lag behind as the Courts in a world where everyone else is now able to connect at the click of a button without necessarily being physically present.

So far, our stakeholders attest that the burden and expenses of travelling to court for a routine remand for instance have been eased.

One would appreciate that COVID-19 thrives from human contact so in our case, the prison population at our courts has been drastically reduced thereby safeguarding court users from contracting the deadly virus.

Harare Magistrates' Court spot a new look

By Tarisai Mafura

HARARE Magistrates' Court has made great strides in embellishing its environs and sprucing up court structures.

In an interview with The Miranda, acting Principal Administrator, Mrs. Vongai Guwuriro said they strive to dispense top-notch justice in an enabling environment that include improved court structures and its environs. "Improving court structures and court ambience is one of JSC's major priorities. We saw it necessary to modernize the ambience of the court and give it a fresh physical environment. Our particular attention was to create a healthy physical environment at the workplace by removing clutter," said Mrs. Guwuriro.

Mrs. Guwuriro said more plans to improve court structures are afoot which include construction of user-friendly seats, ablution facilities and fixing elevators to improve accessibility especially for the disabled. "We are also working towards eliminating the barriers to access to justice for persons living with disabilities in line with the Disability Policy which is now in place."



Mrs. Vongai Guwuriro, the then Acting Principal Administrator, Harare Magistrates' Court



Photographs of Harare Magistrates' Court new look



JSC commemorates Women's wellness Month



By Nyarai Mushoriwa

Cervical cancer ranks as the first most frequent cancer among women in Zimbabwe and the first most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. According to the World Cancer Research Fund, Zimbabwe has the fifth highest burden of cervical cancer in the world. Over a thousand women die from the disease in the country every year, making it the most common cause of cancer in women in the country.

In commemorating women's month, the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) partnered with the Premier Service Medical Aid Society (PSMAS) in the provision of health care services for Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as cervical cancer, hypertension, diabetes, chronic disease management, body mass index and fitness consultations for all female staff members at Harare and Bulawayo High Courts as well as the Harare Magistrates' Court. A total of 120 women in both cities underwent diabetes and hypertension testing and 72 women were screened for cervical cancer. The initiative was well received and the JSC Head of Corporate

Services Mrs. Constance Makoni-Thondlana said due to the nature of the work environment, most women within the JSC regardless of their positions have hectic schedules and health issues are usually at the bottom of the priority list unless it's something very urgent adding that the Secretariat prioritizes its workforce's health and wellness, hence the decision to bring the service to the door step.

PSMAS Communications Manager, Ms. Paidamoyo Chipunza said the wellness programme is done to promote a healthy living, "The wellness programme is designed to promote healthy living through early detection, prevention and disease self-management. These programmes are meant to mitigate the rise in non-communicable diseases among PSMAS members and the nation at large," Ms. Chipunza said.

March 8 has been set aside by the United Nations as the Women's Day and the month of March is the women's month set to reflect on women's achievements and to promote gender equity.



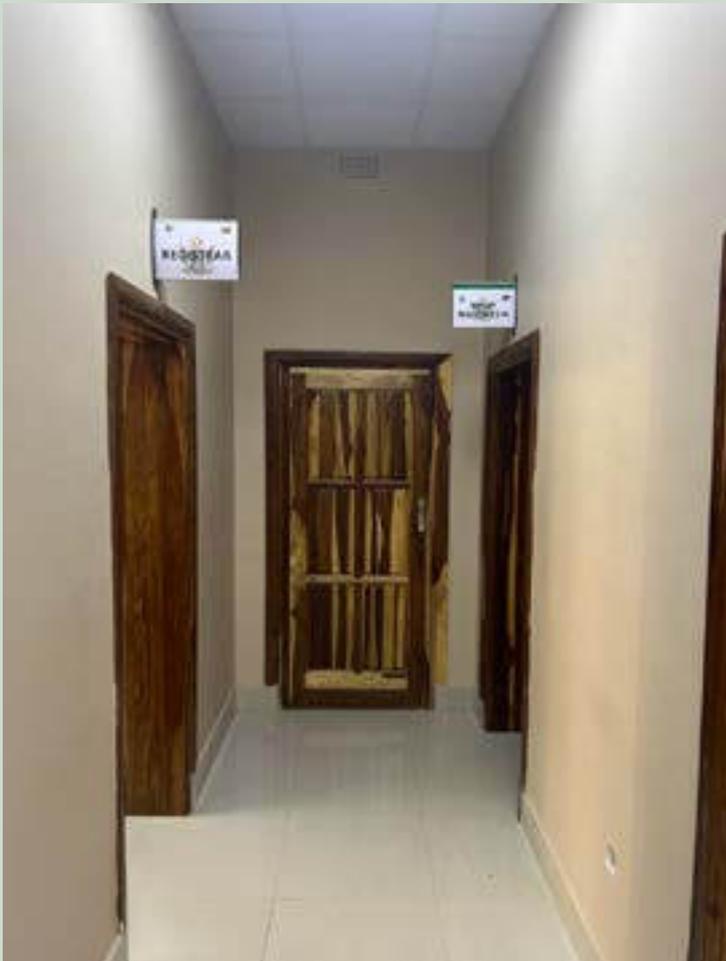
PROJECTS UPDATE

By Kudzai Rusakaniko

The Judicial Service Commission in line with the 2021-2025 strategic plan has quite a number of projects lined up for the year. Access to Justice for all has always been the mandate for the JSC. Being supervised by the Secretary, Mr Walter Chikwana, there are magistrates' courts under construction in different locations namely Epworth, Chiredzi, Lupane, Gwanda and there is the first ever Commercial Court, Bristol House, in Harare which according to the Secretary, is now complete, furnished and ready for the staff members to work in by the beginning of May this year. The Judicial Service Commission is aimed at bringing justice to your door step.



Lupane Magistrates' Court under construction



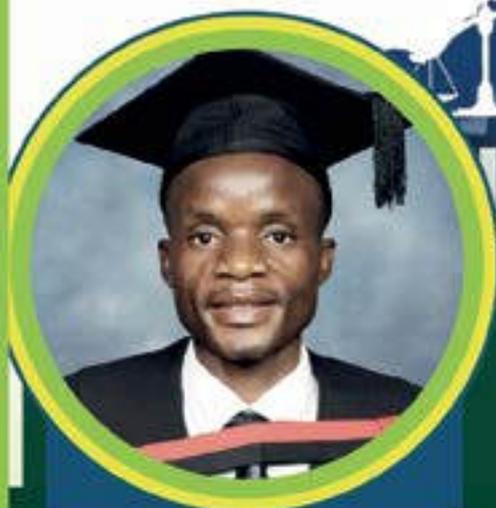
Commercial Court Division of the High Court nears completion





JSC E-FILING CENTRES LOCATION





Mr Caleb Muccheche
Founder & President

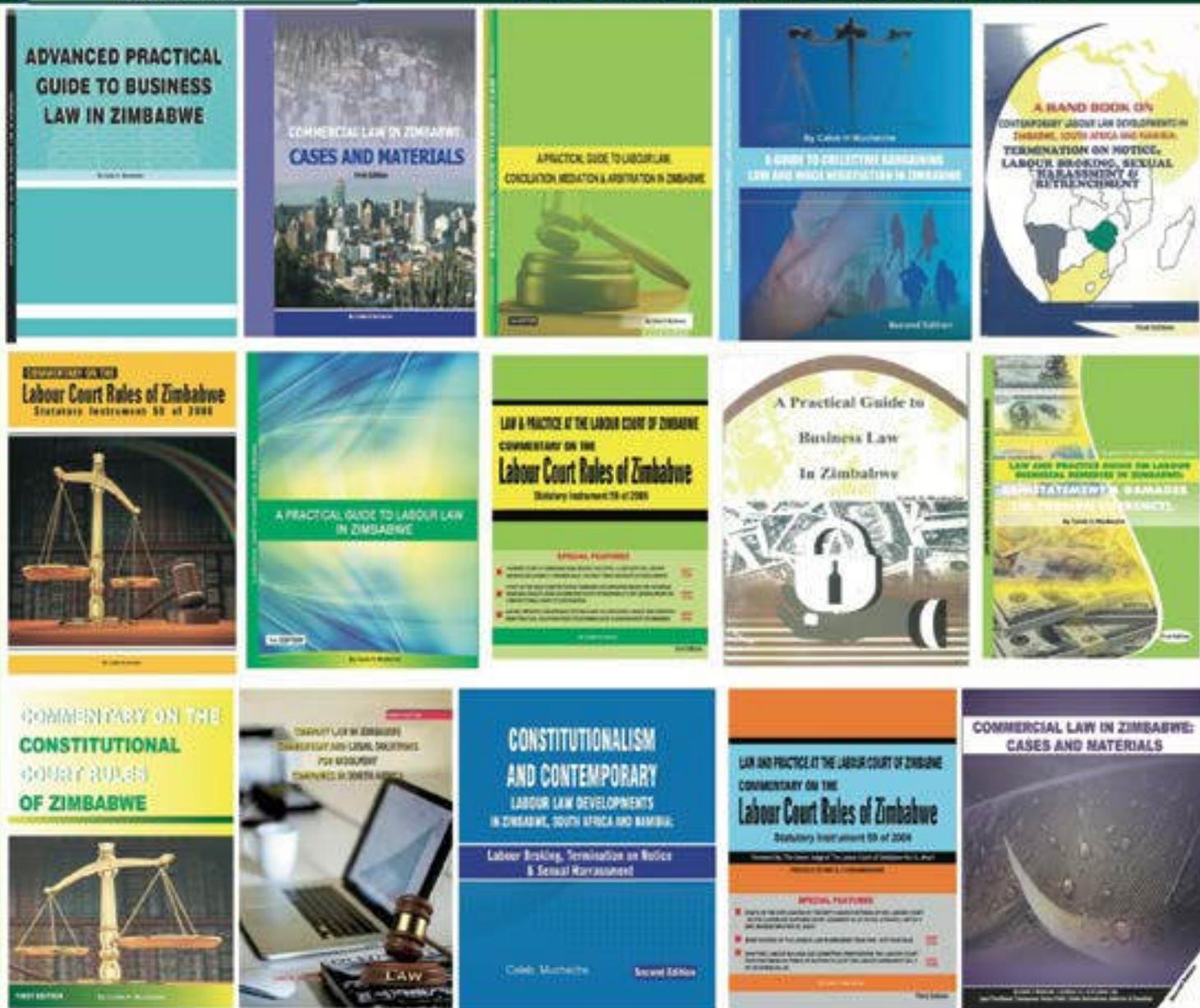


Zimlaw TRUST

LAW BOOKS FOR SALE

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Senior law lecturer, former executive dean of law
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AFRICAN LEGAL RESOURCES DOMINION

218 HERBERT CHITEPO, SUITE 107, LAW PUBLICATION CHAMBERS

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SPORTS News

BRISTOLS DISPATCH MARONDERA J.S.C IN 5 GOAL THRILLER



The long awaited match between the two Judicial Service Commission (JSC) sides, Bristols F.C of Harare and Marondera J.S.C finally happened. The encounter which was supposed to have kicked off in 2020 had been postponed indefinitely owing to the incessant waves of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As was the original plan, the Hararians fulfilled the fixture to which they had been invited by the Marondera team for a test of whether their popularized credentials were reputed or overstated. Bristols came into the encounter in bullish mood and rightly so for a myriad of reasons. They were the first team to be formed within the Commission's circles and were first to ever taste competitive action and victory, so nerves were never going to be a problem within their camp going into the

face-off.

Marondera on the other hand were coming into battle virtually as greenhorns, having only played a single match against Black Leopards in which they drew 0-0 so pound for pound J.S.C Marondera were the team punching above their weight.

The match kicked off as scheduled at Nyameni High School and with ten minutes into the game, it was Marondera who were running around with tails raised high after drawing first blood through a Ngoni Mushaike goal. Complacency may have crept into the leaders as they relinquished control of the game and it was no surprise that Genius Matsvai restored parity for Bristols just before half time. After the breather Takudzwa Moyo beat Marondera's goal minder with a clinical finish to give the visitors a goal advantage. Late into the game it was time for the goal of the day as Levison

Chiutsi unleashed a thunderbolt right from within the centre-circle which bewildered and zapped the hosts' goalkeeper to lead 3-1. Although the home team tried to keep the throttle pressed Bristols contained the pressure well although surrendering their two-goal advantage by allowing Marondera's Taurai Mugauri to pull one back.

Speaking to the Miranda in a post-match interview, team manager Mr. Simbarashe Chapu was happy with the team's performance and paid tribute to the J.S.C secretary who is an avid supporter of such intra-organisational interactions within the Commission's employees. Mr. Chapu also rendered praise posthumously to the late Charles Mawarire, who was a pivotal influence throughout the club's existence. To recognize his contribution to the club, a tournament was held in his memory.

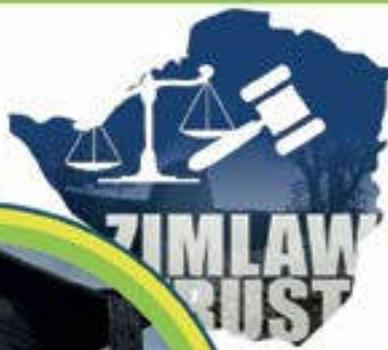
Glitz and Glamour at Chief Justice's Dinner





FIRST QUARTER IN PICTURES





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NEW
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Mr Caleb Mucheche
Founder & President

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Misconduct Watch



CASE 1

The member who is a magistrate dealt with a bail application in a certain matter on the 21st of August 2021. The State was not opposed to bail. The member granted the accused persons bail in the sum of ZWL 10 000.00 which amount she recorded in her official proceedings as well as on the record cover. However, she later altered this amount to ZWL 5 000.00 without the knowledge of the accused persons or the Prosecutor. Her own record of proceedings did not capture how this alteration was made and at whose instance it was made. As a court of record, this alteration must have been part of the official record of proceedings.

The member was charged for improper or negligent performance of duties and was tried by a disciplinary committee who found her guilty. She was reprimanded and transferred to another station.

CASE 2

The member who was a Clerk of Court was suspended from duty on allegations of corruption. He was alleged to have solicited and received a bribe amounting to USD\$1 100.00 to facilitate the cancellation of a warrant of arrest for a certain litigant. It is alleged that the first instalment of \$USD 700.00 was paid when he met the complainant at her homestead on an unknown date and the second instalment of USD\$400.00 was paid on 7 December 2020.

The member however, resigned pending the disciplinary process.

CASE 3

COUNT 1

The member who was a provincial magistrate failed to frequently check the station registers as required. As

per standard operating procedures, he was expected to check the CRB as often as three times a week. He did not do so as he checked the CRB beyond the stipulated period, up to after two weeks in some cases, in contravention of standard practice and procedures.

The member also failed to perform his duties efficiently and competently by mismanaging his court station. As a result, the standards of basic cleanliness and hygiene had deteriorated to the point where public toilets were very dirty and flies hovered everywhere. In addition, the grounds were not serviced, with the lawn not being cut and watered thereby giving the station a bad appearance.

COUNT 2

The member accumulated forty-eight (48) partly- heard matters since the beginning of the year. Eleven (11) of these partly-heard cases were awaiting sentence. In particular, one of these eleven (11) cases had been waiting for sentencing since 9 April 2021.

COUNT 3

The member falsified monthly statistics intending to conceal his station's backlog status. In his September monthly report, he reported that he only had three (3) partly heard cases when in fact he had forty- eight (48) partly- heard cases. Also, in the same report he declared that they were one hundred and seventy – two (172) pending cases and yet during the station visit on 14 October 2021, it was discovered there were two hundred and thirty-six (236) pending cases.

The member was charged with three (3) acts of misconduct, however, he resigned pending the disciplinary process

CASE 4

The circumstances are that on the on the 30th of January 2022, there was a break-in at a certain court station. The break in resulted in the theft of a Central Processing Unit and a monitor. The member alleges to have done a security check at 0200hrs and everything was in order but however, on his last security check at 0500hrs that is when he noticed that there was a stool by the durawall and eventually discovered the break in.

He was reprimanded and was issued a first formal warning

CASE 5

The circumstances are that on the on the 26th of January 2022, the Deputy Chief Magistrate conducted a spot check at 2158hrs at a certain station and found the Criminal Court Complex unattended. It is alleged that he hooted and waited for approximately thirty minutes but the member did not show up as expected for someone who was on duty manning the premises. He then summoned the resident magistrate who then found the member at her residence when she was supposed to have been at work.

She was reprimanded and was issued with a first formal warning.

NOTICE BOARD

APPOINTMENTS | PROMOTIONS

Rimaunake Rudo Hazel *Executive Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Bright Zvidzai Goka *Office orderly Chief Magistrate*
 Faith Magodora *Procurement Officer Procurement*
 Takudzwa George Masendeke *Procurement Officer Procurement*
 Pride Ndlovu *Clerk of Court Chief Magistrate*
 Trish Sagomba *Court Recorder Chief Magistrate*
 Lindsay Kuora *Court Recorder Chief Magistrate*
 Sibusiso Ncube *Executive Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Lubelihle Siphomuzile Dube *Executive Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Mercy Pasipamire *Executive Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Mtokozisi Ncube *Court Interpreter Chief Magistrate*
 Zenzeni Dan Mabuza *Court Interpreter Chief Magistrate*
 Brenda Dainah Mufushwa Gono *Court Interpreter Superior Courts*
 Georginah Zvirimumwoyo Pondayi *Court Interpreter Superior Courts*
 Zvikomborero Chatukuta *Court Interpreter Superior Courts*
 Theresa Svorai Mugwagwa *Court Interpreter Superior Courts*
 Vuso Mhlanga *Records and Information Assistant Superior Courts*
 Progress Ruramai Chihwai *Records and Information Assistant Superior Courts*
 Saneliso Moyo -Maphuza *Accounting Assistant Sheriff*
 Tamuka Gunguwo *Clerk of Court Chief Magistrate*
 Patience Mativenga *Executive Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Samson Tapiwa Maduche *Accounting Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Maxwell Mubaiwa *Watchperson Chief Magistrate*
 Rumbidzai Munyari *Clerk of Court Chief Magistrate*
 Esau Musiwa Maponga *Court Recorder Chief Magistrate*
 Penelope Sarah Ngulube *Court Interpreter Chief Magistrate*
 Passion Chikanda *Court Interpreter Chief Magistrate*
 Caroline Ncube *Office Orderly Chief Magistrate*
 Gwendolene Rutendo Mudawarima *Accounting Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Leslie Nkosilathe Moyo *Records and Information Assistant Superior Courts*
 Luciah Tinashe Taruwona *Office Orderly JSC Secretariat*

Tatenda Clara Chinounda *Office Orderly JSC Secretariat*
 Tawanda Dangaiso *Office Orderly JSC Secretariat*
 Innocent Mahaso *Office Orderly JSC Secretariat*
 Cleopas Taona Chapungu *Court Interpreter Chief Magistrate*
 Ackline Govha *Executive Assistant Superior Courts*
 Efeso Muchina *Pool Driver JSC Secretariat*
 Tendai Muchemwa *Magistrate Chief Magistrate*
 Raimo King *Court Interpreter Chief Magistrate*
 Antony Magonya *Court Recorder Chief Magistrate*
 Munyaradzi Nyambira *Clerk of Court Chief Magistrate*
 Wayne Ngqabutho Ndlovu *Accounting Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Isabel Danhama *Executive Assistant Sheriff*
 Loveness Nyamudahondo *Court Recorder Chief Magistrate*
 Happiness Ncube *Court Interpreter Chief Magistrate*
 Nyasha Grace T Mushonga (DR) *Assessor Superior Courts*
 Joydemus Mutombwa *Assessor Superior Courts*
 Francis Manyangadze *Assessor Superior Courts*
 Lovemore Mutasa *Assessor Superior Courts*
 Shingirai Ivainashe Matimati *Assistant Registrar Superior Courts*
 Barbra Gurupira *Judges Assistant Superior Courts*
 Titus Makunike *Judges Assistant Superior Courts*
 Dumiso Gaule *Judges Assistant Superior Courts*
 Joel Phiri *VIP Driver Superior Courts*
 Lista Tumelo Dube *Assistant Registrar Superior Courts*
 Willard Kachote *VIP Driver Superior Courts*
 Absolom Shoniwa *VIP Driver Superior Courts*
 Blessing Hwede *Accounting Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Minenhle Ndebele *Judges Assistant Superior Courts*
 Tinotendaishe Zisengwe *Transport and Logistics Officer Transport and Logistics*
 Collen Gwaza *Transport and Logistics Assistant Transport and Logistics*
 Leroy Levhuwani Msipa *Assistant Registrar Superior Courts*

RESIGNATIONS

Shungu Michelle Geysler *Judge's Clerk Harare*
 Mpumelelo Shoko *Pool Driver JSC Secretariat*
 Clear Mukundwi *Clerk of Court Chivhu*
 Theresa Masango *Executive Assistant High Court Harare*
 Felix Mushiringi *Court Interpreter Chinhoyi*
 Crucial Maticha *Accounting Assistant Zvishavane*
 Takudzwa Matsangaise *Court Recorder JSC Secretariat*
 Tafadzwa Gwaze *Magistrate Marondera*
 Tawanda Muchemwa *Magistrate Chief Magistrates' Office*
 Prince Bhekimpilo Nkomo *Assistant Librarian -Substantive Bulawayo*
 Ruramai P. Chihwai *Records and Information Assistant High Court Harare*
 Sandra Kudzai Ramhewa *Magistrate Gwanda*
 Raymond Gwati *Senior Internal Auditor JSC Secretariat*
 Anorid Munapo *Senior Internal Auditor JSC Secretariat*
 Samson Majaji *Court Interpreter Kwekwe*
 Grace Chilapula *Executive Assistant Bindura*
 Wadzanai C. Gumbo *Judges Assistant High Court Harare*
 Stanley Mavhunga *VIP Driver High Court Harare*
 Tinomudaishe R.Duve *Judges Assistant High Court Harare*
 Amanda Clary Chivasa *Research Officer High Court Harare*
 Liibert S. Gararkara *Magistrate Murehwa*
 Tafadzwa Marimbire *Executive Assistant Mutare*
 Ashley Gundungwa *Assistant Internal Auditor JSC Secretariat*
 Alexious Senah *Accounting Assistant Sheriff*
 Gladys Gonzo *Provincial Magistrate Chitungwiza*
 Tinashe Chikadoka *Clerk of Court Murombedzi Circuit Court*
 Estelly Kapanda *Accounting Assistant Rusape Magistrates' Court*
 Grace T. Muchingami *Accounting Assistant Shurugwi Magistrates' Court*
 Charles T. Nyagumbo *Accounting Assistant Chipinge Magistrates' Court*
 Thabolwenkosi Jubane *Watchperson Hwange Magistrates' Court*
 Loice Ncube *Court Recorder Gokwe Magistrates' Court*
 Rudo C. Makoni -Thodhlana *Head of Legal and Policy Services JSC Secretariat*

DISCHARGE

Felix Zvidziwa *Clerk of Court Gokwe*
 Ozias Moyo *Office Orderly Hwange*
 Noah Gwatidzo *Provincial Magistrate Chegutu*

RETIREMENTS

Rino Chashaya *Caretaker Chief Magistrate*
 Wendy Mahlangu *Clerk of Court Chief Magistrate*
 Elizabeth Fambawaputa *Accounting Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Thokozile Ncube *Executive Assistant Chief Magistrate*
 Fibion Mutira *Clerk of Court Chief Magistrate*

DEATHS

Happiness Mawoyo *Watchperson Mutare*

TERMINATION

Lovemore Mangena *Driver Superior Courts*
 Esau Maponga *Court Recorder Chief Magistrate*

JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION IS INTRODUCING:

IECMS

INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



IECMS is a unifying platform that will connect all institutions belonging to the Justice Delivery Sector.

This will be transformational as all our courts will be paperless and fully automated.

It is a web based Case Management System that automates and tracks all aspects of a case life cycle, from initial filing through disposition and appeal.

This system will integrate the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, Commercial Court, High Court, Labour Court, Administrative Court, Magistrates Court and Sheriff of the High Court under the same system.

The implementation of the IECMS will bring about efficiency, expedite case disposition, and deliver access to justice. Moreover, the IECMS seeks to:-

- reduce case backlog;
- prevent the loss and physical damage of documents in a case file;
- enhance information accessibility; and
- modernize the sector's operations.

Don't be left behind!!!



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IECMS



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