



The Outpost

MAGAZINE OF THE ZRP (FOUNDED 1911)

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ZRP ZIMBABWE REPUBLIC POLICE

Winning streak continues

ZRP Umguza High School project gathers momentum



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COVER PIC: His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Botswana, Advocate Duma Gideon Boko (with red tie) hands over a trophy for the Best Zimbabwe Public Enterprise Exhibit (State Security Services), Category 13 to the Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba during the official opening of the 66th edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo. Looking on are, the Chief Staff Officer (Press and Public Relations), Commissioner Paul Nyathi (second from right), Senior Staff Officer (Press and Public Relations), Assistant Commissioner Blessmore Chishaka (second from left), Staff Officer Commissioner-General of Police's Office, Chief Superintendent Chamunorwa Machingura, ZITF Board Chairperson, Dr Busisa Moyo (far left) and the ZITF Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nicholas Ndebele (third from right).

COVER PHOTO: BY KUDAKWASHE MUZHONA

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Strengthening community engagement for effective policing



At a time when societies across the world are confronted by evolving security threats, technological transformation and growing public expectations, policing can no longer exist in isolation. Modern law enforcement demands strong partnerships between the police and the communities they serve, built on trust, cooperation and shared responsibility.

During his tour of the ZRP stand at the 66th edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair held recently

in Bulawayo, the Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba emphasised that community policing remains the backbone of effective law enforcement as it promotes the active involvement of communities in safeguarding peace and security.

He implored police commanders to intensify public engagement and ensure the effective implementation of various community policing programmes such as Neighbourhood Watch Committees (NWC), Junior Call, Crime Liaison Committees (CLC) the Business Against Crime Forum of Zimbabwe (BACFOZ) and the Christian Community Police Network (CCPN), among others.

His remarks reaffirmed the crucial role of the community as the first line of defence against crime. The Police chief further highlighted the growing importance of social media in fostering timely information

dissemination, public engagement and instant feedback.

In today's digital era, information moves rapidly and law enforcement agencies cannot afford to remain detached from technological advancements. Social media platforms have become powerful communication tools that enable the Police to disseminate information promptly and efficiently.

As the ZRP continues to embrace technological transformation and people-centred policing approaches, the vision articulated by the Commissioner-General presents a clear roadmap for contemporary law enforcement strategy. Strong community partnerships, supported by effective use of digital communication platforms, will undoubtedly contribute towards safer and more secure communities!

Appreciation for unwavering efforts

Dear Editor

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) for its unwavering efforts in combating drug and substance abuse, a scourge that continues to threaten the future of our nation, particularly the youth.

I have been closely following the Government's drive against drug and substance abuse and I am encouraged by the decisive role being played by the ZRP in this noble cause. Of particular significance is the police's policy of naming and shaming convicted drug offenders and drug kingpins. This strategy serves as a powerful deterrent to would-be offenders and sends a clear message that drug-related crimes will not be tolerated in Zimbabwe.

Recently, your press statement carried reports on the conviction

and sentencing of Forget Sibanda (25) of Karamantshi Village, Silobela, and Mongameli Tshaka (21), who were each sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for smoking dagga. Publicising such cases helps to raise awareness of the legal consequences associated with drug abuse and reinforces the importance of adhering to the country's laws.

The naming of drug lords and offenders not only exposes criminal activities but also assists communities in identifying individuals who are contributing to the destruction of lives through the distribution and consumption of dangerous substances. This approach will undoubtedly go a long way in nipping the problem in the bud and discouraging others from engaging in similar unlawful conduct.

Drug and substance abuse has devastating effects on individuals, families and communities. It fuels crime, domestic violence, school dropouts, mental health challenges, road traffic accidents and a host of other social ills. The ZRP's relentless efforts in arresting

offenders, conducting awareness campaigns and working with communities to eradicate this menace deserve commendation.

As citizens, we must complement the efforts of the police by reporting drug dealers, educating our children on the dangers of substance abuse and supporting rehabilitation initiatives for victims of addiction. The fight against drugs cannot be won by law enforcement agencies alone it requires the collective effort of all stakeholders.

I therefore applaud the ZRP and all other Government agencies involved in the anti-drug campaign. Their dedication is helping to safeguard the future of our young people and build safer communities for all Zimbabweans.

Concerned Citizen



The Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba (wielding a pick) leads the ground breaking ceremony while senior officers, traditional leaders and members of business community look on.

ZRP Umguza High School project gathers momentum

In the rapidly growing area of Ntabazinduna, located approximately 40 kilometres north-east of Bulawayo's Central Business District, the idea of a Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) boarding school initially appeared far-fetched. What once seemed like a pipe dream is now fast becoming a reality for the people of the Matabeleland region.

Recent developments have confirmed that the construction of the country's second ZRP High School, after the one in Hatcliffe, Harare, is now unstoppable.

A fundraising golf tournament and dinner were recently held at Bulawayo Country Club, where more than US\$100 000 was raised towards the construction of the school, which will boast modern science laboratories, computer laboratories and other state-of-the-art facilities.

Recently, Commissioner-General of Police Stephen Mutamba officiated at the ground-breaking ceremony in Chief Ndiweni's area in Ntabazinduna, where the institution is set to be constructed, marking a significant milestone in the development of the school.

Addressing people gathered at the ceremony, Commissioner-General Mutamba expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far and commended everyone involved in the project.

"I am very happy to be here at the site where we intend to build this school. This is a historic moment, and everyone involved in this project will be remembered by generations to come because the school will serve many generations.

"I would like to thank the local leadership for allowing us to build the school in this area. Let me assure you that this place will never be the same again because we are going to build a top-class school here. The school will accommodate learners from all walks of life, not only children

of ZRP officers," said Commissioner-General Mutamba.

The Police chief further said that the construction of the school was aimed at improving the welfare of police families and ensuring educational stability for officers' children despite the frequent transfers associated with police work.

"The idea to build this school was born out of the need to take care of the well-being of police families and ensure that officers concentrate on law enforcement duties with minimal distractions. Police officers are often transferred from one station to another, yet their children require a stable learning environment without the burden of constantly moving from one school to another," Commissioner-General Mutamba explained.

He further noted that ZRP High School in Harare was now overwhelmed by applications from prospective students because of its high academic standards and discipline. He revealed that ZRP Umguza High School is expected to enrol its first stream of Form One learners in January 2027 before gradually expanding to Advanced Level.

Chairperson of the Board of Governors Committee for the school, Mr Ignatius Gona, described the ground-breaking ceremony as heart-warming and inspiring, saying it signalled the beginning of a major project that would transform Umguza and the nation at large.

"It is a visionary decision made by the ZRP, one that guarantees a future generation of innovators and nation-builders. The fact that you chose this place demonstrates your foresight and recognition of the need not only to cushion your officers, but also to provide a world-class learning institution for this community while complementing the already existing institutions.

"We will ensure that everything is done above board in terms of regulatory compliance," he said.

Ntabazinduna traditional leader, Chief Douglas Ndiweni, pledged the full support of the local leadership and the entire Ntabazinduna community towards the construction of ZRP Umguza High School.

"We fully support what you are doing here. In Ntabazinduna, we are privileged to host the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service (ZPCS), ZRP training facilities and now this partnership to build a ZRP boarding school. We are most grateful.

"What you are doing is very noble. I have been a teacher for more than 20 years myself, so schools are very close to my heart. I wish you all the best. This ground-breaking ceremony is very spiritual, which is why I came here with other respected traditional leaders to assure you that you have the full support of the chieftaincy as you proceed," said Chief Ndiweni.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Director for Provincial Economic Affairs and Investment for Matabeleland North Province, Mr Godfrey Mukwakwami, the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North Province, Honourable Richard Moyo, who is also the Member of Parliament for Umguza Constituency, welcomed the development.

"I would like to warmly welcome projects of this nature, which will empower not only the current generation but future generations as well, because education is the greatest inheritance we can leave for our children," read part of the speech.

The event was attended by the Deputy Commissioner-General (Administration) Lorin Chipato, ZRP senior officers, government officials, members of the business community and local traditional leaders.



Senior officers and exhibitors pose for a group photo while displaying the winning trophy at the Police pavilion.

Winning streak continues at ZITF

—By Kuzivakwashe Muzhona—

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) has once again clinched the gold medal at the 66th edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), marking its third consecutive victory since 2024.

The ZRP outclassed fellow competitors, the Zimbabwe Defence Forces and the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service, who finished second and third respectively in the Best Security Services Exhibit category. The latest achievement further adds to the organisation's growing collection of ZITF accolades.

Addressing exhibitors at the ZRP Pavilion following the victory, Commissioner-General of Police Stephen Mutamba expressed satisfaction with the team's performance throughout the exhibition. He commended the exhibitors for their discipline and dedication, urging them to implement on the ground what they had demonstrated at the fair.

"I am proud of you. You make the organisation proud. It is a confidence booster when the organisation you lead continues to excel in this manner. Keep up the good work, and whenever you are assigned a duty, carry it out wholeheartedly.

"Now let us translate into practice what we have been demonstrating here. When people visit police stations, they must experience the same level of service quality that was displayed at this exhibition. I understand that some of these initiatives have not yet been implemented nationwide, but in areas where they have been introduced, communities are already benefiting.

"You must maintain the same high standards of discipline at your respective stations as you have displayed here. You must also shine again at the upcoming Zimbabwe Agricultural Show in Harare," he said.

Commissioner-General Mutamba urged Community Relations Liaison Officers to intensify efforts in strengthening community policing programmes, noting that modern policing heavily depends on such an approach.

"Commissioner Nyathi and your team, you need to strengthen our community policing initiatives. The community is our number one client, and without them we cannot operate effectively. Criminals live within communities, and if we maintain good relations with the public, they will provide vital information," he added.

The Chief Staff Officer (Press and Public

Relations), Commissioner Paul Nyathi, assured the Commissioner-General that nationwide campaigns would be rolled out to reinforce relations between the police and the public.

"Let me begin by thanking you, Commissioner-General Sir, for addressing the exhibitors. This gesture boosts their morale and makes them feel appreciated. We will embark on crime awareness campaigns to ensure that what was showcased here at the ZITF Pavilion is implemented across the country. We will work closely with communities to build a mutually beneficial relationship," he said.

A major attraction at the ZRP stand was the newly introduced police boat, the Interceptor P49, which is used for patrolling water bodies to combat smuggling and other cross-border crimes. The vessel is also deployed to escort tourists during recreational cruises.

The 2026 edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair ran under the theme, "Connected Economies, Competitive Industries." It was officially opened by the Botswana President His Excellency, Duma Boko, who toured exhibition stands alongside Zimbabwean President His Excellency, Cde Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa.



Support Unit steals the show at ZITF

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Support Unit emerged as a centre of attraction at the 66th Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) held recently in Bulawayo. Drawing massive crowds to the police exhibition pavilion by showcasing newly acquired public order equipment and ammunition, the unit's display aligned perfectly with this year's theme, *"Connected Economies, Competitive Industries."*

Exhibiting under the 2026 ZRP theme, *"Pursuing innovative policing in support of connected economies and competitive industries,"* the Support Unit's Public Order Management and Sub Aqua cubicle attracted overwhelming public interest as it focused on public order management and the unveiling of new technology. The exhibition perfectly highlighted the organization's commitment in promoting the country's National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2).

Inspector Prosper Ndiripo of Fairbridge Support Unit stated that this year's public order exhibition aimed to inform the public on the department's goal of maintaining an environment conducive for investment in the agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and mining industries.

—By Jane Nkiwane—

"We are supporting competitive industries through the maintenance of peace, as per our mandate in Section 219 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, which includes maintaining law and order, preserving the internal security of Zimbabwe, Protecting and securing the lives and property of the people, among other key responsibilities," Inspector Ndiripo said.

"We are also showcasing to the public the diverse duties carried out by Support Unit, ranging from protecting and escorting VIPs, armed response to robbery, and managing public order and disorder situations."

The cubicle featured demonstrations of modern public order and crowd dispersal management tools, including shotguns, rifles, tear smoke and protective armour. According to Inspector Ndiripo, displaying this equipment was essential for public transparency, ensuring citizens understand that the tools used are internationally certified and strictly conform to human rights standards.

"We also conscientise our communities against public order and violence, as public disorder destabilises the country and scares away potential investors,

thereby slowing down economic growth and development," he added.

Visitors praised the informative nature of the stand, which provided clarity on complex policing aspects. One of the visitors, Taurai Moyo, spoke to The Outpost and shared his views.

"I have been enlightened on public order equipment the Police use and also on the process one has to undergo in order to own a private firearm legally."

Mr Siphwe Ndlovu added that the exhibition changed his perspective on public order management.

"At first, I thought the Police just randomly beat up people, but now things are much clearer," he said.

This year's ZITF was officially opened by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Botswana, Duma Gideon Boko who applauded Zimbabwe's economic growth and renewed investor confidence,

"We appreciate that Zimbabwe is rising. The Zimbabwean economy is now buoyant and this phenomenal growth inspires confidence not just in your country, but in the region and across Africa," he said.



Inspector Prosper Ndiripo of Support Unit Fairbridge interacts with visitors at the Support Unit cubicle.



The Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba (with sash) inspects the graduation parade accompanied by the Parade Commander, Superintendent Ndabezinhle Zondi and the Commandant Police Academy, Assistant Commissioner Ali Simbarashe Hondo (behind the Parade Commander).

Graduating recruits urged to uphold honour and accountability

The Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba, recently challenged newly graduated police recruits to uphold professionalism, integrity and accountability as they begin their policing careers, reminding them that they are now custodians of public safety and representatives of the law.

He made the remarks during the 2026 Recruit Graduation Parade held at Mkushi Police Academy in Harare, where 797 recruits, including 242 females officially passed out after completing rigorous police training.

Addressing the graduating recruits, Commissioner-General Mutamba

said the responsibility of policing demands honour, discipline and unwavering commitment to national service.

He reminded the graduates that public confidence in the criminal justice system largely depends on the professionalism and competence of police officers in executing their duties.

"Equally, public confidence in the criminal justice system rests heavily on the police officer's ability to properly identify, gather and preserve evidence that supports the delivery of justice and fortifies a just society," he said.

"A sound understanding of the law

of evidence therefore gives you a critical professional advantage. I am confident that the knowledge and skills acquired during your training have collectively prepared you adequately for these realities of modern policing."

The Commissioner-General also highlighted the evolving nature of crime, warning that modern policing requires officers who are vigilant, highly trained and community-oriented.

He urged the graduates to effectively apply the knowledge and skills acquired during their two years of training as they deploy to various stations across the country.



"In this regard, I implore you, as you deploy to stations across the country, to put into practice the knowledge and skills you have acquired over the past two years," he said.

"The rigorous nature of your training should inspire hope for a safe and secure society; one in which social life and commerce can thrive with minimal hindrance."

Commissioner-General Mutamba stressed that the Zimbabwe Republic Police plays a critical role in safeguarding national peace and security, which forms the foundation for national development aspirations under Vision 2030.

He further cautioned recruits against complacency, noting that individual negligence can weaken the organisation's effectiveness in fighting crime.

"For instance, failure to promptly respond to a crime scene often

results in loss of evidence, making cases difficult to resolve and depriving victims of hope for justice," he said.

The graduation parade showcased discipline, endurance and coordination attained by the recruits throughout their training, with the officers displaying precision drills before thousands of spectators.

A key highlight of the event was the commissioning of a new physical training facility at Mkushi Academy aimed at improving fitness, operational preparedness and training standards within the organisation.

Meanwhile, 39 trainers comprising 27 males and 12 females successfully completed an intensive three months instructors' training course. The programme is designed to equip officers with advanced teaching skills, leadership techniques and modern policing methods.

The graduation ceremony was officiated by the Principal Police Staff College, Commissioner Dr Edward Tshuma who underscored the critical role instructors play in shaping the next generation of police officers.

In his address, Commissioner Dr Tshuma emphasised that instructors carry the responsibility of transforming recruits from a civilian mindset into disciplined, professional and astute law enforcement officers capable of upholding the rule of law.

"The first port of call for any individual who wishes to embark on the journey of training to become a police officer is the Police Academy. This is where the civilian minds are reshaped so that at the end of the day, an astute police officer is produced. The people who are responsible for transforming these civilians into police officers are Instructors. This is by no means an easy task," he said.



Part of the recruit graduating parade.

Human capital development central to professional policing

—By Faindani Phiri—

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) continues to reaffirm its commitment to professional excellence and modern policing through targeted capacity-building initiatives designed to enhance effective service delivery.

Addressing participants during the official closing ceremony of the Assistant Commissioner (Administration) Office Specific Training Workshop held at the ZRP Sports Club recently, the Deputy Commissioner-General (Human Resources), Dr Mind Eliot Ngirandi emphasised that human capital development remains central to the ZRP's drive towards improved performance and professional policing.

Dr Ngirandi emphasised the critical role of continuous training and capacity development in strengthening organisational efficiency and ensuring the successful implementation of the ZRP's strategic objectives.

He noted that the organisation introduced office-specific training



**Deputy Commissioner-General,
Dr Mind Eliot Ngirandi.**

programmes in 2025 across various ranks as part of deliberate efforts to enhance professionalism, accountability and effective execution of the Police Service's constitutional mandate.

"The tactical level represented by Provincial Administrators is critical in translating the organisation's strategic vision into practical implementation. Without clarity of

responsibility at tactical level, even the best strategic plans may fail to achieve intended outcomes," he said.

Dr Ngirandi highlighted that the training workshop came at a significant time as the ZRP is unveiling its new Strategic Plan, Moonshot 2030. The programme therefore provided participants with an opportunity to interrogate the plan, exchange ideas and align their tactical

responsibilities with the organisation's strategic direction.

The Deputy Commissioner -General further observed that the evolving policing environment requires continuous professional development and enhanced collaboration among officers. He stressed that integrated results-based management systems being implemented by the Government demand stronger horizontal and vertical coordination within policing structures.

"As police Provincial Administrators, your role in resource management, financial planning, inspections and administrative coordination is central to the overall effectiveness of policing," he said. "Your decisions directly influence organisational performance and national expectations."

The training programme covered key areas including financial management, asset accountability, governance principles, annual inspections, strategic planning and resource distribution. Facilitators combined theoretical presentations with practical learning approaches to ensure participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the diverse aspects of modern policing administration.



Participants of the Assistant Commissioner (Administration) Office Specific Training Workshop pose for a group photo in Chinhoyi after touring Chinhoyi Seven monument.



Border of hope: Guyu conquers stock theft

At dawn along the Shashe River, where Zimbabwe meets Botswana, the silence once carried a different kind of tension, one shaped by cattle rustlers slipping across borders under the cover of darkness. Today, that tension is easing.

In Guyu, a vast and remote policing area in Gwanda District, Matabeleland South Province, the Officer-in-Charge, Inspector Raphael Matanga, and his team have turned the tide against stock theft, once the region's most persistent crime. Their strategy blends old-fashioned vigilance with modern collaboration through joint patrols with Botswana, forward operating bases and, most importantly, strong community support.

Established in 2022, bases at Takaliawa, Rustlers Gorge and Mankonkoni now anchor security efforts across the 5 833-square-kilometre area. The impact has been significant. Stock theft cases dropped sharply from 61 recorded in 2023 to 21 in 2025, while the first quarter of 2026 recorded no cases involving the theft of livestock.

"We want to thank the Police command for opening these forward bases. As a station, we have now gone for months without recording a single case of cattle stock theft. This is not solely our effort, we are assisted by members of the Support Unit as well as other security services such as the Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF). We also carry out joint patrols and share information with our Botswana counterparts. Above all, the surrounding communities have fully supported these efforts," said Inspector Matanga.

The real story lies beyond the statistics. In a region where resources are scarce, the police drilled a borehole that now serves both officers and nearby villagers, reinforcing a relationship built on mutual trust and reliance. Community members, organised into Village

Anti-Stock Theft Committees, have become active partners in policing.

That cooperation has yielded tremendous results. Earlier this year, two separate murder cases were swiftly solved with the assistance of local residents.

"Guyu villagers are our water, and we are the fish," said Inspector Matanga. "Without them, we cannot survive."

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe Republic Police continues to reap the benefits of its Community Policing programme, with Anti-Stock Theft Committees proving to be a flagship initiative in the fight against stock theft across the country.

In a notable success recorded in Mashonaland Central Province, three suspected stock thieves, namely Albert Fibion (42), Funny Bisenti (44) and Trust Mahoko (42), were arrested following a coordinated operation involving members of the community and the police.

The arrests stemmed from the theft of seven goats at Tsinza Village and five goats at Kamwaza Village in Mbire on 26 April 2026 at approximately 0400 hours. Upon discovering the thefts, members of the local Anti-Stock Theft Committees swiftly mobilised and worked closely with



**ZRP Guyu OIC
Inspector Raphael Matanga**

the police, leading to the tracking of the suspects to Mapata Area in Bakasa, Guruve.

The operation culminated in the arrest of the three suspects and the recovery of all 12 stolen goats. Police also recovered the suspects' get away vehicle, a Toyota Hiace kombi, registration number AGH 2725.

Further investigations linked the suspects to three other stock theft cases which occurred in Mbire between 4 and 13 April 2026, during which 49 goats were stolen.



The get-away kombi and stolen goats recovered in Mbire, Mashonaland Central recently.

Parliamentarians tour Forensic Science Laboratory

—By Faindani Phiri—

The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence, Home Affairs, Security Services and War Veterans recently toured the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Forensic Science Directorate (FSD) during a familiarisation visit held at the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Headquarters in Harare.

The visit underscored the growing importance of forensic

science in strengthening criminal investigations, enhancing justice delivery and promoting public confidence in policing.

Welcoming the delegation, Deputy Commissioner-General of Police (Crime and Operations) Learn Ncube described the occasion as a significant milestone in the ZRP's continued transition towards evidence-led policing.

He noted that forensic science had become an indispensable

pillar of the modern justice system, enabling investigations to be conducted with greater precision, speed and scientific credibility.

Deputy Commissioner-General Ncube explained that the establishment of the Forensic Science Directorate was driven by the need to strengthen investigative capabilities, improve justice delivery systems and align Zimbabwe's policing standards with international best practices.



Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence, Home Affairs, Security Services and War Veterans accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner-General (Crime and Operations), Learn Ncube (in fawn suit) during the tour of the Forensic Science Laboratory at CID Headquarters in Harare.



He said the Directorate's mandate includes expert crime scene management, forensic analysis and the provision of expert testimony in court proceedings.

The facility houses specialised sections such as Forensic Chemistry, Forensic Toxicology, Criminalistics, Forensic Biology, Questioned Document Examination, Ballistics and the Cyber Laboratory. Collectively, these units provide scientific support to criminal investigations and assist law enforcement agencies in combating increasingly sophisticated crimes.

Tracing the history of forensic science within Zimbabwe policing, Deputy Commissioner-General Ncube revealed that the department was first established in 1963 during the colonial era under the British South Africa Police (BSAP). In response to the rise in cyber-related offences, the Cyber Laboratory was established in 2018, before the dedicated Forensic Science Laboratory was officially commissioned in April 2020.

Members of the parliamentary committee toured the laboratories and witnessed demonstrations in DNA analysis, chemistry, criminalistics, ballistics and cyber forensics. Deputy Commissioner-General Ncube expressed confidence that the visit would strengthen appreciation of the critical role

forensic science plays in modern policing and service delivery.

Speaking during the tour, Chief Director Forensic Science Laboratory, Commissioner Dr Clancy Nyamkure highlighted the transformative role of science in criminal investigations and justice delivery.

"Forensic science is no longer a luxury in policing, but a necessity. Across the world, justice systems are increasingly relying on scientific evidence to establish the truth. Science protects the innocent, exposes the guilty and strengthens public confidence in the justice delivery system.

"For many years, Zimbabwe lagged behind other countries in the region in terms of forensic infrastructure, but significant progress has now been made. Our vision is to continue building a modern forensic science capability that meets international standards and effectively supports criminal investigations," said Commissioner Dr Nyamkure.

Acting Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence, Home Affairs, Security Services and War Veterans, Honourable George Mashavave commended the ZRP for embracing science and technology in the fight against crime.

"What we have witnessed here is commendable and encouraging. The ZRP is demonstrating a

strong commitment towards modernising policing through science, technology and innovation.

"As Parliament, we now have a deeper appreciation of the complexities and resource requirements involved in forensic investigations. We will take these insights back to Parliament as part of our oversight role and continue supporting initiatives that strengthen national security and justice delivery," he said.

The familiarisation visit ultimately highlighted the ZRP's determination to embrace scientific innovation in crime detection and investigation, while strengthening cooperation between Parliament and law enforcement institutions in safeguarding national security and justice.

The tour also exposed legislators to a side of policing that often remains invisible to the public, the highly technical and increasingly sophisticated infrastructure underpinning modern criminal investigations, evidence analysis and cyber security operations.

By visiting divisions such as Criminalistics, Ballistics, Chemistry Laboratory, DNA Laboratory and the Questioned Document Examination section, parliamentarians gained first-hand insight into how scientific methodologies are increasingly shaping law enforcement capabilities in Zimbabwe.



In an institution associated with discipline, courage and endurance, one female police officer has carved her name into the history of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) by breaking through one of most demanding and male-dominated fields.

Assistant Inspector Annah Katapi is currently the only female launch master in the ZRP, a rare achievement that speaks volumes about resilience and determination.

The role of a launch master is one of the most specialised assignments in policing water bodies. It demands technical precision, physical endurance, sharp situational awareness and the ability to remain composed under pressure.

A launch master is responsible for overseeing the safe launching and operation of police watercraft, coordinating navigation and ensuring vessels remain operationally ready for duties such as patrols, search-and-rescue missions, border security operations and crime prevention activities on water.

For years, the field remained largely dominated by men due to the demanding nature of the work and long-held perceptions surrounding maritime operations. However, Assistant Inspector Katapi refused to allow stereotypes to define her ambitions.

Her journey to becoming a launch master was built on discipline, sacrifice and persistence. She underwent rigorous training in seamanship, navigation, maritime safety procedures, mechanical operations and emergency response, while being subjected to the same stringent standards as her male counterparts.

Failure, she says, was never an option!

"I wanted to prove that capability has no gender," she said. "When you wear the uniform, what matters is competence, discipline and commitment to duty."

Assistant Inspector Katapi attained her

Breaking barriers

Meet ZRP's only female Launch Master

—By Tawanda Zinyengere—

launch master Class One qualification at Lake Kariba in 2013, becoming a trailblazer within the organisation.

Today, she serves at Aquaview Resort and Conference Centre, where her responsibilities include navigating and manoeuvring boats, supervising the boarding and disembarking of passengers, conducting safety briefings and ensuring that all equipment is in proper working condition.

"I am also in charge of vessel maintenance, carrying out routine inspections on engines, fuel systems and safety gear to ensure seaworthiness. I supervise crew members, assign duties and ensure discipline and professionalism on board," she explained.

Colleagues describe her as focused, dependable and highly professional. In high-risk water operations, where split-second decisions can determine life or death outcomes, she has consistently demonstrated calm leadership and operational competence.

Her success sends a powerful message to young women within the police service and beyond that no field is out of reach.

She has become a symbol of the ZRP's broader efforts towards gender mainstreaming, professional development and merit-based advancement within the organisation.

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe Republic Police has strengthened its operational capacity through the acquisition of new patrol boats aimed at enhancing security and safety on the country's major water bodies.

The boats, which will be deployed to strategic and border areas such as Kariba, Chirundu, Kazungula and other inland water bodies, are expected to improve the Police's ability to combat water-related

crimes, respond to emergencies and enforce maritime safety regulations.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba said the acquisition reflects the organisation's commitment to modernising policing operations and improving service delivery.

"The introduction of these patrol boats marks a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance policing on water bodies. They will strengthen our capacity to combat crimes such as illegal fishing, smuggling and border-related offences, while also improving our response to drowning incidents," he said.

Commissioner-General Mutamba urged officers deployed to operate the vessels to exercise professionalism, discipline and diligence in the execution of their duties.

"Our responsibility is to protect life and property at all times. These resources must be utilised efficiently and responsibly to ensure the safety of all water users and surrounding communities," he added.

The newly acquired patrol boats are equipped with modern navigation and safety features designed to improve patrol efficiency, search-and-rescue operations and rapid response during emergencies.



Assistant Inspector Annah Katapi (white hat) navigating a patrol boat.

Inset: Assistant Inspector Annah Katapi



Filabusi Police grapples with stock theft and violent crime

Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Filabusi has raised concern over a palpable increase in stock theft cases within its policing area, with authorities attributing the trend to poor livestock management practices and increased criminal activity linked to the growing population in the area.

The Filabusi policing area, which is largely dominated by cattle ranching and artisanal mining activities, recorded 15 stock theft cases between January and April 2026, compared to seven cases recorded during the same period in 2025. This represents an increase of more than 114 percent.

Officer-in-Charge Filabusi Police, Inspector Simbarashe Museva said stock theft was now one of the major crimes threatening livelihoods in the district.

"The rise in stock theft is a serious concern for us because livestock is a source of livelihood for many families in our area. Criminals are taking advantage of poor cattle management practices and the vast grazing lands to steal livestock. We continue to urge farmers to regularly pen, brand and monitor their cattle so that cases can be detected early and recoveries made," he said.

Police has since strengthened anti-stock theft operations through the establishment of four patrol bases strategically positioned across the policing area. Each base is manned by police officers who are being complemented by members of the police constabulary.

The recent allocation of a motorcycle to the station has also

improved police mobility, enabling officers to patrol remote areas more effectively and respond swiftly to reports of stock theft.

Law enforcement agents have also identified the absence of a local abattoir in Filabusi as another factor fuelling the crime. Most livestock traders rely on abattoirs in Bulawayo, Gwanda and Gweru, creating opportunities for criminals to transport stolen cattle to those urban centres for slaughter or resale.

In response, ZRP Filabusi has intensified collaboration with other police units, particularly the Traffic Section, to monitor major routes and intercept suspicious livestock movements during both day and night patrols.

Meanwhile, violent crimes, particularly assault cases linked to artisanal mining activities, continue to trouble the district. Police statistics show that assault cases increased from 89, recorded between January and April 2025, to 101 cases during the same period in 2026, representing a 14 percent increase.

Police say most of the violent incidents involve artisanal miners, commonly known as makorokoza, who often clash over mining territories and gold proceeds.

"We have different groups of artisanal miners operating within our area and they usually identify themselves according to where they come from. These groups frequently clash over mining territories and gold proceeds, resulting in violent assaults involving dangerous weapons such as machetes, axes and knives," said Inspector Museva.



ZRP Filabusi O.I.C Chief Inspector Simbarashe Museva.

To address the surge in violent crime, police has intensified operations targeting illegal mining hotspots and violent offenders. Through community policing programmes such as Home Officer Scheme, Crime Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch Committees, police are conducting awareness campaigns encouraging peaceful conflict resolution and cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

Business operators, particularly those who operate liquor outlets are also being engaged to ensure compliance with regulated operating hours, as alcohol abuse has been linked to many violent confrontations.

Police has appealed to members of the public to work closely with law enforcement agencies by reporting criminal activities and suspicious movements within their communities.



Not under my watch!

Members of the public across the country are being urged not to tolerate any form of criminal activity within their communities, regardless of how minor it may appear, but to report it promptly to the police so that swift action can be taken before the situation escalates into more serious offences.

Authorities believe that timely reporting of crimes and suspicious activities remains key in significantly reducing crime in the country.

This comes as a contingent from the Police General Headquarters (PGHQ), comprising officers from the Press and Public Relations Department, Operations, Crime Office, Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and the Anti-Stock Theft Unit, continues conducting nationwide awareness campaigns on the directive of Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba. The outreach programmes are aimed at strengthening community participation and fostering closer cooperation between the police and members of the public in the fight against crime.

The outreach programmes, which are targeting schools, tertiary institutions, farmers and the general public, are anchored on encouraging communities to work closely with the police in maintaining peace and security in their respective areas.

The campaigns are focusing on pressing issues affecting communities on a daily basis, including drug and substance abuse, stock theft, sexual and domestic violence, cyberbullying and other forms of criminal activities.

Speaking during one of the awareness campaigns, Senior Staff Officer (Victim Friendly Unit), Assistant Commissioner Dr Matildah Singende said communities should embrace a culture of reporting criminal activities without fear or hesitation.

"We are encouraging members of the public not to keep quiet whenever criminal activities occur in their communities. Crimes must be reported immediately to the Police so that action is taken without delay. Early reporting of crimes significantly helps in reducing criminal activities in the country," she said.

Assistant Commissioner Singende said the thrust of the outreach is to conscientise communities on the importance of cooperation between the Police and the public in creating a crime-free environment.

"Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. The police cannot fight crime alone and that is why we continue to encourage communities to work hand in hand with law enforcement agencies in safeguarding their communities," she said.

She further urged members of the public to avoid violence when resolving disputes.

"People should avoid using violence in solving disputes because such situations usually degenerate into serious crimes such as assault and murder. Community members should seek assistance from family elders, traditional leaders and the Police whenever conflicts arise," she added.

Assistant Commissioner Blessmore Chishaka, the Senior Staff Officer (Press and Public Relations), said the country's law enforcement agency is committed to strengthening relations with communities

through various engagement platforms. "The ZRP is doing all it can to boost public confidence through social media platforms, radio and television programmes as well as direct community engagements. Collective efforts between the Police and members of the public remain the only effective solution to the crime-related challenges facing the country," he said.

During the campaigns, police officers were encouraging members of the public to join community policing programmes and neighbourhood safety initiatives as a way of enhancing crime prevention efforts. Communities are also being urged to share vital crime-related information with the Police through official social media channels, suggestion boxes and direct reports at police stations.

One of the attendees, Lucas Tafirenyika from Marondera in Mashonaland East Province, applauded the initiative, saying face-to-face engagements between the Police and communities were important in addressing concerns affecting ordinary citizens.

"This is a noble idea because physical engagement allows members of the public to openly express some of the grievances that may not easily be communicated through social media or other platforms.

"While there are other convenient means of communication, there is still need for both parties to physically converge because such engagements are more appealing and effective in building confidence and mutual understanding," he said

The campaigns are focusing on topical and prevalent issues affecting communities, including drug and substance abuse, stock theft, sexual and domestic violence, cyber bullying and other criminal activities disturbing peace and security in society.



Senior Staff Officer (Victim Friendly Unit) Assistant Commissioner Dr Matilda Singende (centre), Senior Staff Officer (Press and Public Relations), Assistant Commissioner Blessmore Chishaka (third from right) with officers and members from PGHQ, CID, ZRP Mashonaland East Provincial Community Relations office and UMAA Institute Staff members, soon after conducting a VFU and drug and substance abuse campaign at UMAA Institute in Marondera, Mashonaland East Province.



Mbare CLC Applauds district for crime reduction

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Mbare Crime Liaison Committee (CLC) has commended the district for its commitment in fighting crime following a notable decline in criminal activities in the area.

Once known for frequent cases of theft, robbery and public disorder, the district has experienced a remarkable transformation driven by community engagement, strategic policing and enhanced security measures. The district recorded a six percent decrease in crime during May 2026 compared to the same period in 2025.

Speaking in an interview with **The Outpost**, the Mbare District CLC chairperson, Desmond Chireya praised the efforts of the district command and members of the ZRP Mbare for their dedication in maintaining law and order. He noted that increased police visibility, prompt responses to incidents and strengthened cooperation between the police and residents have contributed significantly to improved security in the area.

"The reduction in crime that we are witnessing today is a result of hard work, professionalism and the strong partnership between the police and the community. We are grateful to the Officer Commanding Mbare and his team for their dedication to ensuring that residents feel safe in their homes and businesses," said the chairperson.

The chairperson also highlighted



The Officer Commanding Police Mbare District, Chief Superintendent Runwell Chipfurutse (Left) and ZRP Mbare District Crime Liaison Committee chairperson Mr Desmond Chireya.

the role played by community members who continue to support law enforcement through information sharing and participation in crime prevention initiatives. He emphasised that effective policing is strengthened when citizens and law enforcement agencies work together.

Responding to the recognition, Officer Commanding Mbare District, Chief Superintendent Runwell Chipfurutse, expressed appreciation for the support received from the district CLC and the community. He reiterated the police's commitment to protecting lives and property while encouraging members of the public to remain vigilant and continue cooperating with law enforcement agencies.

"It is pleasing to note that the district recorded a decrease in prevalent crimes, with 161 fewer cases reported during the month of May 2026 compared to the same month last year. This

translates to a six percent reduction in crime. The district continues to experience challenges related to pickpocketing at identified hotspots, and we are intensifying our efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice. I would like to assure farmers, vendors, traders and buyers that their safety remains our priority and that the Police are committed to providing a secure environment for all," assured Chief Superintendent Chipfurutse.

The commendation comes at a time when community policing continues to play a vital role in crime prevention, with authorities and residents working hand in hand to create a safer environment for everyone in Mbare District.

The ZRP Mbare Crime Liaison Committee reaffirmed its commitment to support police efforts and promote initiatives aimed at sustaining peace, security and development throughout the district.



Farewell to Chief Inspector Siziba

—By Faindani Phiri—



The late Chief Inspector Angelina Siziba

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) has paid its final respect to Chief Inspector Angelina Siziba, affectionately known as "Asoko," who passed away at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals in Harare after a short illness. She was 53.

Her passing has left a deep void within the ZRP family, particularly at the Police Academy, where she was widely respected as a mentor, disciplinarian, role model and source of inspiration.

Colleagues, family members and friends gathered to celebrate her life and reflect on

her remarkable contribution to the organisation and the nation.

In his address, the Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba who was represented by the Chief Staff Officer (Training and Development), Commissioner Wonder Tembo, paid tribute to Chief Inspector Siziba's distinguished service, commitment and lasting contribution to the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

"Today, we bid farewell to a dedicated officer, an exceptional trainer and a true professional who served the ZRP with distinction, loyalty and honour. Chief Inspector Siziba was a

source of inspiration to many and her contribution to police training and development will remain embedded in the history of the Police Academy. Her legacy will continue to guide and inspire generations of officers to come," said Commissioner Tembo.

He noted that the late officer's professionalism, leadership and commitment to duty earned her the respect of colleagues and subordinates alike, adding that her contribution to police training and development would remain an important part of the Police Academy's history.

Speaking on behalf of work colleagues, Inspector Beauty Bumhira described the late Chief Inspector Siziba as a woman of courage, resilience and unwavering determination whose legacy would continue to inspire future generations.

"She was proof that the distance between obscurity and distinction is bridged by diligence and character," said Inspector Bumhira, adding that Chief Inspector Siziba's life was a testament to hard work, perseverance and excellence.

Chief Inspector Siziba was laid to rest at Zororo Memorial Park, Chitungwiza in Harare. She is survived by her husband and one child.

May her dear soul rest in eternal peace.



Members of the ZRP technical staff who worked on the ZRP pavilion during the ZITF preparations



Police Dance Band members woo visitors at the ZRP pavilion at ZITF



Zimbabwe and Botswana confront transnational crime

—By Takudzwa Kwesu—

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and the Botswana Police Service (BPS) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Police Cooperation in Combating Livestock Theft and other cross-border crimes during the 5th Session of the Zimbabwe-Botswana Bi-National Commission (BNC) held at the Harare International Conference Centre (HICC).

The high-level meeting, co-chaired by Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Botswana President Duma Boko, focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in tackling transnational crimes affecting the two neighbouring countries.

The commission commended the growing cooperation between the ZRP, BPS and border communities in combating stock theft and other criminal activities along the shared border.

During the period under review, five joint operations resulted in the recovery of 27 stolen cattle and 12 donkeys stolen from Zimbabwe and recovered in Botswana. In reciprocal operations, 30 cattle and 68 goats stolen from Botswana were recovered in Zimbabwe.

The commission also applauded four successful joint border patrols conducted with the assistance of community policing structures and encouraged the two police services to intensify community engagement programmes to combat stock theft syndicates.

Cigarette smuggling also emerged as a major concern during the deliberations. Intelligence reports revealed an increase in cigarettes smuggled from Zimbabwe through Botswana into South Africa using modified vehicles and concealed cargo.

To curb the illicit trade, the commission directed both police services to strengthen intelligence sharing and deploy modern technologies such as drones and cargo scanners to detect smuggling activities along unmanned sections of the border.

Drug trafficking also featured prominently during the security discussions. Coordinated operations between the ZRP and BPS led to the detection of 69 cases involving illicit drugs, resulting in the recovery of approximately 286 kilogrammes of dangerous substances.

The operations led to the arrest of 131 Zimbabwean nationals and 22 Botswana nationals who are currently at various stages of investigation and prosecution.

The commission urged the two police services to strengthen joint operations, including controlled deliveries aimed at identifying and dismantling drug trafficking syndicates.

Illegal mining activities along the border also received attention, with the commission expressing concern over the involvement of undocumented miners from both countries.

Joint patrols and awareness campaigns were conducted in hotspot areas such as the Matopi/Sepako borderline, while a rescue operation carried out in Matsiloje successfully rescued eight Zimbabwean illegal miners trapped underground.

The commission further noted a decline in motor vehicle theft cases along the common border following enhanced cooperation between the two police services and the use of INTERPOL systems at border posts.

However, concern was raised over emerging cases of human trafficking, particularly involving victims lured through fake online job advertisements.

The commission concluded by calling for intensified border monitoring, enhanced intelligence sharing and continued joint operations to safeguard the security and sovereignty of both Zimbabwe and Botswana.

The newly signed MoU is expected to strengthen coordinated policing efforts, improve information sharing and enhance the fight against cross-border crime between the two countries.



The Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba (right) exchanges a handshake with his counterpart, Botswana Police Service Commissioner, Dinah Marathe.



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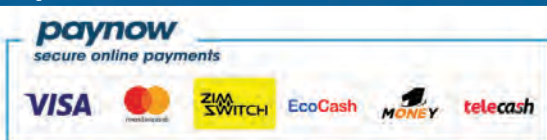
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He lay on the bed, one arm resting across his chest while the other scrolled lazily through his phone. The faint glow from the screen flickered against the walls, casting uneasy shadows across the room. He was waiting for Mai Muku to call him for supper.

The clock read 20:00 hours. The house was quiet.

Their only child, six-year-old Muku, was already asleep in the next room, curled beneath a thin blanket. Ba Muku frowned, supper was late than usual. He yawned.

"Just a minute," he murmured.

The phone slipped from his fingers. Thud. He blinked and leaned over the edge of the bed. "My phone," he muttered.

The darkness beneath the bed seemed deeper than it should have been.

He stretched his arm down, but his fingers touched nothing. With a grunt, he pushed the bed aside. The legs scraped harshly against the floor.

Then he saw the phone. And beside it, a red pack. "A pack of cigarettes?"

His breath caught in his throat.

"No. Mai Muku is having an affair," he whispered. "Why else would cigarettes be under my bed?"

His heartbeat quickened.

"I don't smoke." A dark thought crept into his mind. Then whose are they?

The Pack beneath the bed

By Pauline Mponda

"Mai Muku!" he shouted.

His voice tore through the silence.

Footsteps approached. She entered the room wiping her hands on her skirt.

"Yes? Supper is not ready yet."

"What is this?" he demanded, thrusting the cigarette pack toward her.

She frowned. "A pack of cigarettes. Where did you find it?"

"Under the bed."

Confusion spread across her face.

"Under the bed? Are you smoking now, Ba Muku?"

The question snapped something inside him.

Clap!

His hand struck her cheek with brutal force. Her head whipped sideways.

"Don't lie to me!" he roared.

She staggered back, clutching her face.

"I, I don't know what you are talking about."

Thud! His fist slammed into her shoulder, driving her against the wall.

"Who brought this into my house?" he shouted.

"I don't know!" she cried. "I swear!"

He kicked her.

Pain exploded through her ribs. She collapsed to the floor, gasping for breath.

"Stop lying!" he barked.

Blood filled her mouth. She coughed weakly, her vision blurring.

"I don't know," she whispered.

But he did not stop. Another blow. Another kick. The room became a storm of violence.

Her head struck the floor with a sickening crack. Warm blood spread beneath her cheek.

"Please," she begged faintly.

Finally, he stepped back, breathing heavily. Silence fell.

Cold and heavy.

"Pack your things and go," he said.

She did not argue.

Slowly, trembling, she pulled herself to her feet. Blood stained her lips as she wiped her face.

She walked into the next room.

"Muku, wake up."

The little girl stirred. "Mama?"

"We're leaving."

"Where?"

"Just come." She took nothing. Only her child.

Together, they stepped into the cold night and walked toward Mkoba Six Shops, where her sister lived.

The next morning, bruised and aching, Mai Muku entered the police station.

Inside, she noticed a familiar face, her neighbor, Mai Sasha.

"Mai Sasha," She yelled.

The woman turned slowly. One eye was swollen nearly shut.

"Mai Muku," she answered weakly.

They stared at each other in disbelief.

"What happened to you?" Mai Muku asked softly. Mai Sasha gave a bitter smile.





"Men can be cruel," she whispered.

"What happened?"

"Baba Sasha came home looking for his cigarettes. He said he had left them in the house. I told him I didn't know where they were." She paused painfully. "He beat me."

Mai Muku felt a chill crawl through her body.

"A pack of cigarettes?" she asked quietly.

"Yes."

Silence swallowed them both. Confused. Broken.

Elsewhere, the previous afternoon, laughter had filled a dusty yard in Mkoba Six, Gweru.

A group of six-year-olds were playing house.

"Today I'm the father!" Sasha declared proudly.

"Then I'm the mother!" Muku replied with a giggle.

The children gathered empty containers for cooking pots and old clothes for blankets.

To make the game feel real, Sasha ran into his house and returned holding a pack of cigarettes.

"A father must always have these," he said proudly, imitating what he had seen his own father do.

The children laughed. But before the game could continue, his mother called out from the house.

"Sasha! Come and bath!"

"I'm coming!" he shouted.

He dropped everything and ran inside. He forgot the cigarettes.

Later, after the other children had gone home, Muku found the pack lying in the dust.

She picked it up carefully.

"I'll give it back tomorrow," she whispered.

She carried it home and tossed it beneath the bed.

Then she forgot about it.

One day enter, Ba Muku and Baba Sasha sat in separate police cells.

The heavy steel gate of the police station cells creaked as it swung open. The dimly lit corridor echoed with the sound of

boots approaching. A uniformed police officer walked slowly down the passage, a bunch of keys jangling at his side.

Inside two separate cells sat two men, each lost in his own thoughts after a restless night on the hard concrete floor.

The officer stopped at the cell door and inserted a key into the lock. Click! He did the same to the other cell.

The locks yielded and the officer pulled the doors open. "Come out, gentlemen," he commanded.

The two men rose hesitantly and stepped into the corridor. As the fluorescent light illuminated their faces, they froze in surprise.

"Ba Muku?" one exclaimed.

"Ba Sasha?" the other responded, equally astonished.

The two neighbours stared at each other. They had lived on the same street for years, greeting each other every morning across the fence, attending the same community meetings and occasionally sharing a drink during weekends. Yet neither had expected to find the other emerging from a police cell.

An awkward silence followed. Ba Muku scratched his head.

"So... what are you doing here?" he asked cautiously.

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Just start as a lone wolf.

Just start.
You'll figure out as you go.
Fearing the unknown?
Start with all your insecurities.
Experience will teach a lot.

Feeling sapped and powerless?
Just crawl towards your goal.
At first, things seem impossible.
Things are hard, not impossible.

Choosing the best way?
There is no best way.
Only my way and your way.
Start and make mistakes.
To finish, you've to start.

Don't look back,
You're not going that way.
Don't look sideways for support.
A strong lion fights alone.
Do you see obstacles?
That's the way.

Start confused, start now.
Start small, start trembling.
Hard work beats talent,
When talent doesn't work hard.

Is it hard work?
If so, work hard.
If you start now,
The next thing is to finish.

By Alex 'Alonso' Ngandini :
Police Staff College

My birthday gift

Buy me a watch on my birthday,
Not merely silver, leather or gold,
But a quiet reminder
Of a love too precious to be told.
With every tick upon my wrist,
I will remember what I mean to you,

And in each passing minute,
How much is your heart worth
to mine.

The hands will move
in silent lessons,
Teaching me that time is life,
That every second
carries purpose,
Dreams, decisions, joy and strife.
I will learn that moments matter,
That wasted hours never return,
And every dawn that greets
my eyes
Is another chance
to live and learn.

The watch will whisper
in the darkness,
"Do not chase
what has no meaning,
Do not lose yourself
in empty roads,
Or in pursuits forever fleeting."

Instead, I'll treasure every minute,
Build with wisdom,
walk with grace,
Spend my time on love
and purpose,

Not on running life's pointless race.
Buy me a watch on my birthday,
And every time I check the hour,
I'll remember love is measured
not in gifts,
But in time, devotion,
and inner power.

By Selina Pawandiwa

The Memory that Refuses to be Erased

I envisioned cadavers streaming
down rivers.
Their demises were untimely.
Someone's greed has snatched
their existence without cause.

They were part of the plot,
their role being victims.
Their offense:
inheriting ancestral belongings.

The wives wept for their husbands;
Husbands sobbed for their wives;
Brides grieved over their groom;
Parents wailed for their children;
Children wept for their parents.
The future oral monuments had
been erased.

These were intrigues propelled by
capitalistic invaders,
whose hearts were engulfed
with calibrated discrimination
and animosity.

Orphanages expanded,
Disability spread.
Human corpses were scattered in
forests like decayed trunks.

The earth was soaked in blood.
Rivers became lifetime morgues.
The smell of fresh blood
lingers still.

Every day my heart is in agony.
The pain will never go away.
My tears will never dry out.

From the soaked earth,
a vow takes root,
From the silent bones,
a song disputes.
What the invaders had deprived,
was reclaimed.

Independence is not the flag
they raised,
But the memory that refuses
to be erased.
So I will speak where the blood
once ran,
Till the children know
who they are again.

By Mike Makamba

**Send your letters
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ISSUE 2 / 2026 Solution

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M	B	A	N	J	E	dagga	S	I	R	E	N	alarm	D
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M	E	T	converged reptile	C	R	A	N	E	winch	S	emphasise concept	I	joint
M	R	title	C	civic	fellow citizen attention	box	T	V	unwell	S	I	C	K
O		A	R	E	A	region exclamation	I	throttle		strain lair	D	E	N
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S	T	O	C	K	T	H	E	F	T	offence	A	saw	E

Puzzling the brain with Simbarashe Chingwachevana Maturure

ISSUE 3 / 2026 Puzzle

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Puzzling the brain with Simbarashe Chingwachevana Maturure



The business model of cybercrime in Africa

—By Nyasha Alford—

The accelerating pace of cybercrime presents progressively sophisticated threats to society, with harmful implications both online and offline. Cybercriminals are rapidly exploiting advanced technologies, particularly AI tools, to enhance the speed, efficiency and scope of their illicit activities. These tools not only enable automation in criminal processes but also blur the lines between legitimate and malicious uses of technology.

Cybercrime in Africa is no longer limited to isolated incidents or individual “hackers.” The Government of Zimbabwe, through its designated Ministry of Information, Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services (MICTPCS), Home Affairs, and Cultural Heritage responsible for the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), appreciates that cybercrime is increasingly industrialising, meaning cybercriminal activity is becoming more organised, scalable and systematic, similar to the way legitimate businesses operate. The increasing scale, sophistication and operational complexity of cybercrime continue to raise significant challenges for investigators across every region.

Organised cyber groups now mirror corporate structures by having specialised roles such as research and development, marketing and customer support, thus transforming the threat landscape.

This industrialisation has profound consequences for law enforcement agencies tasked with combating cybercrime. In many cases, it stretches police capacity beyond what traditional policing models can handle, weakening deterrence and reducing the likelihood of successful investigations and prosecutions.

Has been noted that different actors now contribute distinct functions within the cybercrime ecosystem

as some develop malware, others rent out infrastructure, while others handle monetisation and laundering.

Barriers to entry into this criminal world have been removed, as sophisticated attacks that once required specialised skill sets are now available to almost anyone with criminal intent.

Cybercrime “industrialisation” refers to the transformation of cyber-offending into an operational enterprise with repeatable processes.

Speaking during the official opening ceremony for senior officers training at the ZRP Police Sports Club in Mkushi Training Academy, the Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba, emphasised the need for law enforcement agents, and in particular members of the ZRP, to be able to identify strategic targets for disruption with a view to meaningfully intervene the wider cybercriminal ecosystem and degrade criminal capability at scale.

Furthermore, the police chief acknowledged the emergence of specialised AI agents designed to assist cybercriminal operations by indicating that these agents will not operate independently, but they will begin to automate and enhance critical stages of the attack chain.

This cyber-industry transformation has seen the rise of subscription-style cybercrime offerings such as ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS), malware-as-a-service (MaaS), and cybercrime-as-a-service (CCaaS), amongst others. The ready-made attack tools sold on underground marketplaces offer structured pricing tiers, user dashboards, and technical support that have effectively lowered the traditional entry barriers confronting budding cybercriminals.

Deloitte’s Center for Financial Services estimates that synthetic

identity fraud alone could generate global losses of at least \$23 billion by 2030, clearly demonstrating that the expanding cybercrime economy is transforming cybersecurity from a purely technical concern into a strategic leadership issue. Protecting digital assets is now directly tied to revenue protection, regulatory compliance, business continuity, and long-term customer trust.

The ZRP has participated in several international and regional cybercrime operations since 2021, including Operation Serengeti 2.0, Operation Sentinel (2025), and Operations Synergia II & III (2024-2025).

This has established that there has been a fundamental shift in attack entry points. A point to consider now is that the initial access is much more opportunistic than it used to be in the past, but the execution of the attack, the second stage, once they get inside, is much more targeted than it used to be. Attackers now exploit widely used software vulnerabilities as soon as proof-of-concept code emerges, rather than targeting specific organisations.

The industrialisation of cybercrime has seen the maturation of RaaS into a gig-economy-like model, where low-skilled affiliates can execute sophisticated attacks using standardised playbooks.

The rapid dissemination of various techniques across groups is a hallmark of industrialised operations, enabling even less experienced actors to achieve high-impact results.

Thus, cybersecurity practitioners in Africa need to be prepared as well as start designing their environments to be hostile for these attackers, to be unpredictable, to have honeypots deployed, start locking down the environment, start hardening it, start making it unpredictable for the attackers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



Be the light, not the reflection

—By Mildred Mutize—

There is something undeniable about light. When it enters a dark space, it does not hesitate, does not adjust itself to match the darkness and neither does it ask for permission. It simply shines and, in that moment, darkness retreats.

This is a clear blueprint for life.

Wherever you are deployed or positioned, you are undoubtedly in spaces where pressure is real, expectations are high, and challenges are constant. And in that, one truth remains, you carry influence, - not because of what you have but because of who you choose to be.

The environments we operate and live in often call us to blend in, - to do just enough, and to follow the current rather than challenge it. But nothing transformative has ever come from simply fitting in. When you become a reflection, you give away your power. You allow circumstances, opinions, and external pressures to redefine your purpose. And slowly, your uniqueness - your light - begins to fade.

And yet you were never meant to be a reflection of your environment. You were meant to be the light within it; to be the one who brings calm where there is pressure, clarity where there is confusion, and integrity where compromise seems easier. This has nothing to do with position or title. It is about choosing character over convenience, purpose over passivity, and consistency over comfort.

Every day presents a choice: to reflect what is around you or to influence it.

In the same way that light does not struggle to be seen, but simply shines, when you choose to walk in integrity, discipline, and purpose, your influence becomes undeniable even without saying a single word. And that is how transformation begins - not in grand gestures, but in daily decisions.

The truth is, this world is not short of challenges. But what it deeply needs are individuals who refuse to echo what is broken. Individuals who choose to rise above the noise and bring something better, something higher, something steady.

That begins with a decision - a

decision to stop shrinking, to stop adjusting your values to fit your environment and to stop waiting for things to improve before you give your best.

If one light can transform an entire dark room, you too can make a difference. Never underestimate the power of your presence. The way you show up matters more than you think, more than you see, and more than you may ever be told. Because when you embrace your light, you do more than rise above your environment...you become a reference point for others. A quiet reminder that it is still possible to lead with purpose, to live with integrity, and to choose better - every single day.

Do not wait for better conditions. Be the difference within the current ones. Be the light. Always.

Mildred Mutize
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The business model of cybercrime in Africa

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Organisations in Africa need to appreciate that as threats evolve, they must adapt defences to counter opportunistic, targeted attacks effectively. Furthermore, there is a need for proactiveness as automation of offensive operations through agentic AI models, where swarm-based agents will begin to coordinate tasks semi-autonomously and adapt to defender behaviour, alongside increasingly sophisticated supply-chain attacks targeting AI and embedded systems.

The ZRP predicts that by 2030, cybercrime is expected to function

at a scale comparable to legitimate global industries. Furthermore, it is alive to the fact that the next stage of cybersecurity will depend on how effectively humans and machines can operate together as adaptive systems.

Velocity and scale will define the decade ahead. Organizations that unify intelligence, automation, and human expertise into a single, responsive system will be the ones best able to withstand what comes next.

To effectively combat industrialised cybercrime, Africa's law enforcement must modernise—not only technologically, but operationally.

This includes strengthening digital forensics, enhancing evidence handling, improving inter-agency and international cooperation, and building durable partnerships with the private sector and civil institutions.

Without these steps, cybercriminal "industries" will continue to grow while enforcement remains slow, reactive, and vulnerable to the criminals' adaptive advantage. As criminals exploit new technologies and create complex networks, law enforcement must adapt quickly to ensure the safety and security of the digital world.



All-female dance band unveiled

—By Courage Hove—

It all started with a simple but thought-provoking question.

If female police officers can successfully endure the rigours of recruit training, master drill movements, handle firearms and perform demanding policing duties alongside their male counterparts, why should they be discouraged from playing musical instruments traditionally regarded as the preserve of men?

For decades, technical roles in the music industry such as lead guitar, bass guitar, drums and keyboards have largely been dominated by men. Female musicians were often confined to singing and dancing roles, not because of a lack of talent or ability, but due to societal perceptions and stereotypes that viewed certain instruments as too challenging for women.

Within the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), this reality became the subject of serious reflection. As the organisation continues to embrace gender equality and women empowerment in line with national and organisational strategic objectives, there was growing recognition that barriers limiting women in music deserved to be challenged.

Guided by the Heritage-Based Education 5.0 philosophy, which emphasises research and innovation as drivers of development, a Band Training

research team led by Assistant Inspector Mudavose embarked on a study to establish why female police musicians were reluctant to take up instruments such as guitars, drums and keyboards. The findings were revealing.

While female police officers showed great enthusiasm for music, many had been influenced by societal norms, cultural expectations and long-held beliefs that regarded technical musical instruments as a male domain. The research concluded that these stereotypes, rather than capability, were preventing women from fully exploring their musical potential.

The study recommended deliberate intervention to empower female police officers to venture into areas previously dominated by men. It further proposed the formation of an all-female dance band as a practical way of demonstrating that women are equally capable of excelling in all aspects of music performance.

The research findings were presented to Commandant Police Academy, Assistant Commissioner Ali Hondo and Director Music, Chief Superintendent Taizivei Zinyandu. Recognising an opportunity to advance gender mainstreaming while nurturing talent within the organisation, the senior officers endorsed the immediate implementation of the recommendation.

What began as a research recommendation soon evolved into a bold and ambitious project.

In September 2025, the ZRP assembled a group of determined female police officers and embarked on a journey that would make history. For many of the officers selected, playing instruments such as lead guitar, bass guitar, keyboards and drums was an entirely new experience.

Mastering musical instruments requires discipline, patience and countless hours of practice. Yet, the officers approached the challenge with the same determination that had enabled them to overcome the demands of police training and operational duties.

Supported by the Police Academy command and guided by experienced instructors, the officers dedicated themselves to intensive rehearsals. Day after day, they sharpened their skills, perfected their coordination and built confidence in their abilities.

Within a few months, the group had developed into a versatile ensemble capable of performing a wide range of songs and musical styles. Their ability to adapt to different genres demonstrated not only their musical talent but also their commitment to excellence.

By February 2026, the band had become a polished and cohesive unit, ready to showcase its talents before a wider audience.



The culmination of months of hard work came on 26 March 2026 when the Zimbabwe Republic Police officially launched the ZRP All-Women Dance Band at a colourful ceremony held at the Police Band Amphitheatre at Mkushi Academy during the graduation parade of Recruit Intake 01/23.

The event was graced by the Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba, who officially unveiled the band before an audience comprising serving and retired senior police officers, government officials and invited guests.

Among the distinguished guests were former Commissioner-General of Police, Godwin Matanga and retired Deputy Commissioner-General, Innocent Matibiri, as well as retired Commissioners who included Grace Ndebele and others.

The launch marked a significant milestone not only for the Police Band but also for the ZRP as a whole.

Their repertoire included ***"Ndibvumbamirei,"*** by Marshall Munhumumwe, ***"Vamudhara, Sinamakhosa,"*** by Les Wanyika, ***"Tozeza Baba,"*** by Oliver Mtukudzi, ***"Bring Me Your Cup."*** by UB 40 and ***"Shedia,"*** by Alick Macheso.

Speaking during the launch, Chief Superintendent Taizivei Zinyandu highlighted the significance of the initiative.

"In line with the organisation's thrust on gender mainstreaming, modernisation and innovation, the Police Academy has formed an All-Women ZRP Dance Band. While there are other all-female bands across the globe, ours is unique in its versatility and ability

to perform across various music genres and styles," he said.

Chief Superintendent Zinyandu added that the band would be deployed at state functions, national events, organisational activities and selected private functions.

The ZRP All-Women Dance Band is more than just a musical ensemble, Its formation demonstrates that talent has no gender and that with the right support, determination and vision, seemingly impossible goals can become reality. As the first all-women police dance band in Zimbabwe and one of the few within Africa's uniformed services, the group reflects the ZRP's commitment to breaking barriers and creating opportunities for women to excel in every field.



The "All female Police Dance Band" performs during a Recruit Graduation Ceremony at Mkushi Police Academy recently.



How to deal with victims of circumstances in closed relations

Mephibosheth was crippled not by choice but by war and accident (2

Sam 4:1-5), yet David remembered his covenant with Jonathan and welcomed him: *"So David said to him, 'Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather, and you shall eat bread at my table continually'"* (2 Samuel 9:7).

This was on the background that David's soul hated the lame (2 Samuel 5:8). Humanity itself became a victim of circumstances at the fall, deceived by the devil: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). However, God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

These stories remind us that in closed relations, whether family or marriage, we must respond to victims with love rather than rejection, even when their actions or words are difficult to accept.

Definitions

A victim of circumstances is someone negatively affected by events beyond their control. This may be visible, as in Mephibosheth, who became lame after a fall during war, or invisible, manifesting in thoughts, emotions, perceptions, and character.

Closed relations are enduring bonds such as marriage and family, that cannot be easily abandoned. They demand commitment and resilience, making compassion essential when dealing with victims of circumstances within them.

Open relations are associations that can be freely entered or exited, such as clubs or social groups. Unlike closed relations, they allow individuals to walk away without long-term obligation.

—By Innocent Takaendesa—

Examples of Victims of Circumstances

Substance abuse often begins as a survival mechanism, with children exposed to alcohol brewing at home later becoming dependent.

Domestic violence is frequently learned behaviour, passed down from parents who fought every weekend.

Social media vulgarity can be traced to a poor upbringing where children were never trained in discipline.

Poverty cages couples into endless quarrels over scarce resources, when in reality, both are victims of historical deprivation through colonialism. These examples show that victims are not inherently flawed, they are shaped by environments and circumstances beyond their control.

How to Deal with Victims of Circumstances

1. Love them - David loved Jonathan's son despite his lameness, a condition despised by his own soul (2 Sam 8:5). He went beyond personal feelings to love Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake. In the same way, we must love victims of circumstance for the sake of the blood or spaces we share with them.

Family members whose weaknesses stem from circumstances beyond their control deserve love. **1 Peter 4:8** reminds us, by saying, *"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.'"*

2. Show them mercy - Mercy means removing penalties we may have imposed. David showed mercy to Mephibosheth by restoring everything that belonged to his grandfather Saul. So, instead of saying "I will never help you again" or "I won't call you anymore," mercy invites inclusion and forgiveness. Jesus Himself taught in **Matthew 5:7**, that, *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."*

3. Give them grace - Grace goes beyond mercy by offering what is undeserved. David gave Mephibosheth permission to sit and eat at his table all the days of his life. Sitting at the table granted David the opportunity to teach and impart knowledge to Mephibosheth in a safe environment that shaped him. Jesus gave salvation to mankind, freely granting them access to his table to feed and to learn.

Paul in **Ephesians 2:8** stated that, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."* Likewise, giving grace to victims of circumstance is not only about feeding them in the natural but also about creating environments that allow learning and transformation to happen.

Critical Implications

Dealing with victims of circumstances in closed relations requires maturity and vision. It is easy to condemn a spouse for financial failure or a child for misbehaviour, but harder to recognise the underlying circumstances shaping them.

Compassion does not mean excusing wrongdoing, it means addressing root causes while refusing to perpetuate cycles of victimhood. Most importantly, we must ensure that we are not the circumstances producing tomorrow's victims. Parents must model healthy relationships, leaders must create fair systems and communities must break the cages of poverty and ignorance.

Conclusion

Victims of circumstances are not strangers, they are our spouses, children, parents and neighbours. In closed relations, where bonds cannot be easily broken, the call is to respond with love, mercy and grace. David's kindness to Mephibosheth and Jesus' sacrifice for mankind provide timeless models. By following their example, we not only heal present wounds but also prevent the creation of future victims.



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Behavioural Finance (Part Two): Cognitive Biases in Personal Finance

—By Temba Rodgers—

Many people struggle with managing money despite having a steady income and basic financial knowledge. Budgets are created but not followed, savings plans are delayed, and debt continues to grow. In many cases, the problem is not income or intelligence it is how people think about money.

A central idea in behavioural finance is that individuals rely on mental shortcuts, emotions, and habits when dealing with money. These shortcuts, known as cognitive biases, influence everyday financial decisions such as spending, saving, borrowing, and budgeting.

Understanding cognitive biases allows individuals to recognise hidden thinking patterns that affect their financial behaviour and to adopt more structured and informed approaches to managing money.

Understanding cognitive biases in personal finance

Cognitive biases are systematic patterns of deviation from rational thinking. They occur when individuals process information imperfectly or rely too heavily on assumptions rather than facts.

In personal finance, cognitive biases influence:

- How people budget their income
- How much they save or invest
- How they use credit and loans
- How they respond to financial risks

Because these biases operate unconsciously, many people are unaware that their financial decisions are being influenced by flawed thinking rather than careful analysis.

Overconfidence bias

Overconfidence bias occurs when individuals overestimate their financial knowledge, discipline, or ability to manage money effectively.

Example

A person may believe they have full control over their monthly expenses and therefore see no need to track

spending. They assume they “know” where their money goes. However, small, frequent expenses such as transport costs, eating out, subscriptions, or impulse purchases gradually erode income and cause money to run out before the end of the month.

Another example is assuming that future income or bonuses will easily cover current overspending, leading to relaxed financial discipline.

Impact on personal finance

Overconfidence bias can result in:

- Overspending
- Weak budgeting habits
- Failure to plan for emergencies
- Increased reliance on borrowing or credit

Mitigation strategies

To reduce overconfidence bias:

Effective money management depends on evidence, not assumptions.

Anchoring bias

Anchoring bias occurs when individuals rely too heavily on initial information or past financial figures, even when circumstances have changed.

Everyday example

A person may continue using a budget created years ago without adjusting for changes in prices, rent, school fees, or transport costs. For instance, allocating the same amount for groceries despite rising food prices creates budget shortfalls.

Anchoring can also occur when people fixate on a past salary level or expense pattern, failing to adjust to new financial realities.

Impact on personal finance

Anchoring bias can lead to:

- Unrealistic budgets
- Cash flow problems
- Frequent financial stress
- Dependence on short-term borrowing

Mitigation strategies

To manage anchoring bias:

- Review budgets regularly
- Update financial plans based on current income and expenses
- Compare planned budgets with actual spending

- Accept that financial plans must evolve over time

Flexibility is essential for effective financial management.

Confirmation bias

Confirmation bias occurs when individuals favour financial information that supports their existing beliefs while ignoring evidence that suggests alternative or better approaches.

Example

A person may believe that their current saving method is sufficient and therefore ignore information about other savings or investment options. They may avoid financial education resources because they feel their approach “works well enough.”

Similarly, individuals may dismiss warnings about debt or overspending if such advice contradicts their lifestyle preferences.

Impact on personal finance

Confirmation bias can result in:

- Missed opportunities for better financial growth
- Slow accumulation of savings or wealth
- Continued financial mistakes
- Increased vulnerability to emergencies

Mitigation strategies

To reduce confirmation bias:

- Actively seek alternative viewpoints
- Compare different financial products and strategies
- Regularly assess whether current methods are effective
- Remain open to learning and change

Financial improvement begins with openness to new information.

Conclusion

Personal finance is not only about numbers it is deeply influenced by human psychology. Cognitive biases quietly shape everyday financial decisions and often lead to outcomes that do not align with long-term goals. Understanding how the mind influences money decisions is a powerful step toward financial stability, resilience, and long-term success.



CGP calls for community participation in national security

The Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba has called for stronger community participation in promoting national security, wellness and social cohesion, saying safety and development can only be achieved through collective responsibility.

He made the remarks during the 15th Edition of the Commissioner-General of Police's 21 Kilometre Road Race held recently at Turf in Mashonaland West Province.

Addressing athletes, police officers, community members, corporate partners and invited guests, Commissioner-General Mutamba described the annual road race as more than just a sporting event, but a platform that reflects the Zimbabwe Republic Police's commitment to people-

—By Faindani Phiri—

centred policing and national engagement.

"This event reinforces our collective resolve to promote public health, social integration and national development through disciplined engagement, while consolidating the enduring partnership that underpins effective policing and sustainable community security," he said.

The Commissioner-General noted that the decision to host the event in Mashonaland West Province highlighted the national character of the initiative and the organisation's commitment to reaching communities across the country.

He emphasised that modern policing depends on strong relations between the police and

communities, adding that citizens continue to play a critical role in maintaining peace and security through cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

"Safety and security remain a shared responsibility. The indispensable role played by communities in identifying, reporting and assisting in the arrest of offenders cannot be overstated," he said.

Commissioner-General Mutamba also used the platform to raise concern over the growing threat of drug and substance abuse, warning that the scourge continues to affect families and communities across the country.

"No one is immune to this menace. Even a single positive act, such as reporting suspicious activities, can help save lives and protect future generations," he said.

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Ba Sasha folded his arms and replied, "I was actually about to ask you the same thing."

They exchanged suspicious glances. Neither wanted to reveal his own predicament first.

The police officer watched their discomfort with amusement.

Finally, Ba Muku cleared his throat. "Maybe you tell me your charge first." Ba Sasha shook his head.

"No, no. You go first." The officer chuckled.

"You two don't need to interview each other. That's our job."

For a moment, silence filled the corridor.

"You two," he said firmly. "Do you know why you are here?"

Neither man answered.

"You assaulted your wives over a pack of cigarettes."

Ba Muku lowered his head. Baba Sasha clenched his fists.

The officer continued, his voice calm but sharp, as he explained what had happened according to the women's statements.

Silence crashed down like a hammer. Ba Muku's lips trembled. Baba Sasha staggered backwards and leaned against the wall.

"My God," he whispered.

Ba Muku sank onto the bench, his hands shaking violently.

"I beat her," he murmured, his voice breaking. "She begged me, she said she didn't know anything about the cigarettes." The officer's expression remained hard.

"You did not ask. You did not listen. You attacked."

The words hung in the air. Sharp and unforgiving. Baba Sasha covered

his face. "What have we done?" he whispered.

Neither man had an answer. Because there was none. Only the truth and the unbearable weight of it. Outside, the sun was setting.

In a dusty yard, laughter echoed once again.

"Now it's your turn to cook!" Sasha shouted, handing an empty container to Muku. Muku giggled. "No! First bring food!"

They ran in circles, their little feet kicking dust into the air.

Carefree, happy and unaware that somewhere, grown men sat behind cold metal bars drowning in regret.

Unaware that their innocent game had unleashed a storm of pain and that a simple pack of cigarettes had shattered two homes.

They laughed. And kept playing.

CGP calls for community participation in national security

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

The Commissioner-General further stressed the importance of physical fitness and mental resilience within the police service, noting that operational effectiveness requires disciplined and healthy officers capable of responding to modern security challenges.

He also expressed appreciation to Old Mutual, the principal sponsor of the road race since 2014, for its continued support towards sport, wellness and national development. He also commended the Mashonaland Athletics Board, Crime Liaison Committees, organisers, volunteers and security teams for ensuring the successful hosting of the event.

Commissioner Abigail Moyo who is the ZRP Sports and Recreation Association Chairperson, described

the race as an important platform for strengthening relations between the police and communities.

The annual sporting event attracted athletes, police officers, corporate partners and community members from across the country in a vibrant display of unity and sportsmanship.

In the prestigious 21km open women's category, Florence Nyaingiri of Mr Pace Kenya claimed first place ahead of Silvia Kwambai, also from Mr Pace Kenya, while independent athlete Rutendo Nyahora finished third.

The men's 21km open race was won by Moses Tarakinyu of Black Rhinos, followed by Tatenda Hove of Black Rhinos and Isaac Langaat Isaac of Mr Pace Kenya.

In the 10km open women's

category, Caroline Mhandu of the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service (ZPCS) secured first place, while Ethel Pangiso and Constance Nyasango, both from ZRP, finished second and third respectively.

The 10km open men's category was won by Peter Chigiya of the Air Force of Zimbabwe, followed by Andrew Dick of Kudakisa East and Owen Slowly of ZRP.

The event also celebrated inclusivity through categories for wheelchair athletes, junior competitors, veterans, masters and tertiary students.

Stella Jongwe won the Wheelchair women's category, while Munyaradzi Katiyo emerged victorious in the Wheelchair Men's race.



The Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba (right) and Old Mutual Marketing Official, Nyarai Alexandra Munorwei pose for a photo with winners of the wheelchair category at the Commissioner-General of Police Half Marathon at Turf in Mhondoro, Mashonaland West Province.

CONGRATULATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER-GENERAL (ADMINISTRATION) LORIN CHIPATO

The **Commissioner-General of Police, Stephen Mutamba**, Deputy Commissioner-Generals, senior officers and members of the ZRP extend warm congratulations to Deputy Commissioner-General (Administration), Lorin Chipato on her well-deserved recognition as one of the recipients of the prestigious Zimbabwe Women of Excellence Award.

The award, which was conferred by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Head of State and Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, **Cde Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa**, celebrates outstanding women who have distinguished themselves through exemplary leadership, dedication and service to the nation.

Deputy Commissioner General Chipato's inclusion among the 22 exceptional women honoured at this year's awards is a fitting recognition of her unwavering commitment to duty, professionalism and outstanding contribution to national development. Throughout her distinguished career, she has consistently demonstrated strong leadership qualities, integrity and a passion for service.

This achievement is not only a personal milestone but also a source of pride for the entire Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP). It reflects the growing impact of women in leadership and decision-making positions in our organisation, and serves as an inspiration to young women across the country.

We celebrate this remarkable achievement and commend Deputy Commissioner-General Chipato for flying the organisation's flag high. We are confident that this honour will further motivate her to continue serving with distinction.

Once again, congratulations to Deputy Commissioner General Chipato on this outstanding achievement.

Congratulations, Makorokoto, Amhlope!

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