

# ZDDT News

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For the People with the people



## Australian Embassy Impressed with Project



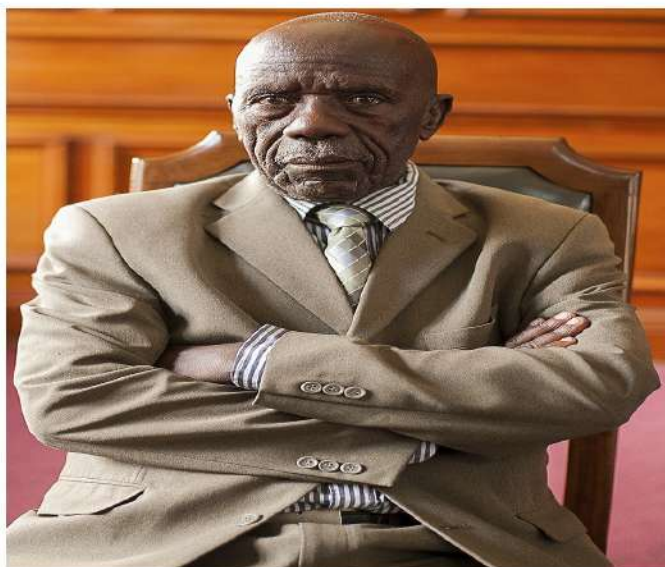
Emganwini Greenfields Garden interim leadership welcomes the Australian Embassy officials, who were accompanied by Team ZDDT.

**EMGANWINI** – The Australian Embassy in Zimbabwe says it is impressed with the Green Fields Emganwini Garden Project to which the diplomatic mission contributed to its establishment. The project, benefiting over 100 families from Bulawayo's Ward 26, under which Emganwini falls, began late last year with funding from the Austrian Embassy's Direct Aid Programme (DAP) and Sally Foundation and Global Development Group (GDG) also of Australia. **TO PAGE 4**

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City of Bulawayo  
Councillor L. Siziba

**BULAWAYO** – Ward 13 Councillor, Lot Siziba, says the Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT) has taught him to become a councillor for the people in the true sense.

Ward 13 covers the sprawling townships of Iminyela, Mabuthweni and Pelandaba, west of the city centre.

“ZDDT has, over the years, taught me to become a councillor for the people by the people to the people; that is what we have learnt from ZDDT,” said Siziba.

“That is why I remain grateful to them; they have respect for human dignity. I have been getting very good advice from ZDDT.”

Siziba said ZDDT also taught him to respect both the elderly and the young and to keep the environment clean.

“ZDDT has taught us how to behave as community leaders,

shy away from corruption and be straight-forward leaders,” he added.

Cllr Siziba is nearing the end of his second term in office having started out with ZDDT at the beginning of his career as a councillor.

## I Owe My Career to ZDDT—Mlalazi

**MAGWEGWE**– Bulawayo’s Ward 18 Councillor, Concilia Mlalazi, has said she owes her position as a councillor to ZDDT’s leadership training while she was still a Community Action Team (CAT) member.

“I am a product of ZDDT; I owe my being a councillor to ZDDT,” Mlalazi told ZDDT News.

“Had it not been for ZDDT I would not have risen to this level because of fear. However, because of leadership lessons on what being a leader is all about, I saw myself rise to this level. I remain forever grateful to ZDDT.”

Mlalazi, who started out as a ZDDT CAT member in 2013, became inspired by the CAT training and practising community work in support of the sitting councillor at the time and chose a career after gaining the requisite confidence to contest the polls.

She has continued to benefit from ZDDT’s leadership training, which she said have shaped her life as a public officer bearer.

“We thank ZDDT for teaching us how to behave as councillors and how to work with residents,” she added.



City of Bulawayo  
Councillor C. Mlalazi



## ZDDT Field Officer Mobilises Residents to Petition City

**BULAWAYO** – Florah Mutig, a ZDDT Field Officer, recently participated in mobilising Bulawayo residents to petition the City Council to open its clinics for 24 hours instead of closing at 3pm, denying residents access to health. In the late afternoon, residents have to seek medical attention at the central hospitals and private



clinics which are, not only far away from the communities, but cost them a lot of money. In some instances residents are forced to hire expensive ambulances at night to ferry them as far afield as Mpilo Hospital because local clinics would have since closed. Mutig, who resides in Nkulumane, had been working with locals in her community and with other residents from across Bulawayo, and managed to solicit for a total of 1157 signatures from Bulawayo. The petition, demanding that Bulawayo clinics should be opened 24/7, was handed over to Mayor Martin Moyo. The incident attracted the attention of local media, with the

NewsDay publishing the story on December 2, 2017, headlined: “Clinics should be open 24/7”.

## MaMhlanga of Emganwini

**EMGANWINI** – During his recent visit to Emganwini Greenfields Garden recently, ZDDT’s Field Correspondent, Mandla Tshuma (MT,) had a brief chat with Sithabile Mhlanga (SM). MaMhlanga is one of the 117 beneficiaries of the community garden. Below is their brief dialogue.

**MT:** As we begin our conversation here at Green Fields Garden in Emganwini, may you kindly introduce yourself.



**SM:** Thanks for that. Well, my name is Sithabile Mhlanga.

**MT:** How many beds do you have in this garden?

**SM:** I have a total of 11 beds where I am growing green vegetables.

**MT:** How important is this garden to you?

**SM:** This garden is very important to me because out of it, we are getting relish. We are also selling our vegetables for money.

**MT:** How much do you make out of your sales?

**SM:** We have just started this garden, as you may know. I can’t give an exact figure at the moment, but all I can say is our children are benefiting something from our sales.

**MT:** What would like to say about donors, who helped you start this garden project?

**SM:** We will forever remain grateful to donors because they have brought a change to our lives as people of Emganwini. Our poverty and suffering have somehow been alleviated.

**MT:** Thank you so much for your time.



# Australian Embassy Impressed with Project

From P1

Speaking to beneficiaries after a brief tour of the project recently, Australian Embassy Deputy Head of Mission in Zimbabwe, Peter Macfarlane, said they were happy to have contributed to the project.

“I would like to say that I am very impressed with what you have achieved in a very short space of time,” said Macfarlane.



“Mr [Simon] Spooner and Yvonne [Berkhout] have both explained many of the benefits that come from this particular project. So from the Australian Embassy’s point of view, we are very happy to have contributed to the funding to get you to where you are so far. We wish you success in this project.”

Spooner is the ZDDT National Coordinator while Berkhout is a commercial farming consultant working with gardeners helping them to improve yields.

Macfarlane, who was accompanied by the visiting Assistant Secretary at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and

Trade, Gita Kamath, also urged the beneficiaries to look after the project in going forward.



Yvonne stresses a point to Peter during the garden visit.

Earlier on, Spooner explained to the visitors that the project is based on the principles of self-help, aimed at improving the livelihoods of Emganwini residents.

## Orienting Hlozokuhle

**ZDDT Offices—** With every new staff member, a full induction takes place to enable the inductee to acquaint themselves with the principles and operations of the trust. Hlozokuhle Ndiweni joins ZDDT as the Assistant Monitoring and Evaluation officer.



**ZDDT**

**FOR THE PEOPLE**

**WITH**

**THE PEOPLE**



Hlozokuhle induction in progress

## Life Skills for Women

**COWDRAY PARK** – Ten women, drawn from Ward 28's Cowdray Park Township, have been trained on how to make a variety of products for sale.

The training, organised by the Virtuous Women's Institute, a Bulawayo based organisation, was held at Councillor Collet Ndlovu offices in Cowdray Park.



At a cost of \$25 per head, the valuable training saw the women being taken through practical sessions on making handbags, picture frames, soaps, drinks and other products.

The training will undoubtedly enable them to better fend for their families in the face of the economic hardships facing the country.

Councillor Ndlovu, who commended the project, said he wished many more women had participated.

"This is a very good project from the way I see it," said Ndlovu.

"I am seeing it for the very first time in my ward. These women (Virtuous Women's Institute) came to my office to tell me that they wanted to train other women on life skills and I gave them a venue."

He said he was convinced the training would contribute towards poverty alleviation and the social well-being of the women.

## Value of MoUs

**BULAWAYO** – Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT) enjoys many privileges in the relationship with Bulawayo City Council (BCC).

One such case is the free use of facilities for its public meetings, thanks to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two entities.

ZDDT, which holds Expanded Zone Meetings, comprising a number of ward representative groups and individuals

from across the city, has free access to the Small City Hall and municipal community halls in the townships of Bulawayo.

This is the envy of many other civic society organisations in the city.





## Dishonesty in Leadership

**BULAWAYO** – Lot Siziba, Councillor for Bulawayo's Ward 13, has expressed concern over dishonesty levels in today's leadership, saying that it was a betrayal of the public confidence in office bearers.



Siziba, whose jurisdiction covers Iminyela, Mabuthweni and Pelandaba townships, is serving his second term as an elected Bulawayo councillor and, he is not only a senior member of the city's policy making body, but was engaged with ZDDT from when the Trust began its work.

"What is lacking in the current crop of leaders is honesty," Siziba told ZDDT News.

"They (leaders) do not know that there is God who is watching us all. Leadership requires that you do not discriminate against people. The person could be short, tall, Shona, Nyasaranda, whatever tribe; that is totally out. A human being was created by God."

The councillor, who will be contesting this year's polls, said the new year looked promising in terms of fundamental freedoms with citizens now freely travelling on

the roads without being harassed by the police as was the case during former president Robert Mugabe's era.

"We are so grateful for that because we have always wanted people to be free," he said with a warm smile.

He said residents in his ward had already said they want him to continue representing them in Council, adding he has always stood for the people.

"I am not there to line my pockets. People want a councillor who helps them when they have problems, not a councillor who demands bribes when people need assistance," said Siziba.

"I am a councillor who stands for people in truth because I respect God. I am not going to leave Council until Iminyela and Mabuthweni residents get ownership of their houses in line with the 2010 Council resolution."

Born on November 11, 1938 at Mzimuni, Stanmore, Gwanda, Matabeleland South, Siziba, who is also a headman in his rural home, went to Stanmore and Mzimuni for his primary education before moving to Bulawayo where he completed his Standard 6 at Helemu Primary School in Njube in 1958.

After that he joined the police force and served only for two years before venturing into the world of commerce where he worked at different shops as a cashier and debt collector.

Upon retirement in 2002, he did part time jobs in the city until 2008 when he was elected councillor for Ward 13. "I was forced by the people in the community to stand for them because I had fought for them to get ownership of those houses before," explained Siziba.

"People are the ones who are forcing me and even today they are saying they do not want to lose me because they can also lose their houses to the current crop of leaders."

Married to Prisca Siziba (nee Moyo), Siziba had been blessed with nine children, some of whom are now late.

"My house is in Mabuthweni. I refused to go and stay in other townships because I feared people would lose their houses. I have got people at heart," he emphasized.



## A Brief Chat with Emakhandeni Resident

**CITY CENTRE** – ZDDT Field Correspondent, Mandla Tshuma (MT), briefly spoke to Geoffrey Gumbo (GG), a resident from Emakhandeni, immediately after a recently held Expanded Zone meeting at the Small City Hall. The two discussed a number of issues pertaining to leadership and democracy. Below is their conversation.

MT: As we start our brief talk, can you kindly tell me who you are and where you are from.

GG: My name is Geoffrey Gumbo and I am from Emakhandeni in Ward 11.

MT: How many times have you attended ZDDT meetings?

GG: I have attended so many times. It should be seven times or more.

MT: When did you start coming to these meetings?

GG: I think it is last year.

MT: What would you say you have learnt so far from these meetings?

GG: I have learnt the importance of participation in that we get a chance to meet with our community leaders, especially our councillors. We get to highlight our challenges to them.

MT: Looking at ZDDT as an organisation, what would you say distinguishes it from other NGOs?

GG: ZDDT brings together community leaders and residents and sometimes Council officials.

MT: In Ward 11, are you a leader?

GG: I actually lead an organisation called CYAT and that is Christian Youth Aids Trust.

MT: What position do you hold there, are you the director?

GG: Yes, I am the director. You will find that we rub shoulders with the leadership and get a chance to highlight residents' concerns as a person who works in that community.

MT: What would you then say you have learnt about leadership?

GG: I have actually attended some of the trainings on leadership that were organized by ZDDT. It is in those trainings that I learnt how to mobilise communities and how to be a good leader and so forth. So, I have learned a lot from the meetings that were organized by ZDDT.

MT: Now turning to the subject of democracy, what is your understanding of democracy?

GG: My understanding of democracy is that people have to participate freely and to be able to be heard by the leaders. In fact the involvement of the communities is what brings democracy, I think.

MT: What are some of the challenges facing the current leadership today?

GG: The current leadership, I think does not take issues from the community. They are not involving the communities in some of the things that they do.

MT: What do you think needs to be done in order to address that?

GG: When people choose their leaders, they should not choose on political affiliations but they should look at the individual's capacity to deliver to the communities.

MT: How is your relationship with your councillor like?

GG: My relationship with my councillor is quite ok. We interact. I tell him the truth with regards our concerns as residents.

MT: Looking at your organisation, briefly what do you do?

GG: Our organisation is into capacity building, targeting mainly, the young people. It has a health aspect to it. We conscientise young people on the importance of health. We also bring in the development aspect, where we try to help our young people in the communities to try and maybe run projects, things like that.

MT: Thank you so much Gumbo for your time.



## Councillors Approach ZDDT



**BULAWAYO** – Councillors in the city are taking advantage of the good relationship they have with the Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT) to freely approach the trust for flyers whenever they have resident meetings in their wards that require advertising.

Councillors either walk into ZDDT offices to request promotional material that publicizes their meetings or make the request through the Bulawayo Councillors' Forum WhatsApp chat group which is managed by ZDDT.

Recently, Ward 13 Councillor, Lot Siziba, did just that and arrived at the ZDDT offices seeking residents meeting flyers.

As a consequence, many of these ward based meetings are now supported by ZDDT sponsored advertising through means of flyers which are distributed in the respective wards as well as posted on Facebook and WhatsApp.



**Yusa Chirwa**



**Pamela Mackay**



**Edward Chikwayi**

### MEET ZDDT FIELD OFFICERS

*Working for Bulawayo*

#### ZDDT projects include:

Community Outreach: Support and strengthen institutions and structures built at community level.

Councillor/ Local Authority (LA) / Residents relationship: ZDDT encourages Cllrs to be effective leaders by working with

Residents and involving them in 'managing' the community, a participatory and community based management

approach. ZDDT motivates Cllrs and Residents to work effectively with the LA – the LA in turn provides Service Delivery....this is development democracy.

Training: ZDDT provides Leadership, Service Delivery, Life Skills and Team Building training to Councillors, Local Authorities and Communities.

Nutritional Gardens: This is capacity building (Team Building and Business and Agro Training). People participation that leads to ownership and tolerance of the differing views and allegiances of the individual.



**Florah Mutig**



**Maria Lunga**



**Ennie Mhangara**



## ZDDT Chat with Councillor Tabitha Ngwenya

**BELLEVUE**– ZDDT Field correspondent, Mandla Tshuma (MT), recently visited Bulawayo's Ward 6 Councillor, Tabitha Ngwenya (TN), at her residence located at Number 79 Balfour Road in Bellevue suburb. The two discussed leadership issues, community work and other related factors. Below is their conversation in full.

**MT:** As we meet here in Bellevue at Councillor Tabitha Ngwenya's house, madam, can you tell us, who Councillor Tabitha Ngwenya is.



**TN:** Tabitha Ngwenya is the councillor for Ward 6, residing at Number 79 Balfour Road in Bellevue. I got into office in 2013. I am a married woman with five children who are all grown up. They are now working and some of my grandchildren are working as well.

**MT:** You have said you are a married woman. Tell us briefly about your husband.

**TN:** I am married to Philemon Ngwenya from Mberengwa.

**MT:** In 2013, what inspired you to contest the elections resulting in you becoming the councillor for this area?

**TN:** I have worked as a Sister-in-charge at BG Clinic, which is a council clinic for quite some time. I have also worked at government hospitals. However, towards retiring, I worked for almost 12 years in Council. As a nurse, I travelled across the length and breadth of Zimbabwe and saw what was happening and what people were going through. I got to know so many people in the community because I had been working for Ward 6; therefore becoming a councillor for the area was not an issue for me. All I can say, is that residents requested me and said, 'since you are retired, wouldn't you want to be a councillor?' and I said it was ok. Even campaigning was not a challenge because I had already been working with people. In getting into Council, I just wanted to continue working with the community.

**MT:** What was your perception of local governance before you got into Council and has that changed after these years you have been in office?

**TN:** My perception of local governance has changed significantly because before I only knew that there was local government but I did not have much knowledge. Although as residents we always have expectations from local government, I did not have deep knowledge on the operations of local government. Therefore, I would not say my working as a nurse was better than what I am now doing in council because these are two different spheres.

I did not know much on the issue of making policies and the fact that we are a governing body in the wards where people are. As councillors we communicate with residents at meetings in which they tell us what they want, which is different from the central governance.

**MT:** Looking at your interactions with ZDDT, how has that assisted you in your working with the community?

**TN:** ZDDT has helped me a lot because they always organise workshops for us as councillors. They were the first organisation to train us when we got into office in 2013. We did a number of courses with ZDDT. I can say throughout our term, ZDDT has walked with us because time and again they organise refresher leadership courses for us reminding us of how to work with residents. These workshops sometimes bring together residents and councillors.

**MT:** Thank you so much councillor for your time.

**TN:** You are welcome Tshuma.

**"Being a leader requires being confident enough in your own decisions and those of your team to own them when they fail. The very best leaders take the blame but share the credit." -Travis Bradberry**

## Garden Beneficiaries Thrilled By Roche Visit

EMGANWINI - There was singing, dancing, ululation, as well as whistling, as Mike Roche of Sally Foundation, Australia, arrived at the newly-established Greenfields Garden in Bulawayo's neat and orderly but impoverished Emganwini Township.



The community garden, benefitting over 100 families, is supported by the Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT) with funding from Sally Foundation of Australia and the Direct Aid programme of the Australian Embassy.

"We are so excited about Mr Roche's visit all the way from Australia to Zimbabwe and, in particular, Bulawayo," said Sitshengisiwe Ndemera, one of the beneficiaries.

"For him to come and see how we are doing in this garden, after having assisted us to start, it is great thing to us. It shows he is concerned about us and we would really want to thank him for his love."

Another member, Simangele Ndebele, who also thanked Roche for the support his organisation has rendered them, assured their visitor of working very hard to ensure their garden becomes the best in the city.

Roche, who took advantage of his timely visit to officially open the garden, said Sally Foundation was committed to continuing working with Emganwini residents, adding he was encouraged by the work done so far.

"We want to work with you and help you improve your garden; we are not going away," Roche told the gathering.

"You are doing a fantastic job. This is not our garden, but your garden. We want to help you manage your garden well and I wish you all the best on behalf of Sally Foundation." Earlier on, ZDDT National Development Officer, Simon Spooner assured residents he was convinced the Emganwini project would emulate a similar project in Sizinda, explaining much had been learnt from previous mistakes. He said Sally Foundation and residents were co-investors into the project, adding the latter were contributing their hard work as was evidenced by the dramatic transformation of the area that was once bush land.

Spoooner said ZDDT's role in the project was to provide guidance as a representative of Sally Foundation, in answer to any calls from the community. Meanwhile Roche also visited the Sizinda and Luveve gardens where he interacted with gardeners with a view to getting firsthand information on the challenges and successes, whilst re-stating Sally Foundation's commitment to the welfare of local residents.



**SALLY FOUNDATION AND  
ZDDT, A WORTHWHILE  
PARTNERSHIP.**





**EGODINI** – Amazing Stars Arts Academy (ASAA), a local drama group, in partnership with the Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT) and Geraldine Roche of Australia, thrilled a large crowd of local residents and shoppers.

The drama, focusing on themes of citizen mobilisation, leadership and keeping the environment clean, was staged behind the Egodini Terminus on the edge of the city's CBD. Bulawayo's biggest commuter omnibus terminus

played host to local people who thronged the area to get a glimpse of what the group had on offer.

Through humour and satire, the Forgiven Ndlovu-led

outfit left the people of Bulawayo begging for more.

Some of the residents, who were part of the audience, said they were not only

entertained, but also enlightened on a number of issues pertaining to leadership and democracy. "I have learnt that councillors should not abuse their positions, especially as we go

towards elections," said MaNcube, of Makokoba,

Bulawayo's poorest neighbourhood.

"Councillors should not hide food

handouts and should not discriminate against people in the distribution of food."

Kelvin Nzira, another Makokoba resident, said he learnt that there was no substitute for hygienic practices.

"Places such as Egodini should be kept clean," he said.

Sodumo Khumalo, of Pumula South, also appreciated the performance by ASAA.

"I have learnt so many things from this drama group," said Khumalo.

"I learnt that we should keep our environment clean because tall grass is a breeding site for mosquitoes and malaria. On leadership, I learnt that the City Council should make sure that the city is properly managed for the good of all residents.



**"The quality of a leader cannot be judged by the answers he gives, but by the questions he asks." -Simon Sinek**

## Hope to Orphans

**KINGSDALE** – Over 200 children, most of whom are orphaned, drawn from Bulawayo's northern suburbs, are receiving unremitting support from a local institution, Susceptible Iyanai Chinoda (SICO).

The catchment area includes Kingsdale, Queens Park and Woodville whose vulnerable residents would otherwise be



neglected.

Susceptible Iyanai Chinoda (SICO), which is a Manyika dialect of the Shona language, literally means: "We are able to unite and that is what we want," has for the past 10 years, been working with children in the community.

ZDDT News recently spoke with SICO director, Senzeni Bhila, at her Montgomery Hall base in Kingsdale, to understand more about the services her organisation renders to the community.

Bhila started by highlighting that SICO is there for each and every child in the community regardless of background, colour race, tribe or even creed.

"I started this organisation in 2007 after I had been trained by HOSPAZ (Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Zimbabwe) in Palliative Care-giving for the children," explained Bhila.

"When I come to your house and there are children who are being abused, I can easily tell that this child is facing some problems."

Bhila is working with a total of 231 children, most of who are still doing their primary education.

She explained: "I am not housing them. They come from their guardians and the squatter camps around here in Queens Park, Mahatshula and Kingsdale. I meet them at Thomas Rudland

Primary School where I do some arranged meetings or kids clubs, where I render psychosocial support and, in particular, counselling, especially to the girl child."

The benevolent Bhila also provides support to the sexually-abused.

She said she also managed to successfully negotiate with the Social Services Department for the payment of school fees for 100 children under the donor-funded Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM).

"I deal with HQ Brigade, Thomas Rudland, Mahatshula, Woodville, Umguza, Fairbridge and Airport primary schools," said Bhila.

Bhila, who also works as a child protection care worker under the Social Services Department, said the department located her because of her love and passion for children.

"I give these children food whenever we meet and I sometimes do parties for them. I have to go and fetch food from the industries. That is every third Saturday of the month. The food would have been donated by some companies," she elaborated.

Bhila, who has since applied for land from the City Council, says she has plans to establish a drop-in centre where abused children would be temporarily housed, counseled and later handed over to children's homes.

Currently, this modest lover of children operates from Montgomery Hall and has been given two offices by the city fathers to use for free which, however, have to be renovated before occupation.

Senzeni Bhila has been nominated for ZDDT's Community Volunteer of the Year award.





## Inspirational Simangele Ndebele

**EMGANWINI** – ZDDT’s Field Correspondent, Mandla Tshuma (MT) visited Emganwini Community Garden and briefly spoke to the garden’s interim secretary, Simangele Ndebele (SN), about the project. Below is their conversation.



MT: As we begin our conversation here at Emganwini, I would request that you introduce yourself.

SN: I am Simangele Ndebele.

MT: What vegetables have you grown in your section of this garden?

SN: We have green vegetables, carrots, tomatoes, lattice and beans.

MT: Have you started to sell, or this is just for your own consumption?

SN: We doing both selling and consumption.

MT: Roughly, how many members are in this garden?

SN: There are 117 people.

MT: Wow! That is great. What is the leadership structure like, seeing there are many people in your garden?

SN: There are four leaders here. We have Dube, who is our chairperson; we have Mtabeni, the vice chairperson; there is the treasurer, Mrs Maziwa, and I am the secretary.

MT: Do you have a constitution as a garden?

SN: Yes of course we have a constitution as Emganwini Garden.

MT: Does every member have access to that constitution, seeing it is an important document, in as far as the administration of this garden is concerned?

SN: Yes, every member has a copy.

MT: Ok. So what are the members saying about their constitution?

SN: What I can say is that we have not started using the constitution as such. It will become fully operational after the election of the new committee.

MT: Tell me, what have been some of your experiences as leaders in this garden; what have you learnt so far?

SN: We have learnt so many things about a human being. It is difficult to lead a human being because a person wants you to do what they think at that particular time. On top of that some people are just over suspicious of us. However, as a leader you have no choice but to face all that. Some people would just provoke you or even go on to falsely accuse or insult you. All these things mean that as a leader you need to be a courageous person. You have to just listen and allow people to say whatever they wish to say. You can then show them where they are making mistakes.

MT: Don't you think ZDDT training on conflict management, which you underwent, comes in handy when faced with such situations? Have you ever tried to apply that in your garden as you lead people?

SN: That training helped us a lot because we are able to listen to whatever people say without having to answer back. We just let them say whatever they say. We can then show them where they could be wrong.

MT: Thank you so much for your time.

**“To remain a credible leader, I must always work first, hardest, and longest on changing myself. This is neither easy nor natural, but it is essential.”**

**- John C. Maxwell**

# Good News for Mzilikazi Grannies

**MZILIKAZI**—Two elderly women from Bulawayo's Mzilikazi Township, received a shot in the arm when the Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT) donated \$50 to each of them.

The donation was part of the trust's monthly Business Social Credit Scheme (BSCS) co-funded by Sally Foundation of Australia and Freight Consultants, a local firm.

The two lucky beneficiaries for the month of January are Elisi Dube 71, and Grace Masuku, 79.

Ward 8 Councillor, Shilla Musonda, under whose jurisdiction Mzilikazi falls, identified the two grannies in consultation with ZDDT Field Coordinator, Pamela Mackay.

"Thank you so much for what you have done for us today," said Masuku.

"Today, we have been remembered, there is no doubt about it. It is good to be remembered especially at this age. Thank you so much and may God be with you."

Dube said words alone could not express her joy. "You have done a wonderful thing to us, my children," said Dube with a warm smile. "Thank you for remembering the grannies. Thank you once again, God bless you indeed." Councillor Musonda also paid tribute to ZDDT and thanked the trust for kicking off the 2018 BSCS programme with her ward. "I am very excited about what ZDDT did in my ward helping the elderly," said Musonda. "The money will go a long way in assisting them in paying Council bills as well as buying groceries. I urge you to do the same to others elsewhere."



## I am Not Contesting The Upcoming Polls

**BULAWAYO CITY CENTRE** - Ward 2 Councillor, Sithabile Mataka-Moyo, says she will not be contesting the forthcoming general elections to be held later this year, as she wants to give others a chance to also lead.

Mataka-Moyo spoke to ZDDT News outside the City Hall before attending the first Full Council meeting of 2018 at the Council Chambers.



The energetic councillor is a beneficiary of ZDDT's leadership training, with a strong emphasis on servant leadership and democratic values.

"I have been working for the people from the bottom of my heart," said Mataka-Moyo with a warm smile on her face.

"Yes, people might want to retain me in the next elections, as they have already said, but I do not want to be like Mugabe in clinging to power. I am not coming back in the next Council in 2018.

I want to give the younger generation a chance."

Mataka-Moyo who is completing her first term as an elected councillor in Bulawayo, explained that she would not want to be pushed by people to contest again against her wishes.

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## Resident Meets Mayor Over Clean-Up

**BULAWAYO MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Sam Nkomo, a Bulawayo resident who has recently been appointed One Love Wildlife Ambassador in Zimbabwe, recently met Bulawayo Mayor, Martin Moyo, and briefed him on the clean-up campaign being organised around the City of Kings and Queens.



One Love Wildlife is a United Kingdom-based organisation working in the areas of wildlife protection.

Nkomo is organising two clean-up exercises around Bulawayo as a way of promoting and boosting tourism.

The first will be carried out on February 24 at Matopo Recreational Park a half an hour's drive from the city, while the second one will be around the Bulawayo Museum on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Nkomo, who is passionate about wildlife, hit newspaper headlines in 2014 when he organised a 460km wildlife walk from Matopos to Victoria Falls.

It was during that one-month long walk that he educated citizens along the way on the importance of wildlife and human-wildlife conflict management. Undoubtedly, it was this walk, which earned him the wildlife ambassadorial post.

The mayor said he was pleased with Nkomo's initiatives in promoting tourism in the city while also pledging the local authority's support.

"I am happy that you will be doing something around our tourist centres of attraction as a city," said Moyo.

## HILLCREST SHOPPING CENTRE GETS THE ONCE OVER

**HILLSIDE** – Nearly 60 residents from different suburbs of Bulawayo descended on Hillcrest Shopping Centre for a clean-up campaign organised by the business community in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT).

The exercise, dubbed the "Valentine's Clean-up," and held on the February 14, saw participants sweep the area, pick up litter and slash grass.

The person behind the initiative, Rocky Stone, a shopping centre businessman, led from the front as he slashed grass with a brush cutter.

To spruce-up the campaign and stimulate morale, Amazing Stars arts Academy (ASAA), a local drama group, provided entertainment whilst delivering a strong message on the need to keep the environment clean.

The ensemble challenged Bulawayo residents to develop and maintain a culture of cleanliness in keeping the environment clean. Sanelisiwe Sibanda, of Hillside, hailed the exercise as a step in the right direction. "This clean-up came as a blessing to me because it left our environment looking good," she said with a smile.

"The drama has also been a blessing to us. We have been taught how to look after our place. Thank you so much ZDDT for coming here. Please do come again."

Denis Mpofu of Khumalo said: "I came to participate in this clean-up exercise because I subscribe to the idea that our environment should be kept clean. From this drama group, I learnt that litter should not be just thrown all over but must be put in bins and never be burnt."

Susan Gasela, from the city centre, said she decided to come as well because she wants Bulawayo to be kept clean.

"The drama has taught us to be united regardless of tribe and languages," she explained.

The clean-up exercise, also supported by the Environmental Management Agency, was graced by Mayor, Martin Moyo.



## ZDDT Conversations Hailed

**BULAWAYO CITY CENTRE** – The Zimbabwe Development Democracy Trust (ZDDT)'s on-going group discussions, known as "conversations", have been hailed by participants as a step in the right direction towards bringing together communities.



The informal conversations, which started early March, are designed to encourage discussion where participants freely air their views on what they think and what should be done to enhance community mobilisation for development and democratic transition.

Facilitated by independent consultant, Leonard Mupezani, participants are drawn from different wards across Bulawayo every week and freely exchange notes in a relaxed atmosphere, which allows them to easily speak out.

The special conversations are a follow on to training on citizen mobilisation and conflict management conducted by

ZDDT last year.

This time around, participants have control over the conversations as they engage with one another.

At one of the two-hour meetings, participants discussed team building, the need to build trust among community members as well as the significance of communities working together in a well-organised way.

The need to involve youth in community programmes also came up in the discussions.

There were also concerns to the effect that residents value attending funerals more than public meetings.

Participants also freely discussed how politics was affecting community mobilisation as well as mitigation measures.

One of the participants, Ndabenhle Khumalo from Ward 3 in Woodville, said he learnt a lot on leadership.

"When you are doing something for the community, you do not need to do it alone but you have to engage the community," said Khumalo.

"We must always strive for unity and, where there are conflicts, we should properly manage them. This meeting has been indeed an eye opener."

Other participants also hailed the conversations concept. "This has been a very important meeting as far as I am concerned because it dealt with almost all the facets of human development," said Esther Sigoba, Romney Park Residents Association chairperson.

"We learnt so many things from one another which may help us to unite as a community. The meeting was very informative and fruitful."

See you again in July and, in the meantime, stay safe, be proud and..... *and Happy*

*Independence Day!!!!!!!*