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John Chapepa (also known as Sekuru Soko) at the site of his proposed Cultural Village outside Chitungwiza in Harare Province. Photo © Richard Pantlin.

For more on this story, see page 7.

Every Day a New Drama

Pat Brickhill on the complexities of life in Zimbabwe today

The first question a visitor to Zimbabwe might ask concerns the currency – or rather the lack of it. The second would be an explanation of how, if it is there at all, the currency works.

It's like this: after the crash of the 'old' Zimbabwe dollar in 2008 people in Zimbabwe started informally using the US dollar (US\$).

In January 2009 the Zimbabwe government legalised the use of foreign currency. The economy stabilised and for ten years Zimbabweans traded in US dollars.

Ostensibly to alleviate a shortage of actual cash (US dollars) the bond note, described as a 'quasi-currency', or a 'surrogate' bond note, was introduced in 2016 and the Zimbabwe government announced that one bond note was equal to one US\$.

The market thought otherwise and a black market grew.

In February 2019 the Zimbabwe government adjusted the 1:1 peg so that both the 'surrogate' bond note and electronic dollars (electronically deposited into bank accounts) would be called RTGS (Real

Time Gross Settlement) dollars and become Zimbabwe's currency of trade and would float in a new foreign exchange interbank market.

A new currency

The 10 years of trading in US\$ was over. On 24 June 2019, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe announced that the country would be following a new monetary policy and the multi-currency system in then operation would be replaced by re-introducing the Zimbabwe Dollar(ZWL\$).

While one could legally possess other currencies, trading in them was no no longer allowed.

A range of exchange rates

While the RTGS dollar officially floats on the Inter-bank Foreign Exchange Market, most transactions take place on the black market at an unofficial exchange rate.

The OMIR, based on comparing share prices of Old Mutual in London and Harare has become a guiding rate for the black market rate. The OMIR rate

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drives the black market but is not the black market rate 'on the ground'. On 11 February 2020 Zimbabwe exchange rates were listed as follows:

OMIR (Old Mutual)	37.47
US\$/ZWL\$ (black market rate)	26.00
US\$ / ZWL\$ (interbank – official government rate)	17.58
USD / BOND (US\$ to ZWL\$ or Bond notes)	20.20

The US\$/Bond is the rate for exchanging US dollars for actual Zimbabwe currency (notes). These notes are hard to obtain (even from banks) but are needed for transport, and where traders will only accept cash. Most day-to-day transactions are made using Ecocash or some other form of mobile money or by swiping with a card – effectively a debit card.

Supermarkets price goods in Zimbabwe currency and officially you are unable to pay using US dollars. Tourists are expected to exchange their US dollars at the cash-strapped banks and are often told the money can only be transferred electronically.

The black market thrives and almost everyone will know a money changer. You get a better rate for larger amounts of US\$ – your virtual money being sent to a mobile money or bank account.

At Mbare market traders want cash – Zimbabwe notes or preferably US\$. Even street vendors selling fruit or vegetables will quote different rates for different methods of payment. The government has introduced a 2 per cent tax on mobile money. Some months ago it attempted to halt transactions and the Minister of Finance has announced traders who demand payment in foreign currency will be prosecuted.

Chaos

In December 2019, after an 'upgrade', Ecocash mobile money and money transfers stopped working for several days. I accompanied my son to Steward Bank, part of Strive Masiyiwe's empire, to sort out what could have potentially stopped us from having money for Christmas – I could hardly believe the chaos. There was even a queue manager at the general enquiries queue.

At Café Nush in Harare the menu is presented with a computer printout of costs in Zimbabwe currency and information that a 95 per cent discount is given for payment in foreign currency.

It is standard procedure to ask what exchange rate is being used to ascertain whether it is more advantageous to pay in US\$ or by RTGS (Ecocash or Swipe)!

The government has announced it will soon issue larger denomination Zimbabwe dollar notes – necessary because a loaf of bread in the shops costs nearly RTGS\$20. But people fear the printing of more money without any security will lead to the black market rate going through the roof and the return of hyper-inflation of a decade ago.

The wider situation: unemployment

I haven't even touched on the wider situation in Zimbabwe. The unemployment rate – currently estimated at 95 per cent. Or the shocking minimum wages for domestic workers recently gazetted (official exchange rate used to convert to US\$):

Typical salaries

Gardener	\$160.00 (US\$9 a month)
Housekeeper	\$168.48 (US\$9.50)
Child minder	\$179.00 (US\$10.00)
Disabled minder	\$189.70 (US\$10.50)

Worker in unclassified operation \$300 (US\$17.00)

Domestic workers not accommodated also receive an additional \$150 (\$8.50) (made up of accommodation \$60, transport \$50, cooking fuel \$20, electricity \$10, water \$10).

Health

In January a South African water company, Nanotech, reported that Harare's municipal water is contaminated with dangerous toxins that can potentially compromise liver and nervous system function. Chemicals being used to purify the water cannot eliminate these toxins. Nanotech's report was concluded in March 2019 but had yet to be made public. Many households in Harare have not received municipal water for literally years, in some cases decades! The situation is worse in the overcrowded high density areas and the threat of an outbreak of cholera or typhoid is ever-present.

Another shocking development is the deterioration, even (some might say) disappearance of health provision in the public sector. For example, at Harare Hospital in January, 29 pregnant women died because the unavailability of anesthetic drugs prevented Caesarean delivery.

City clinics no longer supply medical services to poor people in the urban areas. Hospitals do not have medical provisions to function. Diabetics are unable to obtain insulin.

After a long strike, Zimbabwe's junior doctors were given US dollar payments for six months by Econet millionaire boss Strive Masiyiwe, which will

enable the junior doctors to complete their qualifications. But in January 2020 there were reports that qualified doctors are leaving Zimbabwe in large numbers.

(This situation is covered in more detail in the following article: *Incapacitation* by Professor Sunanda Ray and Dr Farai Madzimbamuto.)

Education

In education, pupils at government primary schools are being told to bring transport money (in US\$) or teachers will not teach them.

Parents are being told they have to pay school fees in advance – and are then regularly being asked to ‘top-up’ (sometimes in US\$).

Food

The price of mealie meal doubled while I was in Zimbabwe between November and February, after subsidies were removed. After a few days the government announced the mealie meal subsidy would be reintroduced – but only for roller meal.

After a week, the Grain Millers announced that they were unable to supply the roller meal at the subsidised price because the government had not paid them the subsidy. As I wrote this article all mealie meal disappeared from supermarket shelves. It reappeared on the black market at a higher price – just as happened with petrol and diesel.

NGOs and other agencies have been warning that a severe food crisis is looming. The 2019 maize harvest was reported to be ‘roughly half’ that of 2018.

In February, the Minister of Agriculture announced (in spite of the government previously saying they had made contingency plans) that the country only has enough maize in reserve to last a month. The rains in Zimbabwe have been bad this year, which doesn’t bode well for 2020.

Every day in Zimbabwe is another drama.

Pat Brickhill a freelance writer and Secretary of the Britain Zimbabwe Society. She has recently returned from an extended stay in Harare

‘Incapacitation’: Professor Sunanda Ray and Dr Farai Madzimbamuto reflect on current provision of public health services in Zimbabwe

The recent ‘incapacitation’ of medical staff in the Zimbabwe public sector’s five main hospitals has highlighted the failure of government to uphold the right to healthcare embodied in the 2013 Constitution.

Section 76 of that constitution states that every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has the right to have access to basic healthcare services, including reproductive health-care services and that no person may be refused emergency medical treatment in any healthcare institution.

‘Incapacitated’

The doctors at these hospitals are represented by the Hospital Doctors Association and the Senior Hospital Doctors Association. They use the term ‘incapacitated’ rather than ‘being on strike’ to emphasise that this action was not only about their salaries which, like those of all civil servants, had been devalued by 500 per cent by inflation and changes in the value of the local currency.

This depreciation meant that health professionals could not afford housing and related utility bills, fuel and transport to work or school fees for their children. As a result, nurses were working ‘flexible working hours’,

often working three days a week because they could not afford transport for a full working week.

The doctors felt incapacitated because shortages of medications and sundries, malfunctioning equipment, inability to carry out investigations and so on meant they were unable to perform their duties in the health system.

They had to ask patients and families to buy drugs, intravenous fluids, cannulas and bandages from private pharmacies, and to get tests done by private laboratories.

Public sector medical insurance requires heavy co-payments to cover costs. The only people who can afford healthcare are those earning hard currency (US\$) or have families abroad who are remitting money to them. Those who have hard currency often choose to go to South Africa, India or China, especially for complex surgery, even when it could be done privately in Zimbabwe.

Charges are higher in Zimbabwe because surgeons must cover the costs of their office rentals and staff as well as make a living from the few patients they treat. Many junior doctors are giving up on higher training in Zimbabwe and are looking for opportunities in other countries – part of the skills drain into the global labour

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market that happens whenever the domestic situation becomes unbearable. Nurse and midwife recruitment to high-income countries has intensified with the best qualified and motivated being the most likely to leave.

All of this has happened in the wider context of gross corruption – with senior politicians getting their health needs attended to by travelling abroad for healthcare at public expense, often accompanied by retinues of families and attendants.

Investments in health have often seemed to have ulterior political motives – such as the purchase of equipment from India, for US\$ 650,000, which turned out to be unusable (*Open Parly ZW @Open-ParlyZw Feb 7 2020*).

Rural areas

During the incapacitation, which took place between September 2019 and January 2020, all eyes were on the cities – Harare, Bulawayo and Chitungwiza.

But more than 60 per cent of Zimbabweans live in rural areas and rely on district and mission hospitals. Rural areas that do not have mission hospitals nearby and rely on government resources often struggle to provide services. Medical officers are not keen to work in these hospitals because they are less well supported than others, do not get top-up allowances as with mission hospitals, and the communities' poverty means they cannot do private work.

A major malfunction of the health system is that it does not provide a continuum of care from primary health centres to district and mission hospitals, with referral of more complex cases first to provincial hospitals and finally to central and teaching hospitals.

If resources, including human resources, were more evenly distributed across the health system, patients and their families could get care near where they live and work and not have to pay travel costs to get to the cities. Ideally, specialists should be providing outreach mentorship to support medical, nursing and allied health staff in district and provincial hospitals, and the education of health professionals would reflect this decentralised approach.

Criticism during the incapacitation was that doctors were leaving their patients without services. This was far from the truth. Most doctors continued providing services in the private sector and tried to accommodate those that could not pay. There were inspirational activities that demonstrated the concern health professionals continued to have. Karanda Mission Hospital, in Mount Darwin, is a 150-bed hospital

staffed by three American and Canadian physicians and one physician assistant, funded by evangelical churches in North America.

They normally provide a full range of surgical, medical and maternity services as well as teaching medical students and surgical registrars. As a result of the shutdown of government hospitals in the cities, patients streamed to Karanda from all over Zimbabwe, sometimes waiting three days in the outpatient queue to be assessed. To support the staff at Karanda, various specialists from Harare carried out outreach visits to the hospital.

Doctors have formed not-for-profit organisations that seek donations from well-wishers and from the diaspora to cover the costs of drugs, equipment etc with health staff providing their services as volunteers.

An NGO called Global Orthopaedic Foundation visited Karanda Mission Hospital where a team of orthopaedic surgeons and anaesthetists spent two days and treated 150 patients with broken limbs as well as carrying out 25 operations. They also visited Howard Mission Hospital in Chiweshe and provided surgical and orthopaedic interventions there.

A history of collaboration

Even before the incapacitation started, organisations like this one played key roles in collaboration with churches in the response to Cyclone Idai, packing up supplies and travelling to the Eastern Highlands to provide emergency care for people traumatised by the cyclone. Others set up what are called *Citizwean* (sic) Clinics with crowdfunding. They raised 96,000 Euros for the Cyclone Idai response. They have gone into remote areas (such as Binga) as well as urban townships to run clinics with over a hundred doctors, nurses and pharmacists volunteering their services.

Some of the mission hospitals in rural Zimbabwe get financial help from their churches or from 'friends' support groups in higher-income countries. For example, The Friends of Murambinda Hospital is made up of doctors (often GPs) who came in the past from Britain or the Netherlands to work at Murambinda Hospital and have continued to support it by fundraising to buy equipment and pharmaceuticals, improving hospital security, providing small grants for staff allowances and uniforms.

Their fundraising is usually very grassroots-based, requests for donations instead of wedding presents, for example. Similar fundraising supports other mission hospitals. Solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe has continued despite the crisis in health service delivery.

Health professionals have stressed that it is the government that has let people down and has incapacitated the health service. The same can be said for other sectors such as education. The right to health is not simply the provision of health services. Primary health care involves a range of inter-sectoral collaborations, demonstrating the inter-relatedness of infrastructure for clean water, safe sanitation, road safety, emergency response agencies, nutrition, occupational health, licensing of food suppliers, environmental health and so on.

Sticking plasters

The cholera outbreaks of 2008 and 2018 in urban townships were caused by appalling environmental challenges, with sewers overflowing and contamination of boreholes meant to provide clean water. The Auditor General's report shows that taxes collected from the urban ratepayers have gone to pay huge salaries for Directors in City Councils rather than paying clinic nurses, or being invested in repairing the ageing and outdated water supply infrastructure.

'We are incapacitated' means that until the government adequately funds the entire infrastructure required for protecting the health of its citizens, we are sticking plasters on the population's wounds, and many people will quietly suffer and die without any fanfare. Of

course, this would mean diverting funds from Ministers' overseas travel and international medical tourism to national services and infrastructure.

This is what the Constitution requires us all to campaign for and insist on.

Note: The doctors have since returned to work after UK-based telecoms billionaire Strive Masiyiwa offered to pay junior doctors US\$ 300 p.m.) for 6 months to enable them to complete their training, g: (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-51205619>)

Resources

Davies, H. (2016), *Leaked audit reveals massive council salary abuse*. Harare News. Retrieved from www.hararenews.co.zw/2016/11/leaked-audit-reveals-massive-council-salary-abuse/%0D

Global Orthopaedic Foundation Zimbabwe. <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalOrthopedicFoundation/>
Freeman Chari: <https://news.pindula.co.zw/201911/20/citizens-launch-the-first-zimbabwe-citizens-mobile-clinic-in-bulawayo-today/>
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/zimbabwe-citizens-mobile-clinics>

Sunanda Ray is a public health physician and Farai Madzimbamuto an anaesthetist. Until recently both worked for the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences.

THREE ORGANISATIONS

Tackling 'period poverty

Patience Ndebele-Omijie describes the work in Zimbabwe of her charity, *Inspire Women, Men and Children*.

In traditional culture menstruating females were often ostracised from certain activities. This, along with 'period poverty' (the lack of sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education, toilets, hand washing facilities and waste management) can keep girls and women out of school or work.

For many girls and women in Zimbabwe, disposable sanitary pads are an unaffordable luxury, leading them to improvise with rags, newspapers, cow dung and leaves to absorb menstrual blood – which compromises their health.

Some schoolgirls, unable to afford pads, miss an average of five days' school a month. This affects self-esteem, performance and results. Women miss out on their productive activities which compromise their income.

Poverty, and the shame and stigma and misinformation which surround menstruation can mean that girls may be forced to have sex in exchange for sanitary products.

Inspire Women, Men and Children tackles cultural taboos by conversing openly about periods and menstruation hygiene.

We offer training on making reusable sanitary pads, and on hygienic menstrual health practices including sexual

and reproductive health education and we are delivering our menstrual-friendly training in rural and urban schools and communities. No woman or girl should miss work/school because of something as normal as a period. We also train male 'allies' to help fight stigma and period poverty together.

Our successes

- Over 5000 women and girls have been trained to make reusable sanitary pads;
- A reduced rate of absenteeism in schools and work;
- We have created community enterprises manufacturing and selling affordable, washable, reusable menstrual pads and creating employment for 10 women who now run the business and supply pads to women and girls.

Inspire Women, Men and Children provides vocational skills training to vulnerable women and girls to ensure self-reliance and breaking the cycle of poverty. Since inception (Jan 2019) over 350 have completed their training.

We set up an attachment department and over 150 students have been given experience in retailing, catering and manufacturing industry, which has led many of them into permanent jobs, or into self-employment as dressmakers, home caterers and bakers, or as ad hoc contract staff.

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How you can get involved

- By sponsoring communities/schools to teach how to make reusable sanitary pads.
- By sponsoring vulnerable women and girls to learn a new skill.

Donations go towards:

- helping to create a lasting change to tackle menstruation cultural taboos;
- helping us to continue to supply reusable sanitary pads to schools;
- enabling women and girls to access entrepreneur training and selling pads.

See our website for more information, including how to donate: <https://inspirewmc.org>

Our twitter feeds [##NoMoreWhisperingPeriod](#) – *Let's Talk Period*

Inspire Women, Men and Children is registered charity 1160891 in the UK and a registered Trust in Zimbabwe – Bulawayo and Umguza) *Patience Ndebele-Omijie*

Father Ted Rogers' Zimbabwe Aids Orphans Project

Chris Crompton wrote to *The Zimbabwe Review* just after the last edition had gone to press: here is his November update, with apologies for the inevitable delay in publication.

I have to apologise for the extended time since my last report. Please be assured that the work in helping these children continues, thanks to your generous help.

I opened my last report in 2018 by expressing hopes that some of the hardships suffered by our beneficiaries may be alleviated following the General Election, but cautioning that there would be no quick fix. In reality, nothing has happened to help the project.

2019

We started the year with 44 beneficiaries, 13 in primary and 31 in secondary education, with girls just outnumbering boys by one in each section. We are also helping one girl, who completed Form 4 at the end of 2018, with an 18-month course in Tourism and Hospitality at a Career Management school which will prepare her for external examinations. During the year, two of our rural beneficiaries dropped out of school because they had to move to live with other guardians. One who was in Form 4, her O-level year, has transferred to another school and we continue to support her. It wasn't possible to trace the other. He's been replaced by a Form 1 (secondary school) girl, referred by the area's Social Welfare department.

Dr Shannon Phillip of Jesuit Missions, Wimbledon, was able during a visit to Central Africa to spend some time with our project co-ordinator in Zimbabwe, Faith Chiutsa, and they met some of our beneficiaries and assessed their needs. One of their observations was poor

nourishment, it was clear that in some cases hunger is affecting school performance. Another problem highlighted was that although we have almost equal enrolment of boys and girls, some pubescent girls are disadvantaged because they have no access to sanitary products (see previous article). We will be seeking ways to help with these problems.

Until the summer, Faith was reporting to Father Joe Hampson, the Provincial Treasurer for Zimbabwe and Mozambique, but he has moved on to other activities in the Far East. He had worked at the School of Social Work founded by Fr Ted and eventually took over as Principal, so he was well grounded in Fr Ted's philosophy.

The Province already has a Development Projects department so Faith now reports into that. Fr Gilbert Banda SJ has taken over as Treasurer, I had the pleasure of meeting him while he was passing through London during the summer. He has great respect for Fr Ted's work and will continue to take an interest in its progress.

The return of inflation

After a few years of stability while they have been using the US dollar, Zimbabweans are now facing inflation again, and the Government has now banned the use of foreign currency. Fortunately, most of our costs are paid in advance and most reserves are held here in Sterling, Euro and US dollar accounts until needed.

Along with the change in organisation for Faith in Zimbabwe, a plan is being considered whereby the beneficiaries presently enrolled will be supported through to the end of Form 4, that is to the end of 2028, and additional beneficiaries will be enrolled, about double the present number, who will reach Form 4 within this time frame. We are seeing fewer requests from the younger end, currently we have no one below Grade 3 of primary school. The budgeting for this plan is based on your continued support for which all are very grateful.

Performance will be monitored frequently over this period, bearing in mind the over-riding principle of Fr Ted's: that we'll be able to support our beneficiaries to Form 4 completion and avoid the risk of cutting them adrift.

Also, a new name for the project is proposed. Father Ted initially called it the Jesuit Aids Trust, and his supporters overseas were mainly family and friends. As the Jesuits are involved in AIDS support in many countries, and the project has no legal status as a Trust, after Father Ted died, I adopted the term 'Father Ted's Orphans' as a working title. Jesuit Missions and the Development Office in Zimbabwe consider the time is right to adopt something which will convey clearer objectives to a wider public, and have chosen Educational Assistance for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Zimbabwe.

Many thanks for your continuing help.

Please contact me for details if you have any questions or wish to donate: chris.crompton.uk@gmail.com

Chris Crompton, November 2019

Chaminuka Cultural Village

Richard Pantlin describes a cultural, arts and recreation hub, planned in memory of Chaminuka, the nineteenth-century leader and prophet of the Mashona, who held his court at the sacred rocks outside Chitungwiza in Harare Province. (The project has recently received a boost from ZTV – see below).

Over the last decade, the rocks have been threatened with destruction several times by agmining company cutting them for granite for export. Local traditional healer, John Chapepa, also known as Sekuru Soko, has had to appeal to the former President and the current one to ensure their protection. For now, that has been successful.

To ensure the place of heritage is preserved for future generations, Sekuru Soko is developing the Chaminuka Cultural Village. He envisages it as a cultural, arts and recreation hub for Harare and beyond and hopes that visitors will be able to experience cultural exhibits that unravel the purity, richness and uniqueness of African culture. Chaminuka, the historic figure from the time of the first Chimurenga in the nineteenth century, and from

whom the project gets its name, was also called Tsuru. He was possessed by the ancestral spirit of Chaminuka, and took on that name. A series of earlier incarnations of Chaminuka will also be explored as part of the displays.

A detailed plan has been drawn up to include huts for traditional healers, a herbal dispensary, a restaurant serving traditional foods and, in a later phase, chalets to accommodate visitors. It will be a living centre for traditional practices – not just a museum.

The concept has been endorsed by the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe and, in December 2019, I supported Sekuru Soko as he took a team from ZTV News to the site. This resulted in a two-minute clip broadcast in the main news on 23 and 24 December, and which has given the project a boost. You can see the item at: <https://youtu.be/0y-WDGAqLA8>, or search Youtube for ‘Chaminuka Cultural Village’.

Readers who would like to know more, including how they can help, should email richardpantlin@yahoo.co.uk.

Richard Pantlin is a regular visitor to Zimbabwe and a member of the Executive of the BZS

The Moving Arts Philip Weiss on the difficulties of bringing Zimbabwean performers to the UK

For many reasons, it has become very difficult to tour and bring Zimbabwean artists to the UK.

In the last few years over 750 smaller scale venues have been shut, and many community festivals have disappeared as local authorities slash their budgets. It's a task left to very large promoters or festivals – the few that is which have survived UK budget cuts.

Venue limitations and massively increased touring costs along with charges levied by the Home Office, mean that many emerging arts projects are finding it difficult to function. Sometimes only the leader of a group is allowed to travel.

Promoters have to find funds for work permits, visas and, more recently, a £10,000 deposit, which is set against the cost of securing the repatriation of possible over-stayers. Even then, admission to our little island is not guaranteed – an understatement! So for those of us who have engaged with the industry for many years, brexiting ourselves to Europe seems a more viable proposition. Spending two years planning a tour in the UK, unless the artist is highly established fiscally, has become quite a challenge.

Sunduza and SOSA-XA!

It was the Britain Zimbabwe Society and Margaret Ling who, thirty years ago, introduced me to the concept of ‘twinning’ and helped me indirectly to make

a link to the City of Aberdeen, which is twinned with Bulawayo.

For me touring was baptism by fire. Nonetheless I can report that Sunduza Dance Theatre in Bulawayo are now celebrating their 35th year and have, in some form or other, toured ever since. So, well done BZS!

However there has been a continuous need to base the Sunduza project soundly within effective business management and training, and to help produce and stimulate marketable productions. Then there has been the development of Amasiko Lemvelo Training as a locally registered welfare organisation in Pumula led by Leroy Sibanda.

Between 2001 and 2012, members of Sunduza supported the development of a twinning group – namely SOSA-XA! (Sounds of Southern Africa – <http://www.sosa-xa.org.uk>). An idea that we thought would last for two or three workshops celebrates its twentieth year starting in May 2020. Some members have been learning to sing in Shona and Ndebele weekly for the full twenty years (more in my case!).

Tragically the original teachers, Mandla Sibanda and Simon Banda passed on in 2012. They had led projects for ten years, providing weekly workshops, to 45,000 children and, for SOSA and Sunduza, the end seemed inevitable.

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However, thanks to Simon's son Charlie Banda and his ability to pull together the older members with new younger artists, the project is thriving. Charlie has a voice not dissimilar to his father's, and he is well supported by Mkululi Khanye as choreographer and a team of artists, some surviving from the first tour in 1992. It has taken a tremendous effort to rebuild the group in Bulawayo.

And in Sheffield

Meanwhile, in Sheffield, SOSA-XA Choir has been rescued by Richard Mahachi (Umkhathi Theatreworks), Keitu Motlogwa and the current musical director Tonderai Phiri who was originally with Siyaya Dance Theatre. So much talent now based in Yorkshire! SOSA is now moving towards full charity status and members of the trust are welcome from other parts of the UK.

In 2018, the late Professor Terence Ranger's book, *Voices from the Rocks, the Story of the Matopos*, in its musical form was relaunched both in Bulawayo by Sunduza and then at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown (now Makanda). It has really captured the minds of the youth.

In 2019 we took a revival and transformation of *Matata* that toured to Edinburgh years ago, rebranded as *The Adventures of Robert Moffat* with extracts based on the diaries of Robert Moffat (the missionary father-in-law of David Livingstone).

The group is currently working on a new production, *The Other Cecil* with reflections on historical and

Arts Notes

Meanwhile, new projects are catching the limelight. Charlie Banda is developing his new band branding himself as '*Dr Mahlaba*', a title originally conferred on his late father. They are on to their second album and video.

Wenyombwe from Harare hit the big time last year by winning the Music Crossroads competition before going on to win the international competition at the Imagine Festival in Maastricht. Significantly, they all had to be under 25 years of age and are supported and taught by their mother group – *Mafaro* led by Baltimore Mudepu who appeared first in the UK with Albert Nyathi and Imbongi.

And finally

Check out York Theatre Royal who are staging *Mugabe, My Dad and Me* by Tonderai Munyevu at various dates between the 15 and 30 May 2020. It's part of a longer programme of South African Arts brought by the Isango Ensemble that includes performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, *The SS Mendi* and an interpretation of medieval Mystery plays: *The Mysteries – Yimmimangaliso*.

And for Londoners – don't miss out on *Kunene and the King*, written by John Kani and performed by himself alongside Antony Sher – it's a work of genius.

environmental issues; and their original childrens' production *Injabulo*, which we hope to tour to India.

May the a cappella sound of imbube music continue!
<http://www.sunduza.org> (new website shortly)
<http://www.sosa-xa.org.uk>

Philip Weiss is a producer and a member of the BZS Executive.

From .Sunduza in the Adventures of Robert Moffat. Photo © 2019: Philip Weiss



The State We're In A report on a meeting jointly organised by the Institute for Commonwealth Studies (ICWS) and the Commonwealth Journalists' Association

This event, addressing the current political situation in Zimbabwe, took place on the evening of 20 November, at Mary Ward House, 5–7 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SN, and was chaired by Dr Sue Onslow, Deputy Director and Reader in Commonwealth History.

Three speakers addressed the impact on its citizens of the current political situation in Zimbabwe.

Independent freelance journalist Violet Gonda began with a film of MDC supporters being violently dispersed by police, and concentrated on the relationship between the media and the government.

She stressed the importance of a varied and independent media – pointing out that almost all media outlets in Zimbabwe – newspapers, television and radio – are either directly or indirectly controlled by the government. Online media is under pressure and is not available to many Zimbabweans.

Journalists generally are constantly hounded for telling the truth. She described her own experience – admitting that she – being well-known – is relatively privileged; others have less protection. In this climate, getting a clear picture of what is happening is a difficult task.

Gonda believes passionately in the role of the 'fourth estate' to challenge the ruling power. She asked how we can build a viable media in the current atmosphere?

Addressing this is vital to rebuilding Zimbabwe – hard though the task is.

Dr Brighton Chireka, a UK-based Zimbabwean GP, described the shock, when he last visited Zimbabwe) of seeing doctors on strike in protest against the poor pay and intolerable working conditions that make it impossible for them to do their jobs properly.

He saw the state of health care in Zimbabwe as indicative of the fact that 'A government that is failing to protect human rights can't be expected to provide a decent health system' and he pointed to the case of a doctor being abducted after being critical of the government.

With a lack of investment in health, he believed that relying on foreign aid can be problematic: it is often focussed on individual donor priorities (notably AIDS), and not on the country's medical priorities. Money, he said, can pour in, with little benefit.

He called for a health service that could provide adequate treatment available for all.

Dr Alex Magaisa, from the University of Kent in Canterbury and former Advisor (Chief of Staff) to Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai (2012-2013)) apologised for not being able 'provide brightness'. Since the coup, he said, the government was in a political stalemate, facing numerous challenges, not least the collapse of the economy, and huge numbers of people in poverty.

There was also another stalemate: the government is in effect sharing power with the military. There is now no chance of ZANU-PF ever losing an election – the military having assisted in the coup, .

He expressed his view that those foreign governments, including the UK, that have attempted to re-engage with the government of Zimbabwe showed an error of judgement: oppression, which he addresses in his blog (<https://www.bigsr.co.uk>), persists and corruption is rife.

We cannot, he concluded, solve the economic situation without resolving the political one: the international community must understand what is going on.

In a wide-ranging discussion after their contributions, the speakers enlarged on their themes. Questions from the floor included the acknowledgement that the government did get significant votes in rural areas.

Dr Magaisa advocated the diaspora giving support, reminding the audience that those working at a local level are putting themselves at risk. Nevertheless, like foreign organisations and governments, Zimbabweans outside the country were likely to be seen by ZANU PF as opposition supporters.

Among suggestions for support for Zimbabwean civil society was the mention by BZS Chair, Dr Kathy Mansfield Higgins of the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship Scheme (open to Zimbabwean applications).

'People try to live their best lives, despite everything,' she said, mentioning the Mitambo International Theatre Festival, which involves young people in the cultural, social and political function of theatre.

A podcast of discussion can be heard in full at:
http://podcast.ulcc.ac.uk/accounts/SAScasts/Commonwealth_Studies/20_11_19_ICWS_70_Zimbabwe_The_State_We_re_In.mp3

Obituary: Denis Norman: 1931–2019 *Trevor Grundy remembers independent Zimbabwe's first Minister for Agriculture*

Denis Norman, who died at his home in Oxfordshire on 20 December, aged 88, after a two-year battle against cancer, was the first Minister for Agriculture in newly-independent Zimbabwe.

After the settlement in London in late 1979 that saw the end of a protracted war, and Mugabe's ZANU-PF's overwhelming victory in the subsequent election, most whites doubted they had a future in what they feared would be a quasi-Marxist country.

Then they heard that Denis Norman, the president of the all-white Commercial Farmers Union (CFU), had been appointed as the country's first Minister of Agriculture. They were both stunned and delighted.

Few knew that it was Lord (Christopher) Soames (the last governor of Southern Rhodesia) who virtually ordered Mugabe to make the appointment (along with a Scot, David Smith, to Trade and Commerce). The aim was to reassure the white community and prove to Britain, the Commonwealth and the rest of the world that Prime Minister Robert Mugabe was sincere about his declared wish to nurture racial and political reconciliation in a war-torn country.

'Inspired appointment'

'Denis Norman's appointment was inspired,' said one of Zimbabwe's best-known white farmers, John Laurie. 'He was apolitical and, with his agricultural experience, he immediately set about the task of building agriculture up to be the leading sector of the country's economy.'

Most black Zimbabweans also welcomed the CFU head aboard the new ship of state.

His deputy in 1980 was the widely respected Simba Makoni, who praised Norman for not only venturing into the explosive post-war political arena but also for making what he called 'an immense contribution, not only to agriculture, but to reconciliation between blacks and whites.'

Respected and listened-to

During the five years Denis Norman ran Agriculture, the country was not only self-sufficient in food but also a net exporter to the other eight countries in the then important regional economic grouping, the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Norman soon became one of Mugabe's most respected and listened-to ministers. So much so that Mugabe entrusted this dedicated white man to escort the Romanian communist despot Nicolae Ceausescu

around Zimbabwe during his state visit in 1983.

Mugabe suggested that the visitor, his wife and large group of officials be shown around farms.

'Which ones?' asked Norman.

'The best,' said Mugabe.

Norman showed the Romanian one of the country's finest dairy farms.

After a thorough inspection of the farm and its immaculate herds, Ceausescu turned to Norman and said, 'I'll take it.'

The quick-thinking Norman realised Ceausescu was under the impression a farm would be Mugabe's way of saying thanks for all the military and other support Romania and the other Soviet bloc countries had given to the struggle for freedom during the Rhodesian War. Politely, but firmly, Denis Norman said that the farm, sadly, was not up for sale.

Ceausescu, who rarely asked for anything twice, said he didn't want to buy it. He would accept it as a gift from the Zimbabwean Government.

Norman passed this particular buck to his boss, Robert Mugabe and, years later, wrote in his biography *The Odd Man In* (Weaver Press, Harare, Zimbabwe, 2018): 'I do not know what passed between them subsequently, but I got the impression that the relationship quickly cooled considerably.'

Land reform

The partnership between Robert Mugabe and Denis Norman between 1980 and 1985 made sense of independence and inspired well-planned land reform.

Mugabe admitted he knew little about farming and so paid attention to the wisdom of a man who did. Watching and warming to the former CFU leader Robert Mugabe could be forgiven for thinking that all whites had a bit of Denis Norman in them.

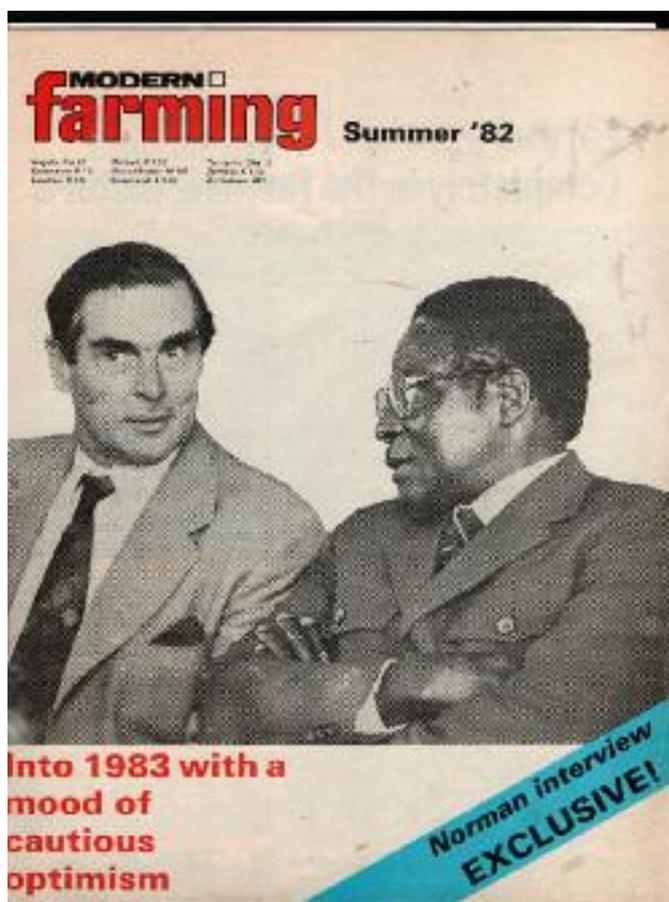
How wrong he was.

In 1985, at the second general election, the small but still economically influential white community, voted almost to a person for Ian Smith's party.

Mugabe – furious – sacked Denis Norman and David Smith and told the whites that his reconciliation gesture was over. They had spurned his friendship.

Norman returned to his farm – but when the going got tough, the man at the top looked for Denis Norman once again.

As Chairman of the Beira Corridor Group (BCG) Norman had thought up ingenious ways of re-routing



Golden Days for agriculture in newly-independent Zimbabwe – Minister for Agriculture Denis Norman with keen-to-learn-about farming Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. (With thanks to Alexander Joe for cover photograph of the CFU-owned magazine.)

Zimbabwe's imports and exports away from South Africa towards those in neighbouring Mozambique, which was ruled by FRELIMO under the leadership of President Samara Machel. Mugabe asked Norman to take over Transport and National Supplies.

In 1992, he took on Energy as well and, amazingly, in 1995, Mugabe called him into his office and asked him to once again take over the Agriculture portfolio.

He stayed there until 1997, when Mugabe came under increasing pressure to print money to provide handouts and pensions to veteran freedom fighters. Three years later, with nothing left to give, he turned on white farmers and stole the land they had bought legally after independence.

Early life

Denis Norman was born on 26 March, 1931 at Chalgrove Manor in the village of the same name in Oxfordshire. He was the second of three sons to farming parents. In 1942 he was sent as a boarder to All Saints School, Bloxham, where he excelled as a sportsman.

With farming in his blood, he worked first

alongside his father and brother at Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire. In 1953, he decided to follow his older brother, John, to Rhodesia, landing there on 11 November: inexperienced, but determined to make a success of the two to three years he planned to be there.

In 1954, Denis first saw Salisbury-born June Marshall, whose grandfather was one of the Pioneers who 'opened up' Rhodesia after 1890.

Denis said she was 'the most beautiful woman I've ever seen in my life.' They married in 1955 and farmed in Karoi and in the Norton area of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, building up an efficient enterprise and a family of four children – Kathryn Millett (now a travel consultant), Diana Skea (a charity administrator), Howard (a financial planner) and Deborah Digby (the owner of an African art gallery).

Leaving Zimbabwe

Denis Norman was once one of the most respected men in Zimbabwe but, after the land invasions of 2000, life became unbearable and he and his wife eventually decided with huge reluctance to leave the country they loved.

But unlike the thousands of blacks displaced by Mugabe's draconian and violent land-grab, the Normans had somewhere else to go. They left in 2003. One of the last people he said goodbye to was Mugabe, who said Norman should go for a few years and then return.

In his memoir, Norman wrote, 'At this point, I diverted the conversation by asking him where the country had all gone wrong. Again, he looked surprised and said, "Has it all gone wrong?" I countered by saying I knew it had, and he knew it, but the question was, why was this so?'

Last days

Denis and June lived first in southern England, then moved to Oxfordshire, where he had his roots and where he wrote his memoirs.

Almost until the day of his death he remembered with a mixture of affection and regret the way Robert Mugabe had arrived on the scene with such promise and left behind him a wrecked farming system in an ill-fated country.

Denis Norman is survived by June, his wife of 64 years and his four children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Trevor Grundy is a British reporter who lived and worked in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa from 1966-1996.

Obituary: Phineas Sithole 1931– 2019: Brooks Marmon from the University of Edinburgh on the life of a trade unionist and politician

At the time of his death, Phineas Ferani Sithole was one of the the last surviving leaders of the Zimbabwean liberation movement.

Sithole, a prominent trade unionist and pan-African politician from the 1960s to 1980s, briefly served as a MP in the short-lived Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Government in the late 1970s.

For a decade following independence in 1980, he opposed Robert Mugabe's efforts to create a one-party state. A former President of the African Trade Union Congress (ATUC) and a close colleague of prominent nationalist leaders such as Jason Z. Moyo and the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, Phineas Sithole fell into obscurity after abandoning party politics in the early 1990s.

Awakening political consciousness

Sithole was born in 1931 in Selukwe, Southern Rhodesia (now Shurugwi, Zimbabwe). His father was a miner at Shabani Mines. Sithole was educated at Mzingwane Secondary School and trained as a teacher at Solusi Mission.

His political consciousness was awakened in April 1947 when he was forced to join a greeting party for King George VI and the Royal Family during their visit to Cecil Rhodes' grave. Then, in 1958, as political tensions across Africa and in Southern Rhodesia were escalating, Sithole abandoned teaching and joined a Bulawayo blanket factory, Consolidated Textiles, as an accounts clerk. There, he quickly became active in the Textile and Allied Workers' Union. One of his first engagements was to lobby successfully for a minimum wage.

When the Southern Rhodesian government declared an emergency in 1959 and banned the nationalist movement, he was one of several hundred people detained without charge.

Party politics

In 1962 he became involved in party politics as the founding Vice-President of the short-lived Pan-African Socialist Union (PASU). That October he travelled to New York with party president Paul Mushonga. Addressing the United Nations, Sithole condemned the Rhodesian government as 'a vicious minority settler team bent on perpetuating white supremacy.' Upon his return to Rhodesia, customs officials at Salisbury Airport confiscated many of his

documents. He was subsequently charged with possessing subversive propaganda and received a 12-month jail term.

Following Mushonga's death in a car accident that December, Sithole became PASU's Acting President. In early 1963, alongside Wiseman Zengeni (subsequently one of only three non-ZANU-PF candidates returned at the 1990 parliamentary election) he toured several West African capitals on behalf of the party. Later that year he brought PASU into the fold of the newly-created Zimbabwe African National Union under the leadership of Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole.

Following this merger, he reverted to leadership roles in trade union circles. As the President of the ATUC, he was a spokesperson for 50,000 black industrial workers and, following UDI in 1965, spoke out against the new Rhodesian constitution and Prime Minister Ian Smith's declaration of a republic in 1970.

After independence

Phineas continued to support Ndabaningi Sithole after the latter was ousted by Robert Mugabe as ZANU's leader in the mid-1970s. He became the National Chairman of Ndabaningi Sithole's ZANU wing, ZANU-Ndonga, in 1977, a position he held for over a decade.

During the short-lived internal settlement between the minority settler government and several black groups, Phineas served in the 1979 Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Parliament, representing Matabeleland North. After independence, he frequently clashed with Robert Mugabe's the new government, condemning widespread government-perpetrated violence in Matabeleland – the *Gukurahundi* atrocities of the early 1980s.

In 1983 he was arrested by the Mugabe government and subsequently imprisoned for over a year. He abandoned party politics following the 1990 election campaign after he fared poorly in his campaign for the Mpopoma parliamentary seat and had a falling out with Ndabaningi Sithole.

Sithole passed away on 27 October in Bulawayo five days after his 88th birthday.

He is survived by his wife and many children and grandchildren. He resided in Cowdray Park, Bulawayo, with one of his daughters.

Brooks Marmon is a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh. Follow him @AfricaInDC.

Remembering Robert Mugabe

A letter from a BZS member and excerpts from a personal interpretation of Robert Mugabe's life

To The Editor,

I have been a BZS member for at least thirty years, reading the Review and attending a few of the more politically themed Research Days.

Now in 2019 my interest in Zimbabwe has diminished, even more so after the removal of Robert Mugabe and his replacement by another 'bandit'. The 'final straw' was the obituary for Robert Mugabe in the September 2019 Zimbabwe Review, which was nothing short of a 'whitewash' and I pondered then whether to continue my membership.

The passage on elections was too much; Robert Mugabe himself admitted he had lost at the ZANU-PF congress in December 2014, the opposition had in fact won the 2008 polls by an astounding 73 per cent.

Zimbabwe deserves better than this.

David Page

The Review has received the letter printed above following the obituary printed in our September 2019 edition.

The writer is not alone in his feelings. Among the other angry responses to the many obituaries that have appeared world-wide was an article from Zimbabwean lawyer, Siphosami Malunga, under the heading, *Robert Mugabe: The Greatest Trick the Devil Ever Played*. Written in a personal capacity for *The Africa Report*, this appeared on 9 September 2019.

Selections from it are printed below. The piece can be seen in full at: <https://www.theafricareport.com/17007/robert-mugabe-the-greatest-trick-the-devil-ever-played/>.

The Greatest Trick the Devil Ever Played

No hero turned villain

The fallacy of the hero-turned-villain narrative of Robert Mugabe is the greatest trick this devil ever played.

The closest I have to feeling anything is quiet, seething rage. Rage that this man who killed thousands and destroyed so many livelihoods has died without facing justice for his atrocities. Many say they are conflicted about Mugabe – whom they call a pan-Africanist, father of the Zimbabwean nation and a hero-turned-villain. I personally do not suffer from this conflict.

Liberation hero?

Credited by some for his gallant role in leading Zanu in the last very short leg of the liberation struggle from 1975 to 1979 – only four years – he gets far more credit than he deserves.

Brutal approach

He wanted everything done his way.

He never tolerated dissent during the liberation struggle and after. He stoked controversy on his role in the death of

Josiah Tongogara, the Zanla commander in 1979 in order to ostensibly consolidate his control over Zanu PF.

After independence, having decided Zimbabwe would be a one party state, he demanded and required full compliance and loyalty. When his comrades questioned it, they were sidelined or worse.

He jettisoned erstwhile right-hand comrades ... then he toyed with them by bringing some of them back when he felt they had learnt their lesson.

Attempts to [muster any revolt] were sure to be fatal ... usually car accidents, poisoning or other sudden illness.

Gukurahundi

In 1980, fearful of Joshua Nkomo, his party and better trained guerillas, Mugabe spent considerable resources to build his own army militia answerable to him and ready to do his political and ethnic bloodletting.

The Gukurahundi or 5th Brigade was a private army with instructions to kill, rape, torture and plunder Joshua Nkomo and his supporters into submission. He did not stop, until 20,000 people were dead. He would never have stopped had Nkomo not capitulated and sworn allegiance to his authority. Only total subjugation assuaged Mugabe.

He left a country more ethnically divided than it was when the liberation struggle began.

Political violence normalised

In 1990, he warned supporters of the Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM) led by his erstwhile comrade Edgar Tekere, that one way to die was to vote for ZUM.

Land reform

No sane Zimbabweans could question the need to redress the land problem, which had been the basis for the armed struggle. But Mugabe kept the best farms for himself and his cronies.

Always a political opportunist, realising that the opposition drew its support from urban centres, in 2005, he unleashed his wrath on the urban population, destroying homes in Operation Murambatsvina (Reject Dirt) that the UN characterised as approximating crimes against humanity.

Exposing atrocity

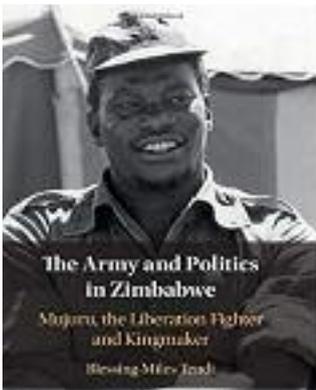
I knew Mugabe's wrath from when I was a 10-year-old boy. My father, Sidney Malunga – as a Zapu spokesman who exposed his atrocities – got the worst of Mugabe's brutality. Starting barely a few months into independence in 1980, countless night-time raids at home and arrests, detentions incommunicado, torture, sham trials, ... we 'lived' with Mugabe in our house.

The continuous consciousness of an ever-present and ever-looming danger. ... This would not change in my adulthood. It has not changed now.

Continued on next page

The Army and Politics in Zimbabwe

Margaret Ling attended the launch of a new book by Blessing-Miles Tendi



Blessing-Miles Tendi's most recent book, *The Army and Politics in Zimbabwe, Mujuru, the Liberation Fighter and Kingmaker* was launched on 17 February at the Djam Lecture Theatre (SOAS).

General Solomon Mujuru, guerrilla name Rex Nhongo, was an illustrious African

liberation fighter in the 1970s and, until his suspicious death in August 2011, an important figure in Robert Mugabe's ruling ZANU PF party.

An essential record

This first full-length biography explores the opaque elite politics of the 1970s liberation struggle, the post-independence army and ZANU PF. Based on unparalleled primary interviews with informants in the army, intelligence services, police and ZANU PF elites, Blessing-Miles Tendi has mustered a vast body of oral evidence in order to examine Mujuru's moments of triumph and his shortcomings in equal measure.

From his poor upbringing in Chikomba region and undistinguished youth in colonial Rhodesia, Mujuru's rise to power was rapid. This chronicle of the first black commander of Zimbabwe's national army is an essential record of one of the most controversial figures within the history of the country's liberation politics.

Miles Tendi is an associate professor in the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) and the African Studies Centre (ASC), and is a well-known figure at the BZS Research Day. At this well-attended launch, he explained that he had written a biography of Solomon Mujuru as a more effective route to understanding the politics of ZANU and the army than a conventional 'African politics' approach. His focus was on agency, feelings and passions, rather than structure.

A key player

Mujuru, known as Rex Nhongo during the liberation war, was key to Robert Mugabe's rise to power from 1977, but also critical of the one-party state model and had a friendly relationship with ZAPU's Dumiso Dabengwa. His relationship with Mugabe began to break down from 1983, as Mugabe began to resent his influence.

Professor Stephen Chan, as discussant, described the result as 'probably the most evidentially-based book' on Zimbabwe and a model of scholarship. Tendi had not only produced an incredibly thorough biography but also uncovered the conspiratorial workings of the deep state.

Mujuru was supposedly killed in a house fire at his

farm. A vast body of evidence of suspicious behaviour appears to have been deliberately ignored, overlooked or destroyed by the police. Instead of cordoning off the area for forensic investigation, they brought in parties of sight-seers to walk around the house and view the body, and eventually transferred the remains into a cardboard box with a farmyard shovel.

Mujuru's wife Joice (Teurai Ropa), then vice-president, was prevented from attending the inquest by being summoned to the Presidential residence for 'consultation' and effectively there.

Political assassinations

One of the many interesting questions put to Tendi during the discussion was why political assassinations were such a feature of the Zimbabwean state? His reply was that ZANU has not changed very much from its split from ZAPU in 1963. It remains a militaristic organisation relying on coercive control and fear, rather than a political party.

The Army and Politics in Zimbabwe: Politics in Zimbabwe: Mujuru, the Liberation Fighter and Kingmaker 348 pages, hardback, Cambridge University Press, UK, January 2020, ISBN 9781108472890. Kindle edition available.

Margaret Ling is BZS Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Continued from previous page: Remembering Mugabe

Much will be said by others about Mugane's misrule and economic destruction of the country and its people's livelihoods that there is little point in repeating. More about how he allowed, facilitated and encouraged corruption by his comrades. He revelled in false claims that he was corruption-free but was just surrounded by thieves.

Selective pan-Africanist

He selectively peddled pan-African credentials to shore up support for his disastrous economic and political policies ... killing and beating his own African citizens, stealing elections, starving opposition and plundering public resources ...

He left nothing to show for ruling a country for almost 40 years except decay. That he died in a Singapore hospital ... is testament of his catastrophic failure not just to build a viable health system but to simply maintain what he inherited from the Rhodesians.

Worst of all, even though he was deposed in 2017, he bequeathed to the country a monstrous political system run by a small political, predatory and corrupt elite comprised of his cronies with greater interest in advancing personal than public interest.

In that sense, he never left, even in death.

Siphosami Malunga: printed here with thanks to The Africa Report.

Good news on the arts front

Zimbabwean romantic comedy film *Cook Off* featured in Los Angeles – appropriately – on 14 February this year at the Pan African Film Festival (see poster opposite). The film was reviewed in the September edition of the *Zimbabwe Review*. Directed by Tomas Brickhill and starring Tendaiishe Chitma, it has won prestigious awards within Zimbabwe, (National Arts Merit Awards (NAMAs) for Best Feature Length Film and Best Actress for the film’s lead, Tendaiishe Chitma, along with (outside its home country) Worldfest Houston, Student Jury Award.

And the December 2019 edition of the website *African Arguments* has named two Zimbabwean titles as among the best African novels of the 2010s. They are Tendai Huchu’s *Hairdresser of Harare* (2010) (an entertaining comedy turned tragedy’) and Novuyo Rosa Tshuma’s *House of Stone* (2018) (‘a harrowing insight into Zimbabwe’s past and how things have come to be today’).



Contact the Britain Zimbabwe Society

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Vacancies exist on the BZS Executive. If you are interested in joining the Executive, please contact Pat Brickhill.

Britain Zimbabwe Society Membership Form

To join and receive your regular copy of the Zimbabwe Review, postings on the members e-mail discussion forum, and Research Day discount, please print and send the completed form below with your subscription cheque to:

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You may also join the BZS online, payment by credit/debit card or PayPal, via our website:

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BRITAIN ZIMBABWE SOCIETY RESEARCH DAY 2020

Zimbabwean Migration – People, Ideas and the Arts in Motion

Saturday 13 June 2020

9.00am – 5.30pm (doors open from 8.30am)

St. Antony's College, Nissan Theatre, 62 Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6JF

In partnership with the Oxford African Studies Centre

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

- Research presentations, discussion and debate about current and historical Zimbabwean migration.
- The migration of ideas, innovation and the creative arts,
- A multidisciplinary event, exploring migration both as research-based and lived experience.
- A platform for Zimbabwean and Zimbabweanist researchers, bringing together new ideas and perspectives to refresh the discourse on migration, change and development.

PANELS ON:

- Migration of Labour and Wealth
- Migration of People, Ideas and Memory
- Migration of Culture and the Arts

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

ETHEL KUUYA, entrepreneur, business management adviser and the managing director of *Advisory K*, a partner with the world's largest human resources consulting firm, serving clients in six countries. Ethel has helped design strategies for businesses across various sectors from health to hospitality, IT and financial services. She is well-placed to talk about the migration of ideas, skills and innovation.

OTHER PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

LOREEN CHIKWIRA, Edge Hill University, UK, on Zimbabwean women in the UK.

MARIO MALANCA, chief of mission in Zimbabwe, International Organization of Migration, on migration in Zimbabwe (represented by IOM London office).

LLOYD NYIKADZINO, director of the Zimbabwe Theatre Academy and coordinator of the Zimbabwe Centre of the International Theatre Institute, on the movement of culture and the arts.

ZOE GROVES, University of Leicester, on Malawian migration to Zimbabwe.

Please note that the above details are provisional and that the programme will change as it takes shape

For programme and presentation enquiries, contact:

Dr Pauline Dodgson-Katiyo: pauline.dodgson@btinternet.com

To be added to our Research Day mailing list and for information on registration and the day's practical arrangements, contact **Margaret Ling** margaret.ling@geo2.poptel.org.uk

All are welcome to join our lively and supportive audience

ONLINE BOOKINGS BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD TO

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/zimbabwean-migration-people-ideas-and-the-arts-in-motion-tickets-93064732119>

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