



# CITY OF MASVINGO

# Bulletin



## City of Masvingo Mayor Awarded 1st runner-up in President’s Performance Excellence Awards

The Mayor of City of Masvingo, Cllr. Aleck Tabe, has been honoured with the 1st Runner-Up award in the President’s Performance Excellence in Service Delivery Awards under the Mayor/Council Chairpersons for Local Authorities category.

The prestigious awards are part of the Government’s performance management system spearheaded by His Excellence, President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa, which recognises outstanding public sector leaders who demonstrate commitment to efficient governance, accountability, and improved service delivery. The initiative encourages leaders across government institutions and local authorities to meet national development targets and improve services for citizens.

Mayor Tabe’s recognition reflects the outstanding progress and efforts being made by the City of Masvingo in strengthening local governance, enhancing infrastructure development, and improving the delivery of essential services to residents.

Under his leadership, Council has been advancing initiatives aimed at modernising council services, promoting community participation, and supporting sustainable urban development.

Receiving the national accolade places the City of Masvingo among the country’s leading local authorities, demonstrating excellence in public administration leadership.

The award also highlights the collective efforts of councillors, management, and staff who continue to work towards providing quality services to the people of Masvingo.

The President’s Performance Excellence Awards form part of a broader national framework designed to promote a culture of results, accountability, and excellence within Zimbabwe’s public sector institutions.

Through such recognition, the City of Masvingo continues to solidify its reputation as a forward-looking local authority committed to service excellence and inclusive urban development.

## Food Handlers Trained to Strengthen Food Safety at Garikai Market



Food handlers operating at Garikai Market recently underwent a training session aimed at improving food safety standards and promoting proper hygiene.

giene practices among restaurants involved in food preparation and sales.

The training sought to standardise food preparation practices within the Central Business District (CBD) and Garikai Market, reinforcing the message that food safety standards must remain consistent regardless of where food is prepared or sold.

The session was facilitated by Ms. Mutano, the Area Environmental Health Technician (EHT), who provided practical guidance on proper food handling procedures, personal hygiene, and safe food preparation practices.

Participants were also educated on the importance of maintaining clean working environments and adhering to health regulations in order to prevent food-borne illnesses.

Opening remarks were delivered by Mrs. Matava, who emphasised the critical role food handlers play in protecting public health. She encouraged restaurant operators and their staff to uphold high standards of cleanliness and professionalism in their daily operations.

In a positive demonstration of collaboration and commitment to improved sanitation, one of the restaurant owners at the market donated 10 refuse bins to support proper waste management among restaurants operating within Garikai Market.

The initiative is part of ongoing efforts to safeguard public health and ensure that residents receive safe and hygienically prepared meals.

## Four Decades of Friendship: German-Zimbabwe Society Bolsters City of Masvingo's Social Welfare with Fresh Donation



The enduring 40-year partnership between the City of Masvingo and the German – Zimbabwe Association today reached another milestone as the German-Zimbabwe Society visited Masvingo to deliver a fresh wave of financial support to local vulnerable groups.

During the visit, the Society donated USD 2,300 to be shared among three critical institutions: Mucheke Old People's Home – USD 300, Alfred Walter Hostel – USD 300, and Alpha Cottages USD 1700. The gesture is part of a long-standing twinning arrangement that has become a cornerstone of social development in the city.

Beyond simple charity, the partnership has focused on sustainable development and improving essential service delivery. Over the years, the society has been instrumental in mobilizing resources for high-impact projects, including:

**Healthcare Infrastructure:** The construction of Runyararo Clinic, provision of state-of-the-art ambulances, and medical equipment for Masvingo General and Morgenster Hospitals.

**Green Energy:** The installation of a 5KV solar system and water storage at Runyararo Clinic.

**Social Safety Nets:** The expansion of Alpha Cottages Orphanage and the construction of the Alfred Walter Hostel.

**Economic Empowerment:** Microfinance initiatives for community business development through Zambuko.

The partnership has also proven its agility during times of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society provided critical oxygen concentrators and has consistently supported the city's sanitation efforts by providing refuse compactors.

The recent USD 2,280 donation is intended to complement previous investments, ensuring that the elderly at Mucheke and the children at Alpha Cottages and Alfred Walter Hostel continue to receive adequate care in a supportive environment.

This partnership has flourished through mutual respect, solidarity, and a shared commitment to improved service delivery.

## Masvingo City comes alive as community celebrates International Women's Day



Masvingo wasn't just observing a date on the calendar today, the city was alive with energy as residents, leaders, and local partners gathered to celebrate the belated International Women's Day under the theme, 'Rights, Justice, Action for All Women'.

It was a day dedicated to more than just a march, exhibition and speeches, but real action, from health services to business opportunities.

The event saw a powerful turnout, with Senior and Junior Councillors, Council management, and Alderman Maridza leading the way. Their presence sent a clear message that in Masvingo, women's development isn't a side project, it's at the heart of the community's progress.

A colossal range of organizations pitched in, including SMEDCO, ZHRC, EBEN Hardware, Zimbabwe Population Services, Media houses, ZPS, SGDZT, ZRP, CBAP, Masvingo Wheel chair tennis, NCP-DZ, MUSASA, City Health, Rujeko and Runyararo Primary drummers, ZGC, WCOZ, Zimbabwe Homeless people's Federation, Bhaso, Masvingo Flora, MWACSMED, Friendship Bench, Emmanuel Homestead, Takeltien, ZIMRA, Old Mutual, CBAP, WEDO Organisation, Stoneworks leather craft.

The day focused heavily on putting tools directly into women's hands, through business growth. Entrepreneurs were encouraged to step up and take advantage of the City of Masvingo's affirmative procurement thus 13% of the 2026 budgeted tenders for the City set aside for women, youths and vulnerable groups.

Women were also encouraged to take advantage of free hands-on trainings by the department of Housing and Social Services. The department offers prac-

tical workshops in baking and sewing, proving that economic independence often starts with a single skill.

The City Health Department, alongside other NGOs turned the celebration into a hub for wellness. They provided essential HIV and AIDS, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services on-site, ensuring that women have the resources they need to take charge of their own futures.

Leaving no one behind, the event attracted even young primary school going girls. With students from Rujeko and Runyararo Primary Schools watching on and providing entertainment. The event was a bridge between generations. By honoring the achievements of women today, Masvingo is showing its young girls exactly what they are capable of achieving.

As the sun set on the celebrations, the message from the City was clear: Masvingo remains a place where women aren't just included but are leading the way toward a more resilient and inclusive future.

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## New Beginnings: Runyararo Clinic's maternity wing set to open doors



After months of construction, the facility is stepping out from behind the scaffolding and into its role as a lifesaver for local mothers.

The project, which was a top priority in the city's 2025 budget has officially hit its final completion milestones.

CITY OF MASVINGO



## Building Healthy Communities: Wellness Strategies for Council Employees



Councill employees form the backbone of our city, managing essential services like public safety, infrastructure, sanitation, and community engagement. Therefore, implementing effective wellness strategies for Council employees not only enhances their quality of life but also fosters healthier communities they serve.

### A Ripple Effect on Communities

When council employees thrive, their productivity and morale improve, translating into better public services. For instance, a physically healthy and mentally resilient emergency responder is better equipped to handle crises, ensuring public safety effectively.

The City Health Services Department offers free comprehensive health screening on-site that can help employees identify and manage health risks early. The program includes detecting issues like hypertension or diabetes before they become severe. Also offered is the mental health support services investing in Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) and providing access to therapy or counseling that can significantly reduce stress levels.

The wellness program targets a decrease in sick days and improvement in employee satisfaction.

### The City of Masvingo Gender Desk recently



## Enhancing waste Separation in Masvingo through the Installation of Colour-Coded Bins



Enhancing waste separation in Masvingo through the installation of colour-coded bins is a practical and cost-effective strategy for improving solid waste management and urban cleanliness. Colour-coded bins provide a simple visual guide that enables residents, traders, and institutions to separate waste at source into categories such as organic waste, and recyclables. This reduces contamination, improves recycling efficiency, and lowers the volume of waste to be disposed off

In Masvingo, the introduction of clearly labelled green (organic), blue (recyclable), and black (residual) bins in markets, residential areas, schools, and public spaces can significantly improve waste handling practices. When combined with public awareness campaigns and community engagement, colour-coded bins encourage behavioural change and promote environmental responsibility. Proper separation will support composting initiatives, recycling enterprises, and job creation within the local green economy.

Overall, the installation of colour-coded bins strengthens Masvingo's waste management system by improving collection efficiency, extending the lifespan of disposal sites, enhancing public health, and contributing to a cleaner, more sustainable city aligned with modern urban management principles.

conducted a community awareness campaign on missing children cases, educating residents on prevention measures and the importance of early reporting.

## Areas covered

Rujeko A, B, C, Garikai Market, rank, sisk, Aphiri, Gomba, Mbudzi, Majanje, Fairdeal, Pangolin, Exor, Croco motors

The campaign emphasized community vigilance, child safety practices, and the need for parents and guardians to always know their children's whereabouts. Residents were encouraged to report any suspected cases of missing children immediately using the following toll-free numbers:

- Musasa: 08080074
- My Age Zimbabwe: 0808617

The Gender Desk urged the community to work together with relevant organisations to safeguard children and ensure swift action in cases of disappearance.

“Protecting our children is a shared responsibility. Let us remain alert, informed and proactive,” the Gender Desk highlighted.

#EndChildDisappearances

#CommunityVigilance

## Building partnerships for safer neighborhoods



Today the City of Masvingo Gender Desk coordinated an awareness campaign on missing children cases aimed at educating the community on child safety measures and promoting heightened community vigilance.

The campaign brought together key stakeholders including MOPSE, BHASO, MY AGE AFRICA, VFU, MWACSMED, MARCFT, ZACH, Ministry of Youth, EFZ, BOMEFF, SGDZT, CBAP, NCDPZ, MOHCC,

ZGC, ARC, FST, SFC, WCOZ, CWGH, ZNFPC, NAC URBAN, ZNNP+ to raise awareness on the increasing concerns surrounding missing children.

Through information dissemination and community engagement activities, residents were equipped with practical knowledge on preventing child disappearances and responding effectively in the event a child goes missing.

Key safety measures shared during the campaign included:

- Encouraging parents and guardians to closely monitor children's movements.
- Teaching children not to engage with strangers or accept gifts from unknown individuals.
- Ensuring children know important contact details and safe places to seek help.
- Promoting immediate reporting of missing children to authorities.
- Suggesting neighbourhood watch initiatives to enhance community surveillance.

The Gender Desk emphasized that protecting children is a collective responsibility that requires collaboration between families, community members, and relevant authorities. Residents were urged to remain alert, report suspicious activities, and support efforts aimed at safeguarding children within their communities.

The awareness campaign reaffirmed the City's commitment to creating a safe and secure environment for all children in Masvingo.

An advertisement for Zikimall.com. On the right, a circular inset shows a smiling woman wearing a patterned headwrap and an orange top, looking at her smartphone. On the left, the text reads "Pay your City of Masvingo Bills on Zikimall.com". Below this, a list of instructions is provided: "• Visit <https://services.zikicash.com/biller>", "• Enter City of Masvingo on Biller Name", "• Select Currency (USD/ZWG)", "• Enter Council Account Number", "• Enter Amount", "• Enter Email and Number", "• Select payments Method (Zimswitch, Visa, Mastercard or Ecocash)", "• Enter Details and Confirm Payment". At the bottom, it says "For more information call Toll Free 460/1" and features logos for cbz Bank, zikimall, and the Zimbabwean flag.

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## City of Masvingo Holds 2026 Council Budget Implementation Planning Workshop



The City of Masvingo has convened a 2x026 Council Budget Implementation Planning Workshop aimed at strengthening service delivery, enhancing accountability, and ensuring effective execution of the approved 2026 budget.

The workshop brought together senior management, heads of departments, and key Stakeholder Budget Committee to align the implementation strategy with the Council's strategic objectives and community priorities.

Speaking at the workshop, the Town Clerk, Eng Edward Mukaratirwa emphasized the importance of translating the approved budget into tangible development outcomes that directly benefit residents.

The session focused on fostering a results-oriented culture, improving coordination across departments, and ensuring that allocated resources are utilized efficiently and transparently.

Workshop was guided by the following key objectives:

- 1) To introduce the Stakeholder Budget Committee and outline its Terms of Reference, ensuring clarity on roles, responsibilities, and oversight mechanisms in the implementation process.
- 2) To prepare the 2026 Budget Implementation Plan/Matrix, detailing timelines, responsible departments, performance indicators, and monitoring frameworks to guide execution throughout the year.
- 3) To share and discuss the Mayor's and Town Clerk's 2026 Performance Contracts, reinforcing accountability, performance tracking, and alignment with

Council priorities and national development goals.

The development of a comprehensive implementation matrix is expected to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, enabling Council to track progress, address bottlenecks, and deliver projects within set timelines.

The City of Masvingo remains committed to prudent financial management, transparency, and inclusive governance as it works towards sustainable urban development and improved service delivery in 2026.



Masvingo City Health commits to continuously protecting public health through provision of meat hygiene inspection services.



All meat consumed within the City is inspected by qualified Environmental Health Practitioners at the abattoir and in butcheries as a way to prevent zoonotic diseases and ensure that meat that is not fit for human consumption is removed from being accessed by the public.

Every registered butchery is legally required to sell only inspected meat as a measure to prevent food-borne diseases and safeguard public health.

The City will be Embarking on a city wide meat blitz so as to ensure that Masvingo City is an uninspected meat free zone

## Mayor hands over baby layette hampers to Christmas babies



Today, His Worship, the Mayor Cllr. Aleck Tabe handed over hampers of baby layette to antenatal mothers, postnatal mothers, Christmas babies, and the first babies delivered at North West Medical Centre, in a heart-warming gesture funded through the 2025 Mayor's Christmas Cheer Fund.

The handover ceremony, held at Mazorodze Maternity Clinic, was aimed at supporting maternal and child welfare while celebrating new life within the community. Beneficiaries included expectant mothers attending antenatal care, mothers who recently delivered, babies born on Christmas Day, as well as the first babies to be delivered at North West medical Centre.

Speaking during the event, His Worship, the Mayor said the initiative reflects the City's commitment to promoting maternal health, supporting families, and sharing joy with residents during and after the festive season. The Mayor emphasized that the Christmas Cheer Fund was established to give back to vulnerable groups in the community and ensure that no one is left behind during moments of celebration.

“These hampers symbolise care, hope and shared re-



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NOTICE 20 OF 2026

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responsibility as a city. We celebrate these new-borns as the future of our community and reaffirm our support to mothers during this important stage of life,” said the Mayor.

The baby layette hampers included essential items such as baby clothes, blankets and other necessities to assist mothers in caring for their new-borns. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the gesture, describing it as timely and uplifting, especially during the demanding early days of motherhood.

The 2025 Mayor's Christmas Cheer Fund continues to play a key role in supporting social welfare initiatives across the city, reinforcing the values of compassion, inclusivity and community solidarity.

## City of Masvingo Hosts Two-Day Drug and Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign for Youths



The City of Masvingo, in collaboration with Charles Austin Theatre, is holding a two-day drug and sub-

stance abuse awareness campaign aimed at educating and empowering school-going youths to make informed, healthy life choices.

The campaign brings together key stakeholders, including the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), health personnel, educators, and community leaders, in a concerted effort to combat the growing challenge of drug and substance abuse among young people.

Central to the program are compelling testimonials from former drug addicts, who share real-life experiences on the dangers of substance abuse, its impact on health, education, family life, and future prospects. Their stories are intended to discourage youths from experimenting with drugs and to inspire those already affected to seek help and rehabilitation.

The Zimbabwe Republic Police is conducting sensitisation sessions focusing on the legal implications of drug and substance abuse, trafficking, and possession, while health personnel are providing expert information on the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug use. Emphasis is also being placed on prevention, early intervention, and available support services for affected individuals.

Speaking at the event, organisers highlighted that the campaign seeks to promote positive values, responsible decision-making, and self-discipline among youths, while strengthening life skills such as resisting peer pressure and making informed choices.

The involvement of schools is critical, as young people are among the most vulnerable groups when it comes to drug and substance abuse. By engaging them early, the aim is to prevent experimentation and promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

Charles Austin Theatre has provided an interactive platform for dialogue and open discussions, allowing youths to actively participate and express their views on issues affecting them, making the campaign both educational and impactful.

The City of Masvingo reaffirmed its commitment to working with partners to safeguard the well-being of young people and to create a supportive environment that promotes health, safety, and positive social development.

The two-day campaign forms part of broader efforts by City of Masvingo and its partners to address social challenges affecting the community and to build a resilient, informed, and drug-free generation.

### City of Masvingo partners Mckingtorch Zimbabwe in establishing recycling hub



City of Masvingo in partnership with Mckingtorch Zimbabwe has introduced Masvingo Recycling Hub, an initiative aimed at strengthening sustainable waste management and promoting a circular economy.

This initiative aims to promote waste separation at source, strengthen recycling systems, create green jobs, and empower communities to actively participate in environmental stewardship.

This program was built on strong partnerships and recognised the critical role of residents, the private sector, informal waste collectors, educational institutions, and development partners in ensuring its success.

Council calls upon all households, businesses, and institutions to embrace responsible waste management practices, support recycling initiatives, and comply with municipal by-laws on environmental health and sanitation. This initiative also contributes to economic opportunities, climate resilience, and sustainable urban development.

Masvingo Recycling Hub is not just a project. It is a vision for the future of Masvingo city, a future where Masvingo is recognised as a model green city in Zimbabwe and a city where environmental responsibility, economic growth, and community wellbeing go hand in hand.

#Together, let us turn waste into wealth, challenges into opportunities, and vision into reality.

#Together, let us build a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Masvingo

## Masvingo Boosts Maternal Health and HIV Care Standards Through National Support and Strategic Partnerships



In an effort to enhance the quality of maternal health services, the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) continues to provide technical support and oversight to the City of Masvingo Health Services Department. This commitment was demonstrated through a recent follow-up visit by the Deputy Director for Quality Assurance and Patient Safety, Mr Pomerai, to Mazorodze Maternity Unit and Mucheke Clinic.

The visit was conducted in response to issues previously identified by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), an independent constitutional body mandated to promote and protect human rights and to ensure that public institutions uphold citizens' rights, including the right to access quality health services as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

The Ministry of Health and Child Care remains actively engaged in assessing and supporting health service delivery, with particular emphasis on addressing identified gaps and ensuring continuous quality improvement. These efforts are aimed at guaranteeing that women and newborns receive care in a safe, dignified, and supportive environment, in line with national goals of achieving zero preventable maternal and neonatal deaths.

The City of Masvingo Council reaffirms its commitment to strengthening maternal and child health services in compliance with standards prescribed by the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the constitutional provisions on human rights. This commitment is evidenced by recent infrastructural developments at the Mucheke Opportunistic Infections (OI) Unit, which has been renovated to modern standards through a partnership with AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF).

The expansion and upgrading of the OI Unit has enhanced privacy and improved the quality of patient care for all clients receiving opportunistic infection services. This development ensures that all people living with HIV (PLHIV), including pregnant women, receive comprehensive care before, during, and after childbirth, thereby strengthening the prevention of parent-to-child transmission (PPTCT) of HIV. These improvements contribute to improved patient outcomes and support national efforts to reduce HIV prevalence and eliminate new HIV infections.

@ZHRC

@Ministry of Health and Child Care

@AHF

## Moving for health: City of Masvingo embrace wellness culture



City of Masvingo today hosted a sports and wellness day, bringing together council employees in a fun-filled event focused on promoting healthy lifestyles, teamwork, and mental well-being.

### Objectives of the Program:

- Promote physical fitness and mental wellness among staff
- Foster team spirit and collaboration across departments
- Raise awareness on the importance of active living
- Encourage work-life balance and reduce stress in the workplace

### Activities Included:

- Soccer and netball matches
- Health checks (BP, sugar levels, BMI)
- Wellness talks and motivation sessions
- Team-building exercises

The Sports and Wellness Day aligns with the city's broader goal of creating a healthy and productive workforce capable of delivering efficient services to residents.

## Food Safety Blitz in Masvingo City



As part of our ongoing #FoodSafetyCampaign in Masvingo City, the Environmental Health Team is conducting a hygiene assessment blitz around city food.

The exercise is focusing on assessing hygiene standards, identifying potential contamination risks, and ensuring compliance with basic food safety practices.

As part of the inspection process, swabbing of work surfaces and food handlers was done around City food outlets the exercises is meant to strengthen food hygiene and improve manufacturing practices as a way to uphold public health prevention strategies in order to prevent food borne diseases.

City of Masvingo remains dedicated to promoting safe food handling practices through sustaining quality of life by safeguarding quality of food and water.

**CITY OF MASVINGO**  
PUBLIC NOTICE TO RESIDENTS & STAKEHOLDERS

**UPCOMING TOWN-WIDE DOG SURVEY**

The City of Masvingo will be conducting a **Town-Wide Dog Survey** as part of an important Public Health Initiative aimed at preventing and controlling rabies.

Residents are kindly advised that **Environmental Health Practitioners** will be visiting households during the survey period.

During the survey, officers will verify the following:

- ✓ Dog ownership and registration
- ✓ Dog breed or type
- ✓ Dog vaccination status
- ✓ General upkeep and welfare of the dog
- ✓ Public safety considerations

Survey Period: **1 April 2026 – 24 May 2026**  
All residential areas within Masvingo

**IMPORTANT!**  
Residents are encouraged to cooperate with the **Environmental Health Practitioners** and ensure that their dogs are registered and vaccinated.

Issued by: **Public Health Department**  
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## Masvingo Truck Stop set to open upon completion of construction works



City of Masvingo is set to officially open the newly constructed truck stop as the project reaches 100 percent physical completion of construction works, marking a significant milestone in the city's efforts to improve transport infrastructure and support economic growth.

The truck stop facility is expected to provide a safe and convenient space for long-distance truck drivers to rest, park, and access essential services.

As Masvingo continues to position itself as a strategic transport and logistics hub along major national routes, the completion and opening of the truck stop will play a key role in supporting efficient cargo movement while improving urban order and service delivery.

## City of Masvingo hosts primary schools drama festival to inspire positive choices among learners



The City of Masvingo in partnership with Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Charles Austin Theatre, and Ministry of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, through the Department of Housing and Social Services under the Arts and Theatre Development programme, recently hosted the primary schools drama festival, an initiative aimed at empowering young learners to express themselves

creatively while addressing important life issues.

Running under the theme “Our Choices, Our Future,” the festival seeks to encourage pupils to make informed and responsible decisions that positively shape their lives and communities.

Through performing arts, the event provided a vibrant platform where children can communicate ideas, explore social issues, and showcase their creativity.

Nine primary schools from across the city participated in this year’s edition of the festival. These include Runyararo Primary School, Shakashe Primary School, Vurombo Primary School, Francis Aphiri Primary School, Dikwindi Primary School, Don Bosco Primary School, Kyle Preparatory School, Farnmark Primary School, and Helen McGhie Primary School.

Each participating school presented a drama performance lasting a maximum of 15 minutes, tackling themes that reflect the importance of making responsible choices in everyday life.

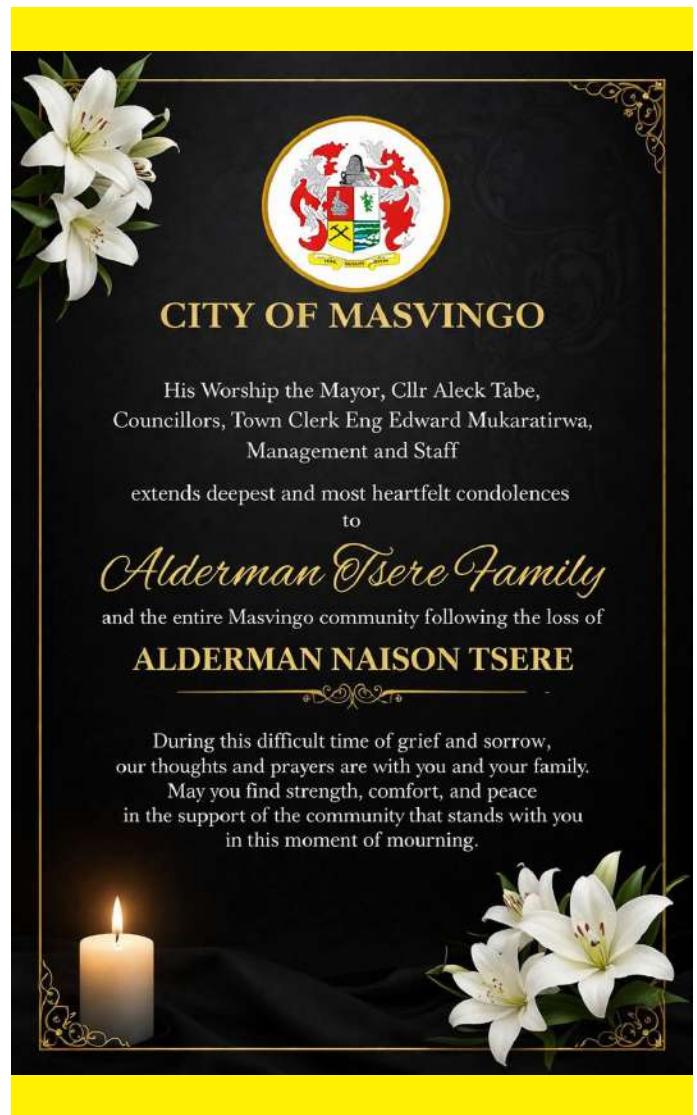
The drama festival was conceptualized as part of ongoing efforts by council to promote youth development, arts education, and community engagement among primary school learners.

By using drama as a powerful educational tool, the programme aims to address contemporary social challenges in a way that is engaging and relatable for young audiences.

Beyond entertainment, the festival plays a critical role in helping pupils develop essential life skills such as confidence, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. It also nurtures talent in the performing arts while promoting cultural appreciation and creativity among young learners.

Over the years, the primary schools drama festival has grown into an important annual event on the city’s calendar, strengthening partnerships between schools, council, and the wider community.

Through this festival, young learners are not only given a stage to perform but also an opportunity to reflect on how their choices today can shape a better future for themselves and their communities.



### Kwekwe and Masvingo City Councils Partner for Educational Excellence Through Look-and-Learn Exchange



Kwekwe City Council recently toured schools under the City of Masvingo on a look-and-learn visit aimed at exchanging best practices in the education sector.

The delegation was welcomed by City of Masvingo officials and taken through council-run schools where they had the opportunity to appreciate infrastructure development, learning environments, and

administrative systems supporting quality education delivery.

The visit focused on benchmarking service delivery standards, exploring sustainable school management models, and sharing experiences on resource mobilisation, maintenance of facilities, and learner support programmes.

Officials engaged with school heads and educators, discussing both achievements and challenges faced in managing urban council schools.

Speaking during the tour, representatives from Kwekwe City Council expressed appreciation for the progress made by the City of Masvingo in maintaining conducive learning environments and promoting educational excellence. They noted that such exchange visits are vital in fostering innovation, continuous improvement, and strengthened local authority partnerships.

The look-and-learn initiative underscores the importance of collaboration among local authorities in advancing quality education and enhancing service delivery for communities.

### Keeping Masvingo Clean: City Council and Local Partners Spearhead National Clean-Up Day Activities



City of Masvingo today joined nationwide efforts in Zimbabwe's second National Clean-Up Campaign of the year, underscoring the local authority's commitment to maintaining a cleaner, healthier urban environment.

The national initiative, established when President Emmerson Mnangagwa designated the first Friday of every month as a National Clean-Up Day, aims to mobilise communities, government departments, businesses and individuals to tackle litter, improve waste management practices and protect public

health and the environment.

During the campaign, Council workers, business community, government departments, uniformed forces, volunteers and residents took to city streets around Sisk shopping centre to collect waste and remove litter, reinforcing City of Masvingo's efforts to enhance environmental stewardship.

These activities are part of a broader drive by local authorities across Zimbabwe to foster sustainable waste disposal habits and to complement ongoing sanitation and infrastructure improvements.

The City of Masvingo has a history of engaging in such campaigns as part of the monthly national cleanups tradition, previously coordinating similar clean-up exercises and integrating them with other awareness initiatives.

### City of Masvingo charts 2026 development path at post-budget breakfast meeting



City of Masvingo recently held a post-budget breakfast meeting, where top government officials, business leaders, and stakeholders discussed the 2026 National Budget, City of Masvingo Budget, the implications, and how it affects business and investment in Zimbabwe's economy.

The meeting brought together business leaders, industry representatives, and policymakers to dive into key fiscal measures and economic strategies shaping the year ahead.

Discussions focus on budget implementation, industry challenges, and opportunities across sectors, including manufacturing, finance, and private enterprise.

The meeting was organised with the mandate to provide deeper insights and dialogue between government, Council, business, and financial stakeholders. Strengthening accountability: Ministry undertakes

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## Minimum Service Delivery Standards Review in Masvingo



The Ministry of Local Government and Public Works is conducting a three-day monitoring and evaluation exercise at the City of Masvingo to assess service delivery performance in line with the Minimum Service Delivery Standards.

The exercise is aimed at:

- \* Evaluating compliance with national service delivery benchmarks
- \* Reviewing progress on water, sanitation, roads, housing, and waste management services
- \* Identifying gaps and areas requiring urgent intervention
- \* Strengthening accountability, efficiency, and good governance

The monitoring visit provides an opportunity for technical engagement between the Ministry officials and Council management to enhance service delivery systems and ensure residents receive quality, reliable municipal services.

City of Masvingo is very much committed to excellence and upholding the Minimum Service Delivery Standards, thus continuously improving service provision for the benefit of residents and ratepayers.

....more to follow

## Strengthening Global Ties: Mayor Aleck Tabe Receives Twinning Partners from Kernen, Germany



The Mayor of the City of Masvingo, Councillor Aleck Tabe, recently received a delegation from Kernen, Germany Masvingo's twinning partner, led by Mr. Christian Fleischer, Chairman of the Kernen Masvingo Association.

The delegation included Mrs. Astrid Fleischer, Mrs. Kerstin Hemker, and Mr. Reinhard Hemker.

The visit reaffirmed the strong and enduring relationship between Masvingo and Kernen, built on friendship, solidarity, and meaningful development cooperation.

City of Masvingo values this partnership, which

continues to yield tangible benefits for the community through various developm

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## HOW DO I SUBMIT MY METER READINGS?

**METER READING AWARENESS**

Wondering how to submit your meter readings to Masvingo City Council? Here are the ways!!!

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- **e-Services:** inyengera@yahoo.com

Open 1 to 9 of every month.

+263772 699 215  
+263772 884 713

www.masvingocity.org.zw

The visit focused on touring key facilities and institutions that have benefited from the partnership's support over the years.

One of the highlights of the visit was a tour of Runyararo Clinic, whose construction was made possible through the generous support of the Kernen–Masvingo partnership. The clinic has significantly improved access to primary health care services for residents in the Runyararo suburb and surrounding communities.

The delegation also visited Mucheke Clinic, where they inspected the autoclave machine donated through the association. The equipment has enhanced infection control and sterilization of medical instruments, contributing to improved service delivery standards at the health facility.

In addition, the team reviewed the ambulances donated under the twinning arrangement. The ambulances have strengthened the City's emergency response capacity, ensuring quicker and more reliable patient transfers to health institutions.

Beyond health infrastructure, the delegation visited several welfare institutions that have received assistance from the association.

### Kernen–Masvingo Association delegation tours donated projects in Masvingo



The longstanding twinning relationship between the City of Masvingo and Germany's Kernen im Remstal was further strengthened this week as a delegation from the Kernen–Masvingo Association paid a courtesy visit to Masvingo.

The delegation was led by the Association's Chairperson, Christian Fleischer, accompanied by Astrid Fleischer, Kerstin Hemker, and Reinhard Hemker.

At Alpha Cottages, the visitors engaged with children and staff, appreciating the impact of donations that have improved living conditions and supported child welfare programs.

The team also toured Mucheke Old People's Home and Alfred Walter Home, where donations have gone towards improving the quality of life for elderly residents. The delegation interacted with beneficiaries and administrators, witnessing first-hand how the partnership continues to bring dignity and comfort to vulnerable members of the community.

Speaking during the visit, Christian Fleischer expressed satisfaction with the progress made and reaffirmed the Association's commitment to sustaining and deepening cooperation with Masvingo. He emphasized that the partnership is built not only on development projects but also on friendship, solidarity, and shared humanity.

Masvingo - Kernen Association chairperson Mr Pascal Mudzikisi, commended the Kernen–Masvingo Association for its unwavering support, noting

that the collaboration has played a pivotal role in enhancing health services and social welfare programmes within the city.

The courtesy visit reaffirmed the strength of the twinning arrangement, which continues to transform lives through practical support and people-to-people exchange.

### Healthy city, strong community: Masvingo wellness day a success



The City of Masvingo successfully hosted a vibrant Wellness Day event aimed at promoting health and well-being among residents, bringing together various organisations and community members in a powerful demonstration of unity and shared responsibility for public health.

The primary goal of the wellness day was to promote health and wellness among the people of Masvingo.

However, beyond encouraging residents to prioritise their physical well-being, the event also sought to foster a strong sense of community and collaboration among local organisations. It provided a dynamic platform for networking, exchanging ideas and sharing best practices on health promotion and workplace wellness initiatives.

The event placed significant emphasis on raising awareness about lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and heart conditions, which continue to affect many communities. Mental health was also a key focus area, with stakeholders highlighting the importance of early intervention, open dialogue and access to psychosocial support services.

Residents were encouraged to adopt healthy habits and embrace active living through exercise sessions, health screenings and educational discussions.

The atmosphere was energetic and inclusive, reflecting the City's commitment to building a healthier and more resilient community.

A wide range of organisations participated in the Wellness Day, showcasing a strong spirit of partnership. These included Masvingo Teachers College, Masvingo Polytechnic College, Public Service representatives, Friendship Bench, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks), TelOne, Municipal Council of Masvingo (MCC), Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service, and members of the wider community.

Through collaborative engagement and shared commitment, the wellness day underscored the importance of collective action in addressing both physical and mental health challenges.

City of Masvingo reasserted dedication to supporting initiatives that enhance the quality of life for residents and strengthen partnerships across sectors.

The event stands as a testament to what can be achieved when institutions and communities work together toward a common goal, a healthier, more informed and more connected Masvingo.

As the partnership evolves, both Kernen and Masvingo remain committed to fostering sustainable development and strengthening international co-operation for the benefit of their communities. Local initiatives and people-to-people exchanges.

### City of Masvingo strengthens ethical governance through integrity pact



The City of Masvingo has taken a significant step towards strengthening transparency and accountability after councillors and senior officials signed Integrity Pledges in the presence of ZAAC compliance officials and the Zimbabwe Republic Police commissioning officer in line with Chapter 12 of Zimbabwe's

National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2), which focuses on governance, peace and security.

The signing ceremony, held at the Civic Centre, reaffirmed the local authority's commitment to upholding ethical standards, promoting good governance and enhancing public trust in council operations.

The Integrity Pledges were designed to enhance councillors' and officials' understanding of the council's risk matrix and action plan, clearly outlining their responsibilities in preventing corruption and maladministration. Through this initiative, council leadership is expected to proactively identify institutional risks, implement mitigation measures and ensure adherence to established regulations and policies.

Speaking during the event, the City of Masvingo Town Clerk, Eng. Edward Mukaratirwa emphasized that the move is aligned with the broader national vision of building accountable public institutions that safeguard peace, security and sustainable development.

The pledge signing also seeks to strengthen institutional commitment to integrity and ethical conduct within council operations. By formally committing themselves, councillors and management have undertaken to report corrupt activities, avoid conflicts of interest and execute their duties with professionalism and impartiality.

This development comes at a time when public institutions across Zimbabwe are being called upon to reinforce governance systems that enhance service delivery and protect public resources.

By formalising integrity standards through the signing of the pledges, the City of Masvingo has set a clear tone for responsible leadership. The pledges commit office bearers to uphold regulations and champion ethical leadership as they carry out their day-to-day duties. This initiative is expected to foster a culture of accountability, improve internal controls and ultimately strengthen residents' confidence in council operations.

As the city continues to implement its development agenda, the Integrity Pledges mark a decisive step toward building a transparent, ethical and service-oriented local authority anchored on the principles of NDS2 Chapter 12.



Book Aid International organised a four-day training workshop for children's librarians and Social Services staff of the City of Masvingo Public Library, aimed at strengthening capacity to deliver inclusive and sustainable children's library services. The workshop covered seven modules: Lessons Learnt from the Rujeko Children's Corner Project; Books as Therapy (Bibliotherapy); Introduction to Gender Issues; Children with Special Needs; Community Engagement; Resource Mobilisation; and Effective Report Writing. The training opened with a reflective presentation on the Rujeko Children's Corner project, celebrating successes such as establishing a child-friendly corner from scratch, developing an age-appropriate collection, and hosting a well-attended launch with broad stakeholder participation. Challenges discussed included low lending statistics and bureaucratic delays in approving a mobile book borrowing programme. Subsequent modules equipped librarians with skills in bibliotherapy, gender-responsive programming, inclusive service delivery for children with disabilities, community partnership building, fundraising, and donor reporting. Overall, the workshop was a valuable capacity-building exercise that empowered City of Masvingo library staff with both the theoretical grounding and practical skills needed to manage and sustain a high-impact children's library service responsive to their community's diverse needs.

#### Lessons Learnt

The City of Masvingo Public Library presented a comprehensive report on the Rujeko Children's Corner project at a Book Aid International training workshop for children's librarians, sharing key lessons learned to inform future projects. The librarian highlighted several notable successes achieved through Book Aid International's funding, including the establishment of a fully functional children's corner built entirely from scratch, complete

with child-friendly, age-appropriate furniture and a purposefully developed book collection tailored to young readers. A particularly significant milestone was the official launch of the children's corner, which attracted a diverse and high-profile group of stakeholders including schoolchildren, parents, teachers, the District Schools Inspector, the Mayor, councillors, and fellow librarians, demonstrating strong community buy-in and institutional recognition of the project's importance. However, the presentation also candidly addressed persistent challenges that continue to hinder the corner's full potential, most notably low lending and borrowing statistics, which suggest that despite the physical infrastructure being in place, sustained reader engagement remains a work in progress. Another significant obstacle has been the slow response from City of Masvingo management in granting approval for a proposed mobile book borrowing initiative, which would allow the library to take books directly to schools and other institutions, thereby extending the library's reach beyond its walls and potentially addressing the low circulation figures. These lessons balancing institutional achievement against bureaucratic delays and community outreach gaps are expected to shape the planning and implementation of similar children's library projects going forward.

#### Books as Therapy

A recent training program focused on 'Books as Therapy' provided librarians with a thorough grounding in the principles and practical applications of bibliotherapy. The training commenced with an introduction to the core concepts, emphasising the therapeutic potential of literature in addressing emotional and psychological needs. Participants explored the importance of selecting age-appropriate and relevant books, considering factors such as developmental stage, individual challenges, and cultural context. Key discussions revolved around various techniques for facilitating engaging and supportive book-related sessions, including asking open-ended questions to stimulate self-reflection and creating a safe environment for personal sharing. Ethical considerations were also addressed, highlighting the importance of recognising emotional triggers and knowing when to refer individuals to mental health professionals. The training further delved into diverse genres and formats suitable for bibliotherapy, encompassing picture books, novels, biographies, and self-help resources. Each genre's strengths and limitations were analysed to inform the selection process based on specific therapeutic goals. Participants gained insights into identifying high-quality,

culturally diverse books addressing themes like grief, anxiety, bullying, and social injustice. The facilitators emphasised adapting existing narratives or creating new ones tailored to specific needs and scenarios. The practical application of these principles in various settings, such as libraries, classrooms, and community centers, was explored, focusing on creating welcoming environments, providing diverse collections, and establishing guidelines for respectful communication.



#### Introduction to Gender Issues

During the training workshop organised by Book Aid International for children's librarians, one of the key modules addressed was an Introduction to Gender Issues, designed to equip librarians with the awareness and tools necessary to navigate gender dynamics within the children's corner. The module emphasised that librarians must develop a keen understanding of gender issues and gender roles as they manifest in society, recognising that children's libraries are not neutral spaces but rather environments that can either reinforce or challenge prevailing gender stereotypes. A central focus of the module was how a library's collection plays a pivotal role in shaping children's perceptions of gender, the books, magazines, and materials available on shelves send powerful messages to young readers about what society expects of boys and girls, men and women. Librarians were therefore encouraged to critically evaluate their existing collections to ensure they include diverse, gender-balanced narratives that portray characters across a full spectrum of roles, abilities, and aspirations, moving beyond traditional depictions that confine girls to domestic roles and boys to positions of adventure or leader-

ship. The module further underscored the importance of gender awareness in children's libraries by highlighting that early childhood is a formative period during which stereotypes can take root, and that a thoughtfully curated library collection can serve as a powerful counter-narrative, affirming the dignity, potential, and equality of all children regardless of gender. Librarians were also made aware of their own unconscious biases in book selection and reader guidance, and were encouraged to actively promote books that challenge gender norms, celebrate gender diversity, and reflect the lived realities of all children in the communities they serve.

**Basic Understanding of Children with Special Needs**  
During the training a dedicated module was presented on serving children with special needs emphasising that the language and terminology used when addressing or referring to these children matters enormously, as words carry power and can either affirm dignity or cause harm. Librarians were guided to always use positive, first-people language, language that recognises the child as a person first and their condition second. For example instead of saying "the blind" one should say a "a child with hearing impairment", instead of saying "the dumb child" say "a child with speech impairment". The module further stressed that a truly inclusive Children's Corner library must cater for children with special needs not only in its collection but also in its physical infrastructure. The building and its surrounding must be accessible, featuring ramps alongside stairways for wheelchair users, tactile pathways and signage in Braille for children with visual impairment among other things. The library's collection must equally reflect inclusivity by stocking Braille books, large print- books, audio books and talking books only to mention a few. Regarding the dos and don'ts for children's librarians, the training was explicit: librarians should speak directly to the child rather than to their caregiver, not staring at children with special needs, being patient and allow the child as much time as they need and creating a welcoming stigma-free environment where every child feels seen and valued.

**Engaging the Community for a Sustainable Library**  
A thriving children's corner library is not built within the walls of a single institution it is woven into the fabric of the entire community, and its sustainability depends on the active, intentional, and ongoing involvement of every key stakeholder. Librarians must first forge strong partnerships with teachers

and school administrators, who can reinforce the value of reading by integrating library visits into the school curriculum, assigning library-based activities, and directing pupils to the children's corner as a trusted academic resource. Parents and caregivers are equally vital, as they influence children's reading habits at home; librarians should therefore hold parent engagement sessions, reading-at-home workshops, and family story hours that empower parents to become champions of literacy beyond the library. Children themselves must be treated as active participants rather than passive recipients through reading challenges, suggestion boxes, and storytelling competitions, children develop a sense of ownership and belonging that keeps them coming back. Community and religious leaders lend credibility and cultural relevance to the library's mission, and their public endorsement can mobilise families who might otherwise remain disengaged. Meanwhile, local government and municipality officials play a critical role in providing financial support, infrastructure, and policy backing; librarians should regularly present impact data and success stories to council meetings and local authorities to secure budgetary allocations and maintenance support. Local businesses and civil society organisations can also be tapped for donations of books, furniture, and funding, as well as volunteer programs that enrich the library's programming. When all these stakeholders are deliberately engaged, informed, and invested, the children's corner transforms from a room with books into a living community institution one that grows, adapts, and endures across generations.

#### Resource Mobilisation

During the training workshop organised by Book Aid International for children's librarians, one of the key modules covered was resource mobilisation for the children's corner, which provided participants with comprehensive insights into the various types of resources essential for establishing and sustaining a thriving children's library space. The module explored two broad categories of resources human resources, including trained librarians, volunteers, storytellers, and community readers, and material resources, such as books, educational toys, furniture, shelving, reading mats, and digital tools emphasising that a well-resourced children's corner requires a deliberate and strategic combination of both. Participants were taken through a variety of funding sources and mobilisation strategies, including approaching local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), submitting grant

applications to donor agencies and charitable foundations, engaging government bodies such as local councils and ministries of education, and building partnerships with corporate entities through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes. The module further highlighted the importance of community-based fundraising, such as book drives, reading fundraisers, and community events, as practical grassroots approaches to supplementing formal funding channels. Librarians were also encouraged to leverage in-kind donations from publishers, booksellers, and individuals, as well as to explore digital platforms and crowd funding tools as emerging avenues for resource mobilisation. A strong emphasis was placed on the need for librarians to develop compelling funding proposals, maintain transparent financial records, and build long-term relationships with donors and stakeholders in order to ensure the sustainability of the children's corner beyond initial setup, ultimately reinforcing the idea that a well-resourced children's library is not merely a one-time project but an ongoing community investment in the literacy and development of young readers.

#### Effective Report Writing

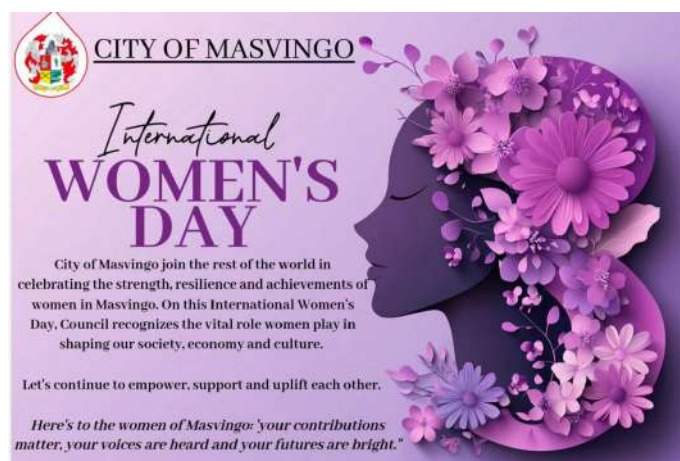
The training workshop facilitated by Book Aid International for children's librarians included a highly practical module on resource-effective report writing, specifically tailored to meet the reporting expectations of Book Aid International as the sponsoring organisation. Participants were guided on how to craft concise, precise, and purposeful reports that communicate both quantitative and qualitative information clearly for example, recording the exact number of children who visited the library within a given reporting period (e.g., 450 children served in Q1 2025, representing a 20% increase from the previous quarter), tracking book lending statistics such as the total number of books borrowed, most frequently borrowed titles, and return rates, while simultaneously weaving in qualitative insights such as observed improvements in reading enthusiasm among younger age groups, feedback from parents and teachers, and notable stories of children who benefited from the children's corner. Librarians were taught that a strong sponsor report must be straight to the point avoiding unnecessary padding or vague language and should open with a brief summary of activities, follow with data-backed evidence of impact presented in a logical and readable format, and close with any challenges encountered alongside proposed solutions, thereby giving Book Aid Inter-

national a transparent, accurate, and compelling picture of how their sponsorship is being utilised to nurture a culture of reading among children in the community.

#### Conclusion

The Book Aid International four-day training workshop was a significant investment in the professional development of children's library practitioners at the City of Masvingo Public Library. By covering seven interrelated modules, the training provided a holistic framework equipping librarians to fulfil the broader social and developmental mission of a children's library, beyond simply managing a physical space. The reflective examination of the Rujeko Children's Corner project set an important tone of accountability and continuous improvement. The challenges identified low circulation statistics and delays around the mobile book borrowing initiative are surmountable through sustained advocacy, targeted community outreach, and proactive stakeholder communication.

Looking ahead, the City of Masvingo Public Library is encouraged to implement the resource mobilisation strategies discussed, persistently advocate for the mobile book borrowing programme, strengthen school and community partnerships, and ensure consistent, evidence-based reporting to Book Aid International. Ultimately, this workshop laid a strong foundation for a revitalised children's library service in Masvingo. It is now incumbent upon all participants to carry these lessons forward and work collectively towards a children's corner that is well-managed, well-resourced, and truly impactful in the lives of the children and communities it serves.



## Masvingo Mayor Welcomes Swedish Envoy as Partnership Boosts Local Economic Development



Swedish Ambassador Commends Masvingo Floriculture Project The City of Masvingo recently hosted the Ambassador of Sweden to Zimbabwe, Per Lindgärde, who visited the city to appreciate the progress and impact of the Masvingo Floriculture Project supported by Gender Links. The visit highlighted the strong partnership between Sweden and Zimbabwe in advancing sustainable development, gender equality and inclusive economic empowerment. Welcoming the Ambassador and delegation, Masvingo Mayor, Cllr Aleck Tabe expressed gratitude for Sweden’s continued support to development initiatives that uplift communities and promote gender-responsive programmes. The Masvingo Floriculture Project was described as a key Local Economic Development initiative that is empowering women and youth while creating sustainable livelihoods. Launched in 2023 with 50 beneficiaries, the project has grown into a vibrant community enterprise driven by a flower arrangement Small Business Unit (SBU), wh



## City of Masvingo hosts Inter-Municipal Schools Games



The spirit of healthy competition and administrative synergy took center stage on Friday the 13th of March 2026, as the City of Masvingo hosted the Inter-Municipal Schools Athletics Competitions.

In a display of both athletic prowess and strategic thinking, Ruwa Local Board emerged as the overall champions, clinching the top spot in a tightly contested field, while City of Masvingo clinched the diamond position.

The event brought together learners from council-run schools across Zimbabwe to compete in track and field events, chess, and Physical Education displays. Beyond the medals, the games serve as a vital platform for council schools to exchange ideas and foster development through sport.

The Leaderboard reflected a high level of preparation across the participating local authorities:

Ruwa Local Board (Winners)

City of Masvingo (second)

City of Kadoma (third)

City of Mutare (forth)

City of Kwekwe (fifth)

Guest of Honour, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Aleck Tabe, emphasized that the primary objective of these games is to promote sport within council schools while creating a network for mutual learning.

The event’s success has already sparked expansion

interest. Delegates from Redcliff Municipality and the City of Gweru attended as observers, with official plans to join the next edition of the games.

The presence of various Mayors, Councillors, Town Clerks, and Directors of Housing from across the country underscored the administrative weight behind these youth development initiatives.

City of Masvingo is not slowing down as the host city for this year's circuit, the local authority has a busy calendar ahead:

Second Term: Masvingo will host the Inter-Municipal Ball Games.

Third Term: The focus will shift to Cultural Activities, celebrating the heritage and arts of the participating regions.

The games concluded with a sense of unity, proving that while only one city takes home the trophy, the true winner is the development of the Zimbabwean learner.

### GIZ Facilitates Gender Management Training Workshop for City of Masvingo



City of Masvingo, with support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), conducted a Gender Management Training Workshop for councillors, management and staff as part of ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and inclusive governance.

The training workshop brought together key decision makers; Councillors, Executive management, and employees within Council departments to strengthen the integration of gender considerations into council policies, programmes and service delivery.

Primary objective of the workshop was to support City of Masvingo in gender mainstreaming and to enhance knowledge and capacity for the prevention of gender-based violence. Through this initiative, participants were equipped with the skills and understanding of what is necessary to promote safer and more inclusive communities.

Another key focus of the training was to establish an appreciation of key gender concepts and build fundamental technical competence in gender issues among council management, staff and councillors.

The workshop provided participants with practical tools to ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated into planning, budgeting and implementation of council programmes.

Speaking during the workshop, facilitators highlighted the importance of local authorities playing a leading role in advancing gender equality and addressing gender-based violence within communities. They noted that strengthening institutional knowledge on gender issues is critical for responsive governance and sustainable development.

The training also created a platform for participants to share experiences, discuss challenges and identify practical strategies for promoting gender-responsive service delivery in the City of Masvingo.

The initiative reflects Council's commitment to fostering inclusive development and ensuring that all Council programmes benefit all residents equally.

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