



**ZESA Holdings**

Powering Progress, Empowering The Nation

# MEGAWATT

## BULLETIN

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025



**ZENT ramps up  
transformer  
exports**



**ZESA dominates  
presidential  
innovation fair**



**ZESA teams  
shine in  
Musabvunda**

# 2025

## AT A GLANCE

ZESA move to  
smart  
metering pays  
off

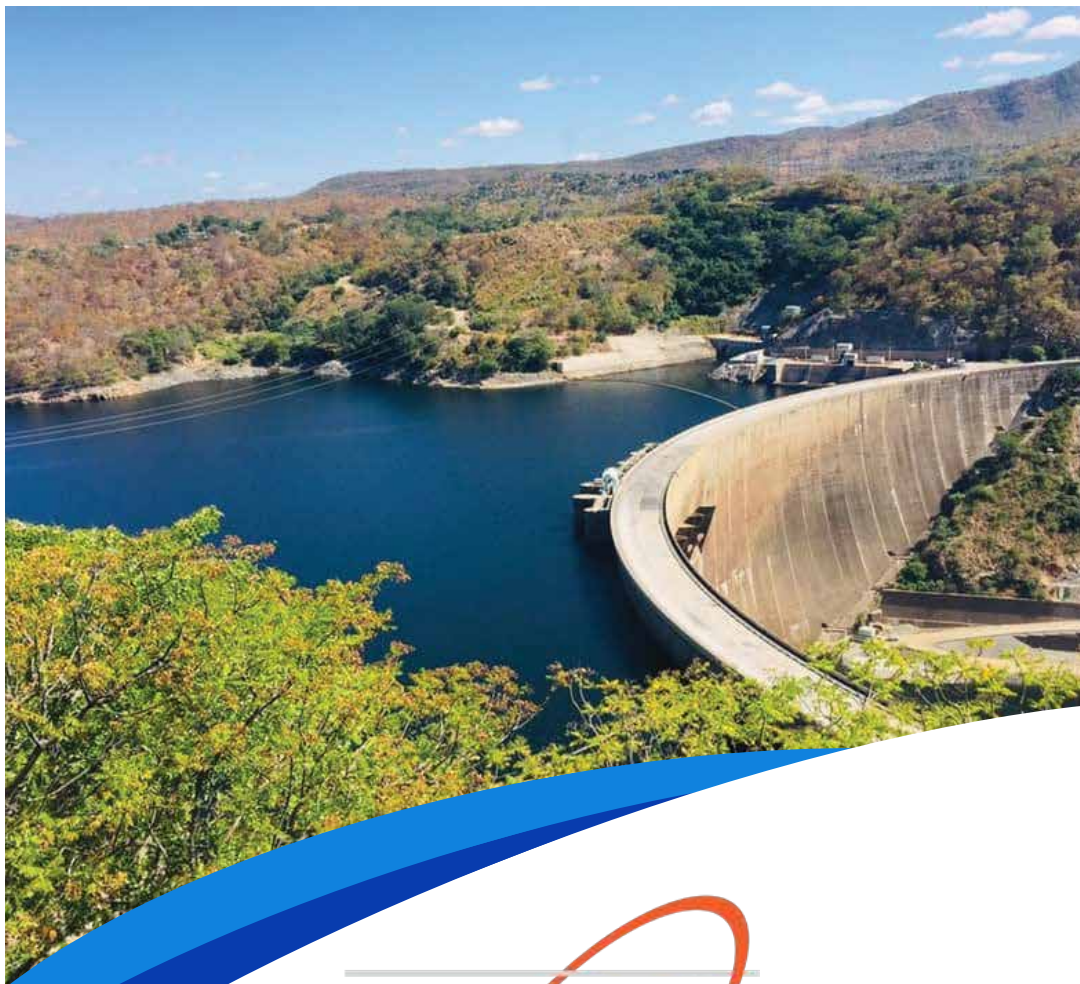
Biography  
& rich legacy  
of Dr. Gata

ZESA - KGRTC  
partnership

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## Editor's Note

I am pleased to present the final edition of the Megawatt Bulletin for the year 2025, capturing key milestones, achievements, and collective efforts across ZESA Holdings and its Group of Companies.

The fourth quarter has been a period of consolidation and renewed focus as we closed the year with resilience and determination in a challenging operating environment. The stories in this edition reflect the commitment, innovation, and teamwork that continue to drive our mandate of providing reliable and sustainable energy in support of national development.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to operational excellence, stakeholder engagement, and continuous improvement. We thank you for your continued support and encourage you to contribute articles and insights that reflect the spirit of our organisation. Submissions may be sent to [putete@zesaholdings.co.zw](mailto:putete@zesaholdings.co.zw).

Together, let us carry forward the momentum into the year ahead.

*P. Utete*

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# ZESA Holdings

*Powering Progress, Empowering The Nation*

## END OF YEAR MESSAGE

*from the Acting  
Group Chief  
Executive Officer*



**Engineer Cletus Nyachowe**

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the close of another year, it is a fitting time to reflect on our journey, a period marked by challenges but also significant progress within the company. As ZESA staff, your resilience has been remarkable and it is because of your unwavering commitment that we have successfully navigated these difficult times while contributing to Zimbabwe's aspiration of attaining Upper Middle-Income status by 2030. Reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity is a fundamental enabler of economic growth, industrialization and enhanced quality of life and together, we are making strides toward universal energy access and datafication.

### **Year in Review**

Over the past year, we made considerable advancements in our strategic resource deployment. Notably, we have invested significantly in upgrading our national training centres in Harare, Bulawayo and Kariba. Those who have visited these centres will attest to the enhanced facilities and increased training activities. Our commitment to employee development is evident as we continue to provide capacity-building programs both locally and internationally, ensuring our workforce remains at the cutting edge of industry advancements. The National Training Centre is collaborating with international training partners and the year in review saw the Centre readmitted in the Association of Power Utilities in Africa (APUA). Various capacity building training sessions were done under the APUA grant

that was advanced to ZESA. The year also saw the Centre being the first state owned entity certified with an Aviation Training Organisation licence. The year ahead more collaborations and technical partnerships will be undertaken.

Despite the challenging environment, we have made progress in paying our statutory obligations and servicing our loans although not at the levels we aspired to. We have seen notable improvements in our fleet across subsidiaries to enhance our service reliability though we are still far from meeting the requirements. I urge all staff members to adhere to the cost-cutting measures in place to further instil financial discipline and ensure we can invest in critical capital needs.

While the stability of the Zimbabwean local currency has facilitated improved operational planning, we still face significant challenges, including aging infrastructure, vandalism, and limited access to long-term concessional financing. Our constrained power generation capacity, exacerbated by climate change effects on the Kariba South Power Station, necessitated increased load shedding to manage demand effectively. We have partially mitigated this through strategic imports from SADC counterparts and purchases from local Independent Power Producers.

Our communication with stakeholders has continued to improve significantly, thanks to platforms like our 24-hour national contact centre and various engagement initiatives. I encourage all of you to continue projecting a positive image of our company through exemplary service delivery.

Innovation remains a cornerstone of our operations; I commend all of you who have introduced new initiatives and I am thrilled to recognize the ZETDC and NTC teams for their outstanding performance at the Presidential Innovation Fair 2025 edition, where they secured six awards. Innovations are vital to our operational improvements and the organisation will continue creating an enabling environment that fosters creativity and innovation.

## **Strategic Partnerships and Achievements**

A major highlight this year has been the partnership with Jindal Steel and Power. The signing of the USD 450 million concession agreement this December after a year-long negotiations marks a pivotal moment for the ZESA Group in general and Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC) in particular. The 15-year agreement with Jindal will lead to enhanced power generation, with the first four years dedicated to rehabilitating Hwange Units 1 to 6, which will add 400 MW to our output within the next 48 months. Rehabilitation work is set to commence in the first quarter of 2026.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of our support services; ZENT has intensified its pole and transformer manufacturing efforts and secured critical memoranda of understanding which will facilitate significant recapitalization. Powertel Communications has continued expansion of its fibre backbone and is also actively increasing its market share, which bodes well for our future.

## **ZESA Group Re-bundling Exercise**

The ZESA Group re-bundling exercise is currently underway, guided by our shareholder, the Mutapa Investment Fund. Management, alongside consultants from Capital Guide point, managed to visit our stations and centres to engage with staff and clearly articulate the re-bundling roadmap. We appreciate your support and patience as we navigate this critical transformation. We anticipate being able to share progress updates in the first quarter of 2026. Thank you for your continued dedication to this important initiative.

## **Employee Welfare and Engagement**

This year, we continued to note a concerning trend of skills attrition among our staff particularly among engineers, technicians and artisans migrating abroad. While we are

exploring effective retention strategies, we are also intensifying our training initiatives through our national training centres and partnerships with universities and other international organisations to avoid skills gap. Our goal is to ultimately establish ZESA as the employer of choice in the region and beyond by enhancing employee livelihoods. Engagement with our social partners is of great importance with aim of improving employee welfare albeit in a sustainable manner and Management will continue to engage in various platforms with social partners to advance employee welfare.

We acknowledge the challenges faced with our segregated medical aid fund, particularly stemming from being denominated in local currency, as we have limited access to foreign currency. Management is actively looking into this issue to optimize our medical coverage. Additionally, our group welfare fund continues to support employees with chronic health challenges and life threatening conditions.

I am pleased to see our wellness activities flourish including wellness days and sporting activities, with strong participation across the group. These initiatives reflect our commitment to a healthy work-life balance for all.

## **Looking Ahead**

As we move forward, our primary focus is on growth, particularly in expanding our generation capacity and base load. We aim to incorporate more renewable energy into our energy mix while reinforcing and expanding our transmission and distribution grid. By implementing aggressive connection strategies, we plan to significantly expand our customer base. We are also committed to enhancing our smart and pre-paid metering systems, with our smart metering initiatives nearing 100% completion. This advancement will greatly improve revenue assurance and operational efficiency.

Additionally, we intend to strengthen our collaboration with local Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as we gradually scale down on power imports. In the medium to long term, our goal is to achieve financial

sustainability, anchored by our partnership with Jindal and our vision for an efficient and vertically integrated utility. We will leverage the country's abundant coal deposits to maximize thermal energy generation while also exploring wind and solar energy projects..

## **In Remembrance**

As we take a moment to reflect on our experiences over the past year, it is with heavy hearts that we mourn the loss of some of our esteemed colleagues who passed on, notably our Executive Chairman, Dr. S.Z. Gata. Their absence leaves a profound void in our organization and their contributions to our mission and community will be cherished and remembered for years to come. Let us honour their memories and the impact they made on our lives and work. May they rest in eternal peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

## **Closing**

As we draw the curtains on the year 2025, I wish you a restful and joyful festive season with your families and friends. Merry Christmas! May the New Year bring renewed energy and purpose to our endeavours. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment. Together, we will continue to forge ahead, as we embark on the ambitious National Development Strategy Two (NDS2). Let us embrace the challenges ahead and build a brighter future together.

*Eng. C. Nyachwaya*

**Acting Group Chief Executive Officer**



# ZESA outlines plans for Hwange Units 9-12 as push for energy stability intensifies.

**By Mhlomuli Ncube (ZBC News)**

POWER utility ZESA Holdings has set its sights on expanding the country's electricity generation capacity through the development of four additional units under its long-term energy strategy.

The plan was outlined during an oversight visit by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Energy and Power Development to Hwange Thermal Power Station, where legislators assessed progress on ongoing projects and ZESA's preparedness for future expansion.

The initiative builds on the recent commissioning of Units 7 and 8, which have

significantly bolstered national supply but have also highlighted the need for further investment to meet growing industrial and household demand.

ZESA Holdings Group Acting Chief Executive Officer, Engineer Cletus Nyachowe, said the proposed units would form part of a broader mix of thermal, solar and geothermal projects aimed at modernising the country's power infrastructure.

"We are calling them Hwange 9, 10, 11, and 12, but they may not necessarily be based around this area. You know this region is rich in coal here in Binga and other areas, but most likely Hwange 9 and 10 will be closer to this location, and 11 and 12 will be in another area. So this is an initiative that we

are pushing, of course, together with green energy initiatives like solar and geothermal, which are also prominent around this place," Engineer Nyachowe, said.

As Zimbabwe gears up for the 2026 national budget, the Portfolio Committee revealed that it has vested interests in appreciating the operations of ZESA, which is a capital-intensive entity.

In its bid for national energy self-sufficiency, Zimbabwe, under the Second Republic, continues to invest in energy and power development.

Thermal, hydro, solar, and other forms of energy are being rolled out to continue to increase capacity on the national grid.



Hwange Power Station

## ZESA awaits Cabinet nod for US\$455 million Hwange refurbishment project.

**By Mhlomuli Ncube (ZBC News)**

ZESA Holdings has confirmed that it is awaiting final Cabinet approval for a proposed partnership with Indian firm Jindal, aimed at refurbishing Hwange Power Station's Units 1 to 6. The US\$455 million deal is structured under a 15-year Rehabilitate, Operate, and Transfer (ROT) arrangement designed to bolster the country's electricity generation capacity.

Speaking on the proposed agreement, ZESA Group Acting Chief Executive Officer, Engineer Cletus Nyachowe, said the refurbishment will restore the six units to a combined capacity of 920 megawatts, raising the station's total output to 1 500 megawatts. The move is expected to significantly alleviate load-

shedding challenges.

"They have the right to refurbish the asset, operate it, and then we share the revenues, we are sharing revenues, not profit, so this is where we are reducing our risk. They are taking over all the operational expenses that are going to happen for that period, and then at the end of the period, hand back the asset and staff.

"It has been very tough negotiations, we have experts from ZESA, then the government at various levels, from the ministry, the Attorney General's office, and so forth, so that agreement has gone quite far. Obviously, the last view comes from Cabinet, they will have to give us a go-ahead that everything has some fine-tuning that has been happening,

like why do not you share revenue like this so that the country benefits more.

"Once that is sealed, we then look at taking out units one by one of the six units, and the visit period is 48 months. They could do it faster, but the limitation is that you can only be given one machine at a time. If we were able to give two machines, then we would actually cut down the period over which the refurbishment is done," he said.

The project forms part of broader efforts by Zimbabwe under the Second Republic to modernise its energy infrastructure, increase generation capacity, and secure the national grid's reliability.

# ZETDC Northern Region Long Service Awards 2025.

As a formal recognition and reward of employees for their loyalty, dedication, and commitment to a company over a significant period, Northern Region held its long Service Awards Ceremony on the 17th October 2026 at Golden Conifer, Harare. These awards aim to improve employee motivation, reduce turnover, enhance company culture, and increase job satisfaction by showing appreciation and building an emotional connection between the employee and the workplace.

The awards were being bestowed upon employees who have reached the milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 years of service. However, the 2026 long service awards had exceptional scenario of two employees with 40 years of service. They are Mr Nyamupinga Fundayi from Norton CSC and Mr Chikwenya Raphael of Mutorashanga CSC. There was jubilation and ululation upon handing over of their certificates by the guest of honour Mr Mazana (ZETDC Acting Finance Manager) H/O. The total number of employees who received awards this year is 180.



**From Left:** GM Southern Region, Eng. G Kasipo, the Guest of honour Mr Mazana (Acting Finance Director and the GM Northern Region Eng. L Chinaka



**Front Row from left:** Commercial Manager Mr Wurayayi, GM Northern Region Eng. L Chinaka, Guest of Honour Mr Mazana (Acting Finance Director), GM Southern Region Eng. G Kasipo, Engineering Manager Mr Mazwazwa and HRAM Ms Magarezano.

**Back Row:** The two recipients with 40 years of service holding certificates, from left: Mr Raphael Chikwenya of Mutorashanga CSC and Fundayi Nyamupinga of Norton CSC.



Management Team and Staff who successfully organised the long service award ceremony for Northern Region Employees.

Across other subsidiaries and ZESA Holdings, long service awards were also presented to celebrate the dedication and commitment of employees who have contributed significantly over the years. Some of these memorable moments are captured in the pictures below



# ZESA Holdings Celebrates Long Service Awards in Gweru

ZESA Holdings hosted a heart warming Long Service Awards ceremony at Village Lodge in Gweru, honouring employees whose dedication and commitment have sustained the organisation over the years. The event was graced by the **Guest of Honour, Acting Head Corporate Services, Mr. Mutambirwa**, who commended the award recipients for their unwavering service, professionalism, and loyalty.

The ceremony brought together staff from various departments, management, and long-serving employees who have dedicated for 5 years to the organisation. The atmosphere was filled with **joy, pride, and celebration**, as colleagues applauded one another's contributions to the growth and resilience of ZESA Holdings.

In his address, **Mr. Mutambirwa** emphasised that long service awards are not just ceremonial but a reflection of the organisation's

appreciation for the men and women who have kept the utility running through challenges and transitions. He highlighted that ZESA's success story is anchored in the hard work of employees who continue to serve with integrity and commitment.

Award recipients expressed their gratitude to management for recognising their efforts, noting that the gesture motivates them to continue giving their best in driving ZESA's mandate of powering the nation.

The colourful event was capped with music, laughter, and photo sessions, creating memorable moments for staff and their families. It served as a reminder of the power of unity, dedication, and shared purpose within the ZESA family.



# ZESA Enterprises (ZENT) Pre-Paid and Smart Metering Cubicles Project.

ZENT has secured an order to manufacture 6,500 metering cubicles for the ZESA smart metering project. ZENT is at the fabrication business and on pre-paid and smart meters, playing a significant role in the overall infrastructure and revenue collection.

In a bid to overcome significant challenges in revenue collection from major corporate clients, that include mines, farms and various production industries, the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) has embarked on a pre-paid and smart metering initiative. This project is pivotal in transitioning towards a full smart grid, aimed at enhancing energy efficiency, curbing power theft and prompt revenue assurance.

Recently, ZENT showcased its manufacturing capabilities, with notable progress reported in the production of metering cubicles. To date, the company has completed:

- **500 single door cubicles**
- **1,276 double door cubicles**



*Batch of completed 2 door cubicles awaiting painting*

These units have already been handed over for wiring, again, at ZENT Workshops, demonstrating ZENT's commitment to timely delivery and project advancement. Furthermore, ZENT has successfully wired **470 single door cubicles**, which are now ready for dispatch pending inspection by ZETDC.



*Wired single door smart metering cubicles*

The project has garnered attention at the highest levels of management. Engineer Cletus Nyachowe, the Group Chief Executive Officer of ZETDC, recently paid a courtesy visit to ZENT to assess the current progress. Accompanied by Dr. Godfrey Mugaviri, the Acting Managing Director of ZENT, the GCEO toured the manufacturing plant where he expressed satisfaction with the advancements made thus far, reflecting confidence in ZENT's capabilities.



*Factory tour by A/GCEO and A/MD ZENT*

As ZETDC moves forward with its pre-paid and smart metering initiative, the role of ZENT will continue to be critical. The successful implementation of this project is expected to significantly improve revenue collection and operational efficiency, ultimately benefiting both ZETDC and its customers.

# ZENT ramps up transformer exports.

**By Farirai Machivenyika-Senior Reporter (The Sunday Mail)**

ZESA Enterprises (ZENT), a subsidiary of ZESA Holdings, is on a strong growth trajectory in transformer production, having sold 800 units to Zambia and 117 to Rwanda.

Acting managing director Dr Godfrey Mugaviri shared these developments in a presentation to Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Energy and Power Development last week.

The company has ramped up its production, increasing from 1 297 transformers last year to 1 940 this year, signalling a robust capacity to expand its reach within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

"We have exported 800 to Zambia and we are delivering 117 to Rwanda, and also looking at other countries that include Lesotho, Mozambique and the DRC," said Dr Mugaviri.

During the portfolio committee's visit aimed at assessing the company's production facilities in Harare, Dr Mugaviri said, while they were doing well, there were some significant challenges that have to be resolved.

"This meeting was quite essential because we demonstrated to Honourable Members of Parliament that this company has got the

capacity to transform the entire electricity sector in Zimbabwe," he said.

However, he cautioned that outdated equipment, some over 70 years old, creates inefficiencies and raises production costs.

"The type of machines that we are using currently are very old, which then brings in a lot of inefficient bottlenecks," he explained, advocating for a capital injection to modernise their operations.

Further, Dr Mugaviri urged legislators to support a ban on the importation of cheap transformers that distort the local market, which he believes could bolster local manufacturing efforts.

His calls for support resonated with members of the committee, particularly Chairperson Mr Charlton Hwende, who praised ZESA Enterprises as one of the best-performing public entities in the country. "We were here at ZENT, where we came to check on the operations that they are involved in," Mr Hwende said.

"As you can see, I think ZENT is one of the best-performing public entities. They have

increased the manufacturing of transformers from as low as 285, which they were doing around 2021, to the present 2 000 plus transformers, and they have the capacity; they are operating at 85 percent capacity.

"So, with more resources, I am sure they can do wonders."

The implications of this growth for ZESA Enterprises and Zimbabwe are profound.

Increased transformer production not only enhances the electricity sector's capacity, but also helps reduce reliance on imported components, creating a more self-sufficient energy landscape.

By expanding its market reach and modernising production facilities, ZESA Enterprises presents a compelling case for economic reinvigoration in Zimbabwe.

The growth can lead to job creation, improved domestic infrastructure and ultimately a more stable electricity supply, thereby contributing to the national goal of economic development and sustainability.



Transformers Leaving ZENT Factory



## ZESA's move to smart metering pays off.

*"Today, 99 percent of ZESA's customers use pre-paid meters, and 65 percent are on smart meters."*

**By Rutendo Nyeve (The Herald)**

**W**ITH 99 percent of its customers now on pre-paid metres and 65 percent upgraded to smart metering systems, the power utility, ZESA, has achieved a milestone that enhances debt recovery and paves the way for implementation of a cost-reflective tariff for the sector.

According to ZESA acting chief executive, Engineer Cletus Nyachowe, the migration from post-paid to pre-paid and smart metering has begun to resolve the crippling debt that once threatened ZESA's operational stability.

For years, ZESA struggled with mounting debt, largely driven by non-payment from large post-paid customers.

Eng Nyachowe described the situation as the "elephant in the room" prior to December 2023, but now the future looks brighter.

"At times, you would actually have our tariff coming down to as low as 2 to 3 US cents per kilowatt hour when you are buying at 9 cents and above. That built a heap of debt," he said.

This huge mismatch between the cost of procuring electricity and the revenue collected from consumers severely hampered ZESA's ability to maintain infrastructure, invest in new capacity, and settle obligations to regional power suppliers, said Eng Nyachowe.

Pre-paid meters allow customers to pay for electricity before use, eliminating the risk of non-payment.

Smart meters take this a step further, offering real-time monitoring, remote disconnection, and tamper-detection features.

Eng Nyachowe, said the accelerated rollout of these technologies has been pivotal.

"Before December 2023, most large customers were post-paid, which meant they would consume, and then you would have to literally beg them to pay," he said.

"Today, 99 percent of ZESA's customers use pre-paid meters, and 65 percent are on smart meters. This has allowed the utility to enforce a post-reflective tariff meaning customers pay the true cost of the electricity they consume."

While the new metres have drastically improved revenue collection, Eng Nyachowe called for stronger enforcement to combat meter tampering.

The power utility management recently engaged with Parliamentarians who conducted a tour of the Hwange Thermal Power Station and were apprised of the developments in the energy sector, including milestones and initiatives to consolidate gains achieved so far.

"Where we want support from Parliamentarians, we know that you have already enabled the enactment of increasing the sentences of those who tamper with infrastructure," said Eng Nyachowe.

He emphasised that smart meters provide instant alerts when tampering occurs, and he urged lawmakers to ensure that offenders face the full force of the law, including increasing the existing 10-year jail term.

ZESA aims to have all customers on prepaid or smart meters and the transition has not only improved cash flow but also empowered consumers to manage their electricity usage more efficiently.

"What we are now working on is collection. This will enable us to collect everything that we are owed," he said.

The move represents a critical step toward a sustainable and financially viable power sector in Zimbabwe, one where transparency, accountability, and reliability define the relationship between ZESA and its customers.



# ZESA dominates Presidential Innovation Fair with six awards.

*Rutendo Nyeve Victoria Falls Reporter*

**T**HE nation's power utility, through its ZESA National Training Centre (NTC) and the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC), has demonstrated remarkable technological prowess by clinching six awards at the Presidential Innovation 2025 Fair Awards Ceremony held in Harare on Thursday.

The utility's sweeping success across multiple categories highlights a significant commitment to homegrown innovation aimed at solving national challenges in energy, environment, and agriculture.

ZESA NTC emerged as the star of the ceremony, securing five awards. Their triumphs include first-place honours in three major categories.

The Development of a Net Metering Billing System won the top Presidential Innovation Award for Transport and Energy, praised for its potential to revolutionise billing for independent energy retailers.

Another first-place winner in Mining and Mineral Beneficiation was the Geopolymer Powerline Pole Construction using Coal Fly Ash, a circular economy marvel that transforms power plant waste into durable, low-carbon construction material.

In Agriculture, the Development of a Least Cost Biomimicry Drone for Quelea Bird Control also took first prize.

This innovative drone, designed to mimic a bird of prey, offers a cost-effective and precise solution to protect crops from destructive Quelea flocks.

The centre further won second place in Environment and Sustainable Development for an Integrated Drone and GIS Technology system, which revolutionises environmental monitoring and land management.

Capping this haul, ZESA NTC was awarded the Presidential Award for the Best Innovating Industrial Training Centre, a testament to its institutional excellence and a breeding ground for future innovators.

Not to be outdone, ZETDC secured third place in the Best Innovating Private Sector category for the Development of a Hybrid Power Transmission Line and Transformer Anti-Vandalism System.

This crucial innovation combats infrastructure theft through rapid detection and evidence collection, enhancing grid reliability for all Zimbabweans.

The innovations, which earned combined prize money and recognition, are more than theoretical concepts.

The Net Metering system is ripe for commercialisation, the geopolymer poles offer an eco-friendly alternative to cement, the drone technologies provide cutting-edge tools for environmental and agricultural management, and the anti-vandalism system directly tackles a chronic cause of power outages.

This victory at the national innovation fair positions ZESA not just as a power provider, but as a leading engine of Zimbabwean ingenuity, developing practical, sustainable solutions that promise to drive the nation's socio-economic development forward.



*The utility's sweeping success across multiple categories highlights a significant commitment to homegrown innovation aimed at solving national challenges in energy, environment, and agriculture.*

# World Bank greenlights US\$1.2 major solar initiative for Zimbabwe



The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved the Zimbabwe Renewable Energy Procurement Technical Assistance Project (ZREP Project) on November 26, 2025. The US\$ 1.2 Million grant, now secured, is set to propel the energy sector toward a modern, sustainable energy system.

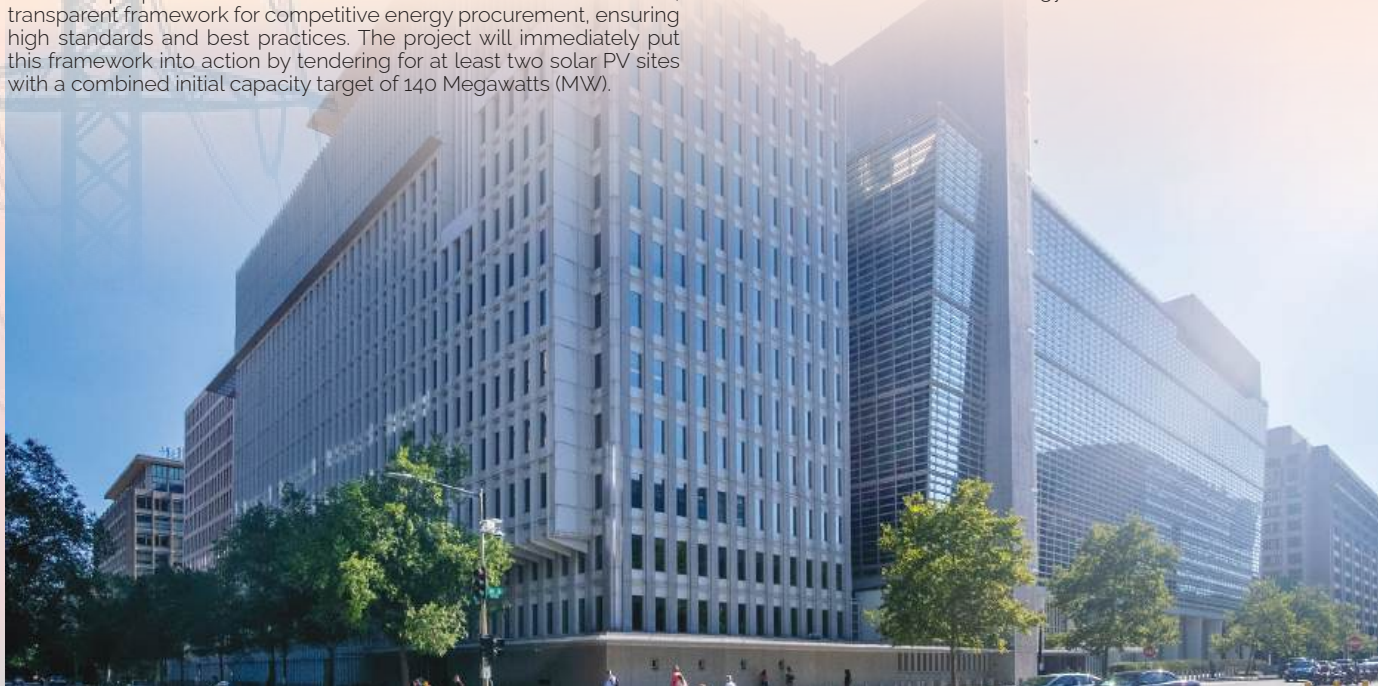
Awarded to the Ministry of Energy and Power Development (MoEPD) team, and the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC), the ZREP Project is a critical national strategy to address the persistent energy deficit. With dependable local generation falling short of the national demand, this initiative is focused on leveraging clean, modern renewable resources to achieve energy self-sufficiency and stability, ultimately phasing out the need for consistent load shedding.

The core purpose of this technical assistance is to build a robust, transparent framework for competitive energy procurement, ensuring high standards and best practices. The project will immediately put this framework into action by tendering for at least two solar PV sites with a combined initial capacity target of 140 Megawatts (MW).

This is more than just infrastructure; it's a foundational effort to:

- **Build Local Capacity:** Key personnel from energy sector institutions will be trained in effective competitive procurement methods, ensuring an independent structure that manages future large-scale power projects.
- **Ensure Investment Quality:** By using the highest international standards, the investments made today are expected to deliver reliable, long-term power generation for the nation.

With the Project now officially approved, the focus immediately shifts to the future, the next step being signing of the Grant Agreement and meeting the conditions necessary for implementation to commence the project. It is hoped that this vital partnership will deliver transformative results for the energy sector.



# ZESA-KGRTC partnership strengthens skills, boosts workforce capacity.



ZESA Holdings hosted the Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC) executive delegation for a highly successful week-long visit conducted from 2 to 8 November 2025. The visit, which included the KGRTC Board Chairperson Ms Patricia Musiya, The Chief Executive Officer Mr Davies Chinkusu and Head of Training & Research Mr Brighton Sepiso, along with the ZESA GCEO, Subsidiary Managing Directors and ZESA National Training Centre team, elevated our strategic partnership and solidified a joint commitment to building a highly skilled, future-ready workforce for the ZESA Group. The executive engagement commenced with a formal meeting at ZESA Holdings on 3 November 2025, where the team was welcomed by the Acting Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of ZESA Holdings, Eng. Cletus Nyachowe, who set the strategic tone for the collaboration.

In his welcoming address, the Acting GCEO emphasized the critical importance of the partnership between the ZESA National Training Centre and KGRTC. He highlighted that skills development and training are not just organizational aspirations but absolute necessities required to meet national energy objectives. Specifically, he stressed the urgent need to train technical staff in new technologies and advanced methodologies to effectively drive ZESA's mandate of achieving universal access to energy for all Zimbabweans.

The GCEO's call served as a clear directive to the subsidiary Managing Directors and the KGRTC delegation: the training programs developed must be targeted, cutting-edge,

and directly align with ZESA's modernization goals. The delegation led by the Executive Director Human Capital, Mr Fortune Sambo undertook a rigorous schedule, gaining first-hand appreciation of ZESA's critical infrastructure across the ZESA subsidiary companies, allowing for the immediate identification of mission-critical training requirements:

At ZPC (Zimbabwe Power Company) discussions centered on ensuring the sustainability of ZESA's expanded generation capacity. The KGRTC team acknowledged the urgent need for specialized, close-up Skills Transfer Initiatives for the Hwange 7 & 8 Project ensuring ZPC technical staff are fully equipped to operate and maintain these assets for decades to come.

At ZETDC (Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company), the team met up with engineers from Transmission, Protection, Telecoms, Electricity Trading & Drones Technology. The KGRTC's Head Training & Research, Mr Brighton Sepiso presented the various courses they offer in transmission & distribution systems. Of particular interest was the Drones Technology discussions with the Senior Manager IT, Research & Innovation, Engineer P. Mundenda who unpacked to the team the strides ZESA has taken to acquire drone operation licence and certification. KGRTC have interests in including Drones Technology training in their curriculum and hence through the MOU hopes to collaborate with ZESA.

At ZENT (ZESA Enterprises) the team visited the Transformer Manufacturing Workshop,

appreciating ZENT's role within the ZESA group. This segment confirmed the need for specialized technical assistance to enhance manufacturing quality and standards. The KGRTC team expressed that the tour was highly beneficial, providing an invaluable close-up view of ZESA's critical infrastructure and operational priorities across its key subsidiaries.

The collaboration with KGRTC is much more than a training agreement; it is ZESA's gateway to continental expertise. The original MOU (2023-2028) was formalized because of KGRTC's regional standing as a designated SADC Centre of Excellence and its internationally recognized ISO 9001 Certification (Quality Management Systems).

This partnership has already yielded significant returns to ZESA NTC:

- **APUA Re-admission:** With KGRTC's support, ZESA was successfully re-admitted as a member of the Association of Power Utilities of Africa (APUA) in June 2025.
- **Securing Funding:** This re-admission directly led to ZESA securing a €51,000 grant from APUA's ANCEE 2.0 Project. This grant will fund the training of 192 employees across 32 technical and non-technical disciplines at five top African Centres of Excellence.

The KGRTC visit marks a major leap forward in ZESA's capacity-building efforts.



*ZESA NTC Management with the visiting KGRTC team*



*Engineer Forbes Chanakira guides the KGRTC team on the tour of Hwange 7& 8 power station*



*Mr L. Mhango Training & Development Manager guides the KGRTC team on the tour of ZESA NTC*



*Tour of the ZENT Transformer Manufacturing workshop*



*Meeting of the KGRTC team with ZESA CEO (A), Eng. Cletus Nyachowe*

# ZESA INTERNAL NEWS BULLETIN

## Subject: Criminal Intelligence Training Course

A comprehensive two-week Criminal Intelligence Training Course was successfully conducted at the ZESA National Training Centre, marking a significant step in fortifying our organisation's security and asset protection framework. The programme, which ran from 6 to 17 October 2025, brought together personnel from our Loss Control Operations, Technical and Intelligence units to build advanced competencies in detecting, analysing, and mitigating threats to ZESA's assets and operations.

The course was designed to equip our loss control staff with modern, practical skills in criminal intelligence, a proactive approach to identifying and neutralising risks before they result in substantial losses. With the rising challenges of theft, vandalism, and fraud within the utility, this initiative underscores ZESA's commitment to safeguarding infrastructure, revenue, and personnel.

We were privileged to have the Centre for Asset, Risk, Loss and Security Studies (CARLSS) as the external facilitator, renowned for its expertise in corporate security and risk management. CARLSS worked in close collaboration with ZESA's own Loss Control Intelligence staff, ensuring the training was both theoretically sound and directly relevant to our operational context.

Over the two weeks, participants engaged in intensive sessions covering the following topics:

- 1. Definition and Critical Components of Criminal Intelligence** – Understanding the foundations of intelligence work and its core elements.
- 2. Importance of Criminal Intelligence in the Corporate World** – Highlighting its role in pre-empting criminal activities and reducing financial and operational losses.
- 3. Criminal Intelligence Gathering Techniques** – Practical methods for collecting reliable and actionable information.
- 4. How Criminal Intelligence Supports Loss Control Operations** – Integrating intelligence into daily security practices for more effective interventions.
- 5. Legal and Ethical Issues in Criminal Intelligence Work** – Ensuring all activities comply with national laws and organisational ethics.
- 6. Use of ICT Tools in Security Operations** – Leveraging technology for data analysis, surveillance, and intelligence reporting.

This training is expected to significantly enhance the capabilities of our security teams, enabling more proactive and intelligence-driven loss control operations. By adopting these advanced techniques, ZESA will be better positioned to prevent crimes such as illegal connections, cable theft, and internal fraud, ultimately protecting our assets and ensuring uninterrupted service delivery to the nation.

There was positive feedback from participants who overwhelmingly praised the course for its practicality and relevance, noting the valuable exchange of knowledge between CARLSS experts and ZESA's seasoned loss control professionals. Many highlighted the session on ICT tools as particularly transformative, offering new ways to streamline intelligence processes.

The knowledge gained from this training will be cascaded across respective departments, and follow-up sessions are being planned to ensure continuous skill development. This initiative is part of ZESA's broader strategy to build a resilient, forward-thinking security apparatus aligned with best practices in corporate intelligence.

Special thanks to CARLSS for their exceptional facilitation, and to our ZESA Loss Control Intelligence staff for their dedication and active participation. We also extend gratitude to the ZESA National Training Centre for providing an ideal learning environment.



# ZETDC's Lifeline: The National Contact Centre - Your 24/7 Connection!

Did you know ZETDC has a powerhouse dedicated to keeping Zimbabwe connected? Nestled on the Mezzanine Floor of Head Office, the National Contact Centre is more than just a call centre; it's the organization's multi-channel communication hub, serving as a vital link between ZETDC and its customers nationwide.

## Your One-Stop Solution:

This dynamic team handles a wide range of customer needs, 24/7, including:

- Power Outages: Report interruptions swiftly.
- Billing & Payments: Get clarity on your accounts.
- Safety First: Report dangerous occurrences and incidents.
- Combating Crime: Report theft and vandalism.
- Service Requests: New connections, disconnections, and more.
- Fault Reporting

## Omni-Channel Accessibility:

No matter where you are, ZETDC is reachable! The Contact Centre utilizes a comprehensive suite of communication channels:

- Voice Calls: 704, 0868803485, 0868803486, 0242 704040
- WhatsApp: 0715519387
- X (Formerly Twitter): @ZetdcOfficial
- Facebook: Zetdc Official
- Email: contactcentre@zetdc.co.zw
- Website: www.zetdc.co.zw
- Webchat

## Behind the Scenes- The Tech Powering Connectivity:

The Contact Centre operates with cutting-edge technology, ensuring efficient service delivery. Systems like AVAYA, ZIMS, Smartvend, ICS, CRM, and Chatbot work seamlessly to manage inquiries and track resolutions. ZIMS, for example, instantly logs faults and sends them to depots, while CRM integrates all systems for a holistic customer view.

## The Human Touch: Expert Support Around the Clock:

The dedicated team comprises seasoned marketing and communication professionals, IT specialists, and technical experts, all committed to providing customer support. With supervisors, quality assurance analysts, and a dedicated manager, the Contact Centre maintains high standards and ensures timely responses.

## Why This Matters to You (and Our Customers)?

- Employee Empowerment- Knowing the Contact Centre's capabilities allows you to confidently guide customers and colleagues.
- Enhanced Customer Experience- By promoting these channels, we empower customers to reach us conveniently.
- Efficient Operations- The Contact Centre's systems and processes ensure quick resolutions, reducing downtime.
- Brand Building- A responsive and accessible Contact Centre strengthens the organisation's reputation.

The centre is committed to service excellence and this commitment to excellence has earned the National Contact Centre significant recognition. For the second year in a row, the Centre has won the Best Contact Centre Award from the Contact Centre Association of Zimbabwe, alongside securing other prestigious regional awards.

**#Dial704 #Chaya704 #TshayaU704 for 24-hour support on electricity related issues.**

***Let's work together to make our National Contact Centre the gold standard for customer service in Zimbabwe!***



The team behind "Chaya 704"

Brenda Paradza



# Our Contact Centre

is ready to serve you

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 **0868 800 3485/6**

 **contactcentre@zetdc.co.zw**

 **+263 715 519 387**





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**SCAN**  
FOR ACCESS!



# The Kilowatt Band electrifies the stage



**T**HE hum of a substation, the rhythmic pulse of transmission lines—these are the familiar sounds of ZETDC's daily symphony. But lately, a new, vibrant melody has begun to weave itself into the fabric of the company, a harmony born not from turbines but from talent. This is the sound of The Kilowatt Band, the power utility's own musical ensemble, a group that proves the current of creativity within our workforce runs as powerfully as the electricity we supply to the nation.

The name itself is a masterstroke of fitting symbolism. Just as a kilowatt is the essential, measurable unit of power that lights up cities and drives industry forward, this band has rapidly become a fundamental unit of cultural energy within ZESA. They are the spark for celebration, the connector of colleagues, and the amplifier of our corporate spirit. They transform voltage into vibrato and cables into chords, demonstrating that the heart of ZESA beats not only with technical precision but also with profound artistic passion.

Formed from ZETDC's rich talent pool, the band features dedicated employee-musicians Admore Maseko, Ruzivo Musvosvi, Gamuchirayi Magadzire, and Prince Nyamadzawo. These are not merely

weekend strummers; they are serious artists who bring depth and experience to the stage, often collaborating with seasoned external musicians to perfect their sound. As vocalist Gamuchirayi Magadzire puts it, "We are not just amateurs; many members are artists with solo projects and experience. We are hopeful that the band will be an invaluable asset for the ZESA group."

This professional ethos is evident in every performance, from the first note to the final bow. Their journey, though recent, reads like a chart of notable achievements. Imagine the scene in Victoria Falls: delegates from across the region gathered for the prestigious Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) 64th meetings, discussions of grids and tariffs filling the day. As evening fell, The Kilowatt Band took the stage, their music washing over the audience—a powerful, sonic representation of ZESA's dynamism and the unifying spirit of collaboration.

Back in Harare, they have become the cherished soundtrack of our internal milestones. They have infused elegance into Long Service Awards, turning decades of dedication into a night of heartfelt celebration. They have energised Risk Awards ceremonies and become the highlight of

corporate wellness days, where the stress of the workweek dissolves into the shared joy of music. At every turn, they transform standard gatherings into resonant, shared experiences.

The true achievement of The Kilowatt Band, however, lies beyond the setlist. They have become a conduit for connection, a live wire of camaraderie that energises our corporate culture. They remind us that behind the hard hats and technical drawings are individuals with rich, creative souls. Their music builds bridges between departments and generations within the ZESA family, fostering a sense of unity and shared pride that is truly priceless.

So, as the final chords of their last gig fade, a new invitation resonates. Are you planning an event? Let The Kilowatt Band power it.

To book this incredible homegrown talent for your next department function, award ceremony, or special gathering, reach out to the Band Manager, Mr. Admore Maseko. In them, we do not just have colleagues; we have musicians, ambassadors, and the undeniable proof that ZESA's greatest strength is, and always will be, its people.



*The Kilowatt Band performing at the ZETDC Long Service Awards at Manna Resort in Harare*



*The Kilowatt Band performing at the Southern African Power Pool (SAAP) luncheon in Victoria Falls*

# Cookery Corner

## Zimbabwean Beef Stew (Nyama)

Zimbabwean beef stew (nyama) is a simple dish typically served with sadza, a porridge made with cornmeal.

- Prep Time 10 minutes mins
- Cook Time 1 hour hr
- Total Time 1 hour hr 10 minutes mins
- Course: Main Course
- Cuisine: African, Zimbabwean

Servings: 4 people

### Ingredients

2 lb beef

- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon curry powder
- 2 carrots, diced
- 1 cup fresh green beans, cut in 1-inch/2,5cm sections
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch (optional)
- Oil (for frying)



### Instructions

1. Cut beef into medium sized chunks. Heat oil in pot. Add beef, garlic and salt. Fry until the meat is a lovely brown color.
2. Add enough water to just cover the meat and reduce heat. Allow to simmer gently and slowly uncovered until meat is tender.
3. When the water is entirely reduced, add the onions and curry powder. Fry for 2 minutes. Add the tomatoes and cook for another 3 to 4 minutes or until the tomatoes are tender and cooked through.
4. Add a little bit of water, the carrots and green beans and simmer for another 5 minutes, stirring regularly.

# Health and Wellness



## HEALTH TIP

### DEPRESSION IN THE WORKPLACE: YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Depression is a common mental health condition that can affect anyone, impacting mood, energy, concentration, and overall well-being. It is more than just feeling sad; it's a persistent state that can interfere with your ability to work and carry out daily activities. Globally, depression and anxiety lead to significant economic losses, costing approximately USD 1 trillion per year in lost productivity.

#### Key Facts:

- **Prevalence:** Depression affects an estimated 5.7% of adults worldwide.
- **Impact:** It can lead to difficulties in all aspects of life, including work performance.
- **Risk Factors:** Work-related stress, discrimination, and job insecurity can increase the risk of depression.
- **Help-Seeking:** Many individuals with depression do not seek help due to stigma or fear of job repercussions.

#### What You Can Do:

- **Recognize the Signs:** Be aware of symptoms such as persistent sadness, loss of interest, fatigue, and difficulty concentrating.
- **Talk about It:** Sharing your feelings with a trusted friend, family member, or healthcare professional can be the first step towards recovery.
- **Seek Professional Help:** Effective treatments, including therapy and medication, are available.
- **Utilize Workplace Resources:** Take advantage of your medical aid facility to seek professional help.

**NB: Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength, and early intervention can make a significant difference. Your mental health matters.**

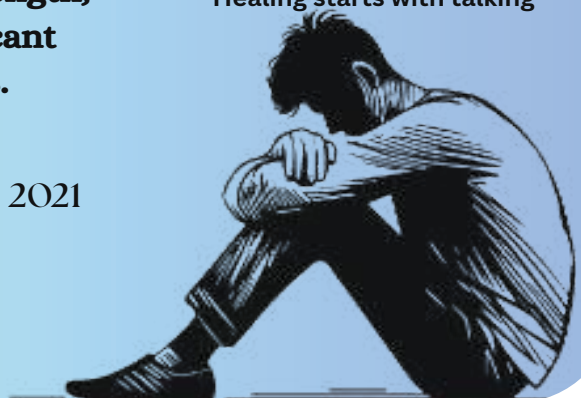
Source: World Health Organization (WHO), 2021

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

07/11/2025

**SPEAK UP!**

Healing starts with talking



# Celebrating Women in First Aid | Empowering Safety, Empowering the Grid.



Recently, women from across ZESA Holdings gathered at the ZESA National Training Centre for an impactful First Aid training session facilitated by Cimas Health Group.

These women are not just powering our nation — they are also stepping up as first responders, ready to save lives and protect their colleagues in critical moments. Their participation reflects the powerful intersection between safety preparedness and the indispensable role of women in keeping the power utility running every single day.

During the session, one of our employees, Rangarirai Mangundu, shared a deeply personal story. Thirteen years ago, his life was saved because his workmates were adequately trained in first aid and responded swiftly when it mattered most. His message to the participants was simple yet powerful:

"Training saves lives. Be ambassadors of first aid in your workplaces and communities."

A huge thank you to CIMAS for delivering such a practical and engaging training, and kudos to all the incredible women who continue to break barriers and lead by example.

**#WomenInEnergy #FirstAid #ZESA #SafetyFirst #EmpowerHer #EnergySector #CIMAS #TrainingAndDevelopment #LifeSavingSkills #PoweringTheNation**



# ZESA Holds Wellness Day to Promote a Healthier Workforce.



ZESA Holdings on October 24 held its annual Wellness Day at the ZESA National Training Centre in Harare under the theme "Wellness: Powering a Healthier Tomorrow." The event brought together employees from across the organisation to promote physical fitness, mental well-being, and unity through fun and competitive activities.

In his keynote address, ZESA Holdings Group Chief Executive Officer (A), Engineer Cletus Nyachowe, urged employees to prioritise rest and self-care, saying wellness was key to sustaining both personal and professional performance.

"Each one of us must find time to rest and take care of our health," said Eng. Nyachowe. "The family at home needs a healthy person, and ZESA needs an energetic, focused workforce

to continue powering the nation."

The lively event provided staff with a refreshing break from their normal work routines, encouraging them to focus on health, recreation, and teamwork. Participants enthusiastically took part in various activities, including sack races, the lava walk, volleyball, tug of war, egg races, and apple eating contests, 100-metre sprints, darts, netball, and soccer.

Different individuals competed in the games, creating a vibrant and cheerful atmosphere as colleagues cheered each other on. The friendly competition brought out teamwork, laughter, and a shared spirit of wellness.

ZESA Holdings' Human Resources Department organised the event as part of

the company's commitment to promoting employee welfare and morale. Officials said the wellness initiative was designed to encourage staff to live active lifestyles, manage stress, and build strong relationships within the workplace.

The day concluded with medal presentations for the winners, as the annual ZESA Holdings Wellness Day reaffirmed the company's dedication to fostering a healthy, motivated, and productive workforce that powers Zimbabwe toward a brighter and healthier future.

Meanwhile, other subsidiaries (ZETDC and Powertel) also held their wellness day in support of broader employee well-being agenda captured in pictures below



# ZETDC Southern Region Champions 2025 Wellness Through Mental and Physical Health Programme

ZETDC Southern Region successfully rolled out a vibrant Wellness Programme focused on mental and physical well-being, reaching employees across all three districts Gweru, Kwekwe, and Zvishavane. The initiative was held under the empowering theme, **"Your Health, Your Wealth,"** emphasising the importance of prioritising personal wellness as a foundation for improved productivity, safety, and overall organisational performance.

Employees from across the districts gathered in their colourful **wellness regalia**, creating an atmosphere of unity, motivation, and positive energy. The programme featured

physical fitness activities, health screenings, educational sessions, and mental health awareness discussions aimed at equipping staff with tools to manage stress, maintain work life balance, and adopt healthier lifestyle habits.

ZETDC Southern Region Management commended the high level of participation displayed by employees, noting that the organisation recognises the critical role of well-being in sustaining a high-performing and resilient workforce. The wellness activities were designed to engage staff holistically addressing emotional, mental, and physical health needs.

Health experts and wellness facilitators underscored the importance of early detection of health issues, regular exercise, and maintaining mental alertness in demanding work environments such as electricity distribution. Employees expressed appreciation for the initiative, describing it as refreshing, motivating, and a necessary intervention in today's stressful work environment.

The programme not only strengthened team cohesion across Gweru, Kwekwe, and Zvishavane but also reaffirmed ZETDC's commitment to fostering a supportive and healthy workplace culture.



# ZESA teams shine in Musabvunda Tug Of War

ZESA teams demonstrated their strength in the Musabvunda Tug of War tournament on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025 with Transmission finishing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Holdings securing the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to all our teams! A special shout out to Mutare Board and Paper Mills, who emerged as the winners. Well-done to our boys for an impressive performance.



*ZESA Holdings in full stretch out position against Exide Batteries team*



*ZESA Holdings team taking their positions against ZETDC Western team*

# Lighter Moments



1. *Why did the Christmas lights go to school?*  
- They wanted to be a little brighter for the holidays!

2. *What do you call Santa when he's plugged into the mains?*  
- Saint Current-laus!

3. *Why did the Christmas tree get an award?*  
- It was truly outstanding in its field... of electrical sockets!

4. *How do elves keep their workshop powered?*  
- They use elf-tricity!

5. *Why did the power outlet love Christmas?*  
- It finally got to meet all the plugs in the family!

6. *What's an electrician's favourite Christmas carol?*  
"Ohm for the Holidays."

7. *Why did the Christmas lights break up?*  
- They couldn't handle the current relationship.

8. *How do you know Santa's sleigh runs on electricity?*  
- It's always charged with holiday spirit!





# 2025





# AT A GLANCE



# Zimbabwe Unveils Bold Plan for Universal Energy Access by 2030

Zimbabwe has unveiled a comprehensive Energy Transformation Plan aimed at achieving universal access to modern, affordable, and sustainable energy by 2030.

Presenting the Energy Compact to the European private sector at the World Bank M300 meeting in London, Energy and Power Development Minister July Moyo said the strategy outlines Zimbabwe's roadmap to close the energy gap while attracting billions in investment.

"The plan aligns with Vision 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, which recognises energy as a driver of inclusive growth and environmental sustainability," Hon Moyo said.

Minister Moyo said despite vast renewable energy resources, 38% of Zimbabwe's population still lacks electricity, while 61% rely on traditional biomass for cooking. To address this, the

Government aims to connect 1.9 million households to the grid and provide 200,000 rural homes with standalone solar systems under the Presidential Rural Solarisation Scheme.

The Compact also targets increasing access to clean cooking solutions from 38.6% to 70% by 2030, supported by the National Clean Cooking Strategy. This transition, backed by nearly USD 800 million in investment, will reduce deforestation and improve health outcomes, particularly for women and children. Installed capacity is expected to rise from 1,282MW in 2024 to 2,640MW by 2030, with renewable sources making up 29% of total generation.

To finance the transition, Zimbabwe is mobilising USD 9.13 billion by 2030 and introducing reforms to attract private sector participation. Minister Moyo said the Energy Compact represents a national commitment supported by President Emmerson Mnangagwa's vision for reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy as a cornerstone of economic transformation and industrial growth.

## Energy experts hail National Energy Efficiency Policy

Energy experts have commended the newly launched **National Energy Efficiency Policy**, describing it as a key milestone in promoting energy conservation, boosting industrial competitiveness, and advancing Zimbabwe's transition to a green economy. Vice President Dr Constantino Chiwenga launched the policy during the 6th International Renewable Energy Conference held in Victoria Falls.

The policy provides a framework for green loans, grants, carbon financing, and private sector incentives, while promoting **Energy Service Companies (ESCOs)** to lead energy-saving initiatives. It identifies energy efficiency as a cost-effective solution to reduce operational costs, cut fossil fuel dependence, and drive sustainable economic growth.

Government will prioritise concessional funding for accredited entities and explore instruments such as **carbon taxes** and **green loans** backed by climate finance facilities like the Green Energy Fund and the Adaptation Fund. The policy also proposes tax incentives and import duty exemptions to encourage the adoption of energy-efficient technologies.

Energy consultant Mr Gladmore Masiwanhedza said the policy could unlock investment through **Green Bonds** and expand financing options, while expert Mrs Lerato Ncube added that it comes at a crucial time as businesses face high energy costs and power challenges. Both agreed that effective implementation could be a game-changer for productivity and competitiveness.

## 64th Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Management Committee Meeting: A Testament to Regional Energy Collaboration

The late ZESA Holdings Executive Chairman, Dr Sydney Gata, delivered a powerful address at the 64th Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Management Committee meeting, stressing the need for regional collaboration to strengthen energy security and drive economic growth across Southern Africa.

Dr Gata outlined how SAPP had transformed ZESA's operations by improving grid stability, promoting electricity trading, and boosting efficiency and revenue generation. He urged member states to attract private sector investment in transmission infrastructure and harmonise regulatory frameworks to speed up regional power projects.

He also presented a compendium from the historic 1990 Harare meeting that paved the way for SAPP's creation and shared examples of regional cooperation, including Zambia's emergency power support to Zimbabwe in the 1980s.

Dr Gata's remarks reinforced his long-standing call for stronger regional energy integration to ensure sustainable and reliable power for the Southern African region.

## ZESA National Training Centre Takes to the Skies with Drone Training Program

On June 5 2025, the ZESA National Training Centre officially launched its drone training program, following its approval as an Approved Training Organization (ATO) by the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe (CAAZ). The certification allows the centre to offer Remote Pilot Licences (RPL), preparing students for commercial drone operations.

The program aims to develop a skilled workforce in Zimbabwe's growing drone industry, which spans sectors like agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and mining. The Late ZESA Holdings Executive Chairman, Dr Sydney Gata, described the initiative as a major step towards innovation and a more technologically advanced workforce.

CAAZ certification ensures the program meets high safety and regulatory standards, equipping students with both technical and practical skills. The launch positions the centre as a key driver of skills development and technological progress in Zimbabwe.

## ZETDC Gets US\$210m Facility to Upgrade National Grid, Combat Vandalism

The Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) has secured a US\$210 million facility from Afreximbank to upgrade the country's power infrastructure, improve efficiency, and tackle vandalism. Signed at the Intra-African Trade Fair 2025, the deal will fund key projects to strengthen electricity supply.

Of the total amount, US\$50 million will be used for power imports from Mozambique's HCB to ease shortages, while US\$5 million will upgrade the national grid's SCADA system to enhance fault detection and system control. ZETDC will also roll out smart meters nationwide, replacing postpaid meters to enable remote monitoring and disconnection.

The remaining funds will help replace vandalised transformers and cables through local manufacturer Zent and private suppliers. The investment is expected to modernise the power network, boost revenue collection, and ensure a more reliable electricity supply across the country.

# National Energy Compact Goes Live, paves way for investment and universal access

Zimbabwe has officially submitted its National Energy Compact to the World Bank, marking a major step toward achieving universal access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy by 2030. The plan aligns with Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 7, outlining a roadmap to modernise infrastructure, boost private sector participation, and expand renewable energy use.

Energy and Power Development Minister July Moyo said the Compact was developed through extensive consultations with local and international stakeholders, including the World Bank, AfDB, and UN agencies. After Cabinet approval in March, the Government conducted international engagements in London, Japan, and Australia to refine the Compact and attract investors, highlighting Zimbabwe's progress in de-risking energy investments and creating a stable environment for financiers.

Under the new framework, private companies will now be allowed to participate in electricity distribution as mini-utility providers, purchasing power in bulk and integrating renewables like solar and gas. The initiative is expected to accelerate solar project rollout, strengthen the national grid, and create jobs, positioning Zimbabwe as a competitive destination for sustainable energy investment.

## Hwange's New Power Units Blend Energy Security with Green Technology

Hwange Thermal Power Station's Units 7 and 8, commissioned in 2023 under the US\$1.4 billion Hwange Expansion Project, have become central to Zimbabwe's energy security. Together generating 670 megawatts, the two units supplied 53 percent of the country's electricity last year, cushioning the nation during reduced output at Kariba Hydroelectric Power Station due to drought.

During a media tour of Matabeleland North led by Information Minister Dr Jenfan Muswere, Hwange's acting site manager, Engineer Ngonidzashe Dzumbira, said the units are performing optimally and are on track to meet annual production targets. The new plants feature modern emission-control systems, including a flue gas desulphurisation plant that captures sulphur dioxide to produce gypsum for use in agriculture and cement manufacturing, as well as low NOx burners to reduce nitrogen emissions.

Minister Muswere said the Hwange investments demonstrate Government's commitment to achieving energy security and industrialisation. He noted that the new units, alongside upgrades to the older Units 1 to 6, are helping stabilise power supply, reduce costly imports, and support growth in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing through reliable electricity and valuable by-products.

## BIOGRAPHY & RICH LEGACY

**Celebrating A Life Dedicated to Energy, Power, and Infrastructure Development Dr. Sydney Zikuzo Gata, an eminent Energy, Power, and Infrastructure specialist whose extensive career significantly shaped Zimbabwe's and Southern Africa's energy landscape.**

He held a formidable array of qualifications, including

- Bachelor of Science Degree (Engineering)
- MSc Degree (Engineering)
- BSc (Honours)
- PhD (Engineering)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Business Studies

He was also a registered professional engineer.

Early Career and Academic Contributions:

- 1976 to 1981: Research and teaching, making a notable impact in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering.
- 1976: Lectured at the Chelsea College of Aeronautical Engineering in London
- 1977 to 1980: Lectured at the City University Department of Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautics in London

- 1981: University of Zimbabwe's Faculty of Engineering

#### Leadership at ZESA and National Development:

Dr. Gata's professional journey at ZESA and its predecessor, the Electricity Supply Commission (ESC), was marked by multiple leadership roles

- 1981 to 1985: First black General Manager of the ESC.
- 1983 to 1991: Board member of the Central Africa Power Corporation (CAPCO)
- 1986 to 1991: Chief Executive Officer and board member of the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority
- 2000 to 2006: Executive Chairman of ZESA Holdings
- November 2019 to July 2025: Executive Chairman of ZESA Holdings

His appointment in 2019 was seen as a crucial intervention to address critical power supply challenges and improve staff morale within the organization.

During his tenures, Dr. Gata championed numerous pivotal projects. He is credited with the development of the following:

- Hwange Power Station Project Stage One (480MW) and Stage Two (440MW).
- Main 330kV HV-AC Transmission System and Regional Interconnectors
- Zimbabwe's National and Regional (SCADA) Power System Control Centres,
- Amalgamation of the six electricity undertakings in Zimbabwe into a single authority
- Urban and Rural Electrification Master-Plan Developments. A corner stone of his legacy is the Expanded Rural Electrification Programme (EREP), which, under his leadership, resulted in the successful electrification of 5,400 Rural Public Institutions across Zimbabwe within three years.
- Hwange Power Station Technical Operational Upgrades, which raised plant availability from 58% to 85%
- Kariba South Power Station Refurbishment and Upgrading, increasing its capacity from 666MW to 750MW

#### Regional and International Influence:

Dr. Gata's influence extended beyond Zimbabwe's borders

- Founding Chairman of the Inception Committee for the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

- Board member of the World Energy Council Commission (WEC) and Regional Coordinator for the Sub Saharan African Region.

- Deputy Chairman of the WEC Studies Committee.

- Chairman of the WEC "Special Committee on Energy Finance for Developing Countries".

#### Advisory and Consultancy Roles:

- Dr. Gata served as a Reader and Peer Review Advisor to the African Development Bank from 1995 to 1996, specializing in Electricity, Coal, and Nuclear Energy sectors. He provided peer review services for

#### 47 Sub-Saharan African Country Energy Programmes.

- 1997 to 2000, he was Executive Director of Integrated Energy Systems Ltd in the UK and a Senior Advisor on Project Finance and Investment Banking at the Trade and Investment Bank of Zimbabwe. His advisory highlights included roles in the Hwange Power Station Privatisation and Expansion Project, the

Gokwe North Power Station Project, and various coal and gas projects.

- From 2007 to 2019, Dr. Gata was the Managing Partner of EMC Continental (Pvt) Ltd, specializing in Power Project Development Advisory and Project Sponsorship in the SADC Region.

His consultancy work included projects such as the

- Ingagane Power Station in South Africa,
- The Blue Nightingale Power Station, and the relocation of Marsden – B Power Station to South Africa.

In 2019, he successfully led project sponsorships and developments for various renewable energy and gas power projects in the region

Dr. Sydney Zikuzo Gata was a philanthropist and an eminent educationist. His multifaceted career underscores his profound impact on the energy sector and his unwavering commitment to national and regional development.

May his Soul

Rest in Peace

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## #Unlocking The Digital Future

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**BULAWAYO** Ground Floor Fidelity Life Centre, Cnr Fife Street & 11th Ave, Bulawayo

**MUTARE** Shop 21, First Mutual Centre, No. 86 Herbert Chitepo Street, Mutare

**GWERU** Shop #5 Nkabazwe Centre, MIPF Building 7th Street

**KWEKWE** Inside ZETDC Kwekwe Branch, 44 Mugabe Way

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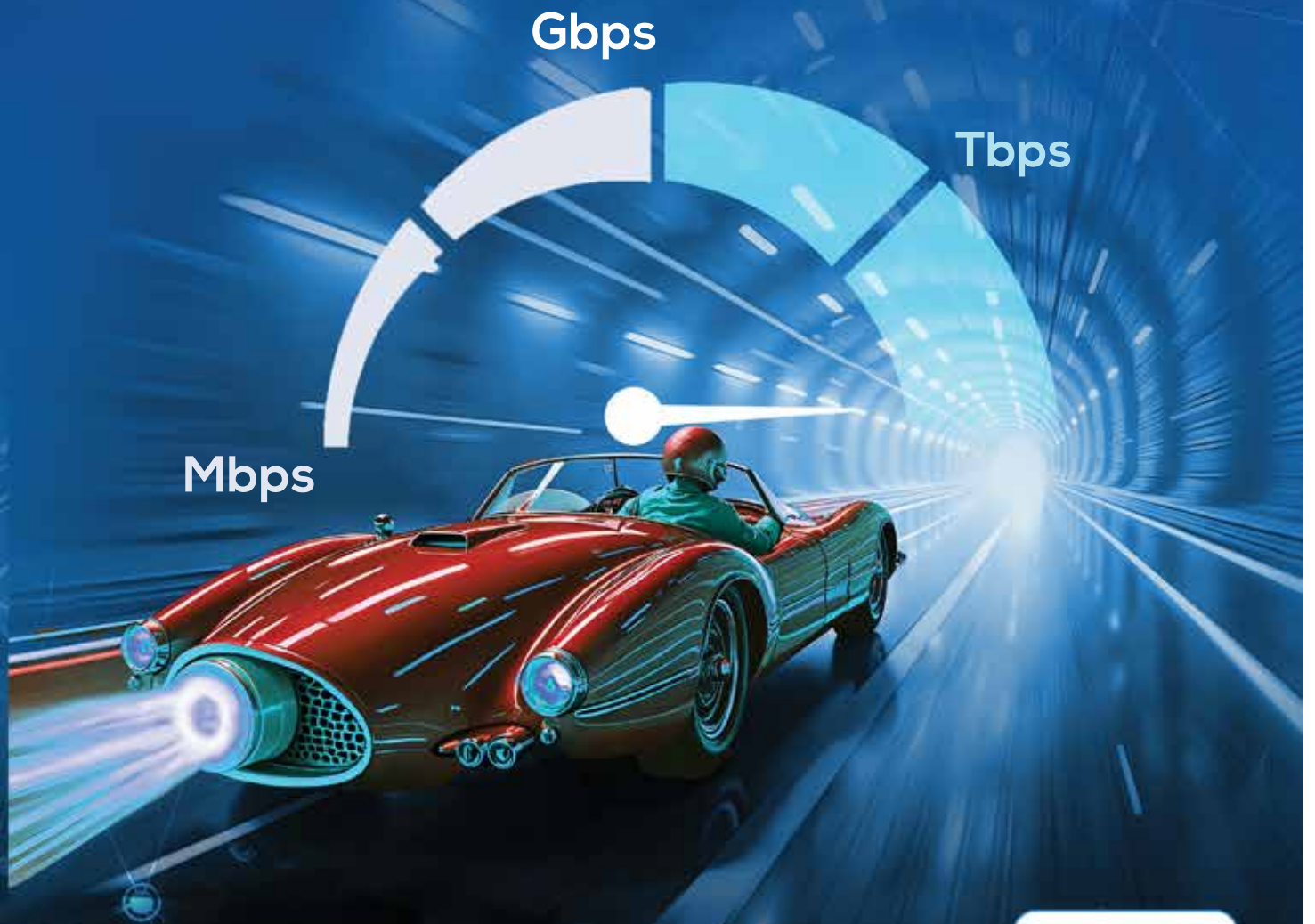
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## SOUTHERN REGION

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