

THE COMMISSION EXPRESS

June 2024



**It was not an easy journey,” Dr. Mugwadi reminisces
...as he leaves ZHRC a happy man**

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Editor's Note



welcome Chairperson Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome.

We also feature our Commissioners for the benefit of internal and external stakeholders.

After commencing the year on a low note partly because of the local currency transition, business has begun to shape up with a number of human rights activities having taken place so far and many still to come. These include the Training of Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service Recruit Officers at Ntabazinduna Training Depot as well as the annual Zimbabwe International Trade Fair Exhibition.

Read about this and many more Commission activities in this issue.

Also, feel free to contribute articles and photographs which capture the mandate and work of the Commission.

S. William
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

FOR FEEDBACK

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Welcome to the First Edition of *The Commission Newsletter* for 2024. *The Commission Newsletter* is Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission's bi-annual newsletter.

This edition is special in that we pay tribute to the Commission's longest serving Chairperson, Dr. Elasto Hilarious Mugwadi who left while at the same time, we



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the Commission Newsletter. The newsletter is one of the many official communication strategies for the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.

Highlights of my tenure, so far, include participating at the 2024 edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair and appearing on various radio and television programmes. Elsewhere, I am aware that the Monitoring and Inspections Department has been monitoring police cells and the implementation of recommendations of the National Inquiry on Access to Documentation in Zimbabwe. Complaints Handling, Investigations and Administrative Justice Department, on the other hand, has been embarking on mobile legal aid human rights clinics in collaboration with one of our stakeholders. There is no doubt that the Commission is committed to playing its role of advocating for human rights for all Zimbabweans irrespective of race, colour, creed, gender, religion or social standing.

I am also aware of the challenges being faced by the Secretariat in discharging their duties but I am optimistic the situation will improve as the year progresses. As a competent team, we will overcome all the setbacks and effectively play our constitutional role of protecting, promoting and enforcing human rights as well as administrative justice for a better Zimbabwe.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON & COMMISSIONERS



Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome

Chairperson



Dr. Dorothy Moyo

Deputy Chairperson



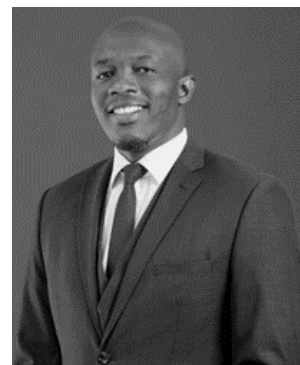
Dr. Angeline Guvamombe
Commissioner



Mrs Beauty Kajese
Commissioner



Prof. Cowen Dziva
Commissioner



Mr Brian Penduka
Commissioner

Chairperson Majome spells out vision



Chairperson Fungayi Jessie Majome

She was appointed the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Chairperson in March 2024 and has just laid her vision bare. I am speaking about Chairperson Fungayi Jessie Majome, an accomplished lawyer who is experienced in public management.

According to Chairperson Majome, her vision for the Commission is to have its work dovetailing into Zimbabwe's economic strategy. She believes the role of human rights in economic development is underestimated in the Zimbabwean context and the Commission can do something positive about it.

"That is my strategic vision that we need to change the way we perceive the value of human rights from an economic perspective. There is a very sound business case for human rights. This is what I want us to argue because I want to believe that the reason why there is very little investment in the work the

Commission does is because its not understood how critical the human rights promotion function actually serves to fuel economic growth and prosperity," she said.

In order to do that, there is need for the Commission to invest in research so as to generate knowledge to justify the human rights and business cause. This should be documented and disseminated for the public.

Like a new broom that sweeps clean, Chairperson Majome has plans to tackle the issue of the politicisation of human rights in the country. She said human rights should not divide the people but rather unite them. The fact that human rights and politics seemed adversarial was worrying in her view.

"When we mention human rights, people more or less freeze. They take a political stance there, already they put on political spectacles and that is an issue of great concern to me," Chairperson Majome said, adding that she will use her office to steer the Commission away from this notion.

However, Chairperson Majome reckons that she inherited a sound national human rights institution from her predecessor, Dr. Elasto Hilarious Mugwadi but the only setback was lack of resources. She paid tribute to some members of the Secretariat who go out of their way and use personal resources to do Commission business. Going forward, the ZHRC boss promises to tackle the matter of funding so that human rights discourse does not suffer.

"For that to materialise, there is need to mobilise resources for the Commission. Therefore, the Commission under my leadership has plans to engage with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion," said Chairperson Majome.

Chairperson Majome is excited that she inherited an institution, among the Chapter 12 Commissions, that is robust, sound and has carved a name for itself. Therefore, she is confident she will work hard towards strengthen it.

INTRODUCING THE LEGAL CORNER

Empowering Zimbabweans with Inheritance Law Knowledge

Introduction

We are delighted to launch the Legal Corner in the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission's biannual newsletter, dedicated to providing valuable legal insights to our esteemed readership. In this inaugural article, we aim to shed light on the overview of inheritance law in Zimbabwe and the key steps to be taken when someone passes away. By equipping our readers with this knowledge, we aspire to empower individuals, families, and communities to navigate the complexities of inheritance matters with confidence and clarity.

Understanding Inheritance Law in Zimbabwe

Inheritance law plays a crucial role in safeguarding the rights and interests of individuals and families when a loved one passes away. By comprehending the essential procedures involved, Zimbabweans can ensure a fair and just distribution of assets and uphold the wishes of the deceased. Let's explore the key aspects that should be considered when someone becomes deceased:

Prompt Notification and Death Certificate:

The first step is to promptly inform the next of kin or appointed executor about the passing of an individual. Additionally, it is vital to register the death with the Registrar of Births and Deaths to obtain a death certificate, which serves as a crucial document for legal and administrative purposes.

Will and Executor:

If the deceased left a valid will, locating this document is of utmost importance. The will outlines the deceased's wishes regarding the distribution of assets and appoints an executor to administer the estate. Executors hold a significant responsibility in ensuring the deceased's wishes are carried out faithfully.

Application for Letters of Administration or Grant of Probate:

In cases where there is no valid will or an appointed executor is unable or unwilling to act, an application for Letters of Administration must be made to the Master of the High Court. Conversely, if a valid will exists, an application for a Grant of Probate is required. These legal documents grant the executor or administrator the necessary authority to handle the deceased's estate.

Inventory, Valuation, and Debt Settlement:

The executor or administrator assumes the responsibility of identifying and valuing the deceased's assets and liabilities. This includes conducting a comprehensive inventory, assessing properties, bank accounts, investments, personal belongings, and outstanding debts. It is crucial to settle any outstanding debts and taxes owed by the deceased to ensure the smooth administration of the estate.

Asset Distribution and Intestate Succession:

Once debts and taxes are settled, the remaining assets can be distributed. If a valid will exists, the executor follows the provisions outlined therein. In the absence of a will, the laws of intestate succession come into play, determining the order of priority for distributing assets among surviving family members. Understanding these rules ensures a fair and equitable distribution of assets.

Family Maintenance:

The Deceased Persons' Family Maintenance Act protects the rights of dependents who were not adequately provided for in the will or under intestate succession. Such dependents have the right to make claims for reasonable maintenance from the estate. The application process involves approaching the Master of the High Court and seeking proper legal advice.

Conclusion

The Legal Corner is a gateway to legal knowledge, designed to empower our readership with a deep understanding of various laws in Zimbabwe. By familiarizing ourselves with the necessary steps and procedures when someone dies, we can face these challenging times with clarity and confidence. Going forward, the Legal Corner will continue to provide valuable insights, promoting access to justice and fostering a society that upholds the rights and principles of fairness for all.

Look forward to our upcoming articles, where we will delve into specific aspects of law, offering guidance on diverse legal matters that impact our daily lives.

STAKEHOLDER NETWORKING

ZHRC, Russian High Commissioner for Human Rights strengthen relationship

The year 2024 promises to be a better year for Zimbabwe-Russia relations following the signing of a Memorandum of understanding between the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and the Russian High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prof. Tatiana Mosalkova in January this year. ZHRC Chairperson, Dr. Elasto Hilarius Mugwadi signed the Memorandum on behalf of the Commission.

“Collaboration between human rights institutions the world over is welcome development as there can be several benefits from such co-operation,” said Dr. Mugwadi in his remarks.

Some of the benefits which the Commission anticipated from the visit are hosting of international fora on topics that are relevant to both institutions and joint research relating to human rights issues of relevance to both parties. The two parties also agreed to also share best practices and experiences that can be

implemented. They also agreed to share best practices and experiences that can be implemented by either parties.

In addition, ZHRC and the Russian High Commission for Human Rights agreed on exchange, internship and learning visits to enhance their operations. Resource mobilisation to fund agreed interventions and projects was also agreed as well as any other activities both institutions may deem relevant to them.

“The ZHRC is excited about the collaboration that benefit both our institutions. The human rights and administrative justice terrain is a challenging one and it cannot be navigated alone. There are a lot of players that contribute to this at local, regional and international level. The Commission is always open to mutually beneficial partnerships,” Dr. Mugwadi concluded.



Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Chairperson, Dr. Elasto Hilarius Mugwadi (third from right), Commissioner Cowen Dziva and Commissioner Beauty Kajese (second from right) pose for a photo moment with their Russian counterparts after the historic meeting.

Stakeholders praise ZHRC



From far left...ZHRC Deputy Chairperson, Dr. Dorothy Moyo, Chairperson Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome, Guest of Honour Hon. Norbert Mazungunye, Dr. Elasto Hilarious Mugwadi and Zimbabwe Gender Commission Chairperson, Mrs Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe gracing Dr. Mugwadi's farewell ceremony at a local hotel in April 2024.

Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and Dr. Elasto Hilarious Mugwadi recently won the hearts of many for laying a strong foundation in promoting human rights.

Speaker after speaker hailed the former Chairperson for his vision and leadership which leaves the Commission on a solid grounding.

"Under Commissioner Dr. Mugwadi's leadership, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission has become a force for justice and accountability whose contributions have been recognised nationally and internationally with the

Commission having been accorded an 'A' Status consecutively in line with the Paris Principles on Independent Commissions," said the Zimbabwe Gender Commission Chairperson, Mrs Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe.

Commissioner Mukahanana-Sangarwe also praised ZHRC for the excellent collaboration particularly through joint investigations, complaints handling and referrals.

Speaking on behalf of Chapter 12

Stakeholders praise ZHRC

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Commissions Chairperson's Forum, Commissioner Mukahanana-Sangarwe hailed the role played by the Commission under Dr. Mugwadi particularly in the formation of the forum.

"The Chairperson's Forum has brought together the chairpersons of Chapter 12 Commissions to collaborate and share best practices based on our shared objectives," she said.

Speaking during the same occasion, Deputy Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Norbert Mazungunye who represented the Minister also praised the sterling work the Commission accomplished under the stewardship of Dr. Mugwadi.

"As Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, I note with satisfaction that Dr. Mugwadi with the support of his Commissioners and the ZHRC Secretariat has consistently pursued multi-sectoral strategic dialogue, collaboration and partnerships with Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), development partners, civil society, traditional leaders, faith leaders and many other

stakeholders through the Commission's Thematic Working Groups and other platforms towards strengthening and facilitating discharge of its constitutional mandate including the administrative justice function," said Hon. Mazungunye before pledging on behalf of Government to continue supporting the Commission.

"In this regard ladies and gentlemen, I would like to assure Dr. Mugwadi and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission that Government will continue to render financial and material support to the Commission's work to enable the Commission to achieve full decentralisation to the remaining Provinces of the country where the Commission has not yet established a physical presence with the ultimate purpose of improving its service delivery in all parts of the country," he said.

A representative of Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law also had kind words for the Commission, praising the relationship between the two organisations which resulted in numerous collaborations and human rights training of the Commission's Secretariat.

ZHRC joins other Government stakeholders at Independence Day Celebrations

It was a proud moment when the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission joined the nation in commemorating the country's 44th Independence. The national celebrations were held at Murambinda B Secondary School in Buhera, Manicaland Province on 18 April 2024. The theme for the Independence Day Celebrations was, *Zim@44: "Unity, Peace and Development towards Vision 2030"*. The theme underscored the need for the country's citizens

to unite towards a common national goal for prosperity to be realised.

The Commission was represented at the celebrations by a high-powered delegation consisting of the Chairperson, Commissioners, Management and a few other members of the Secretariat.

Zimbabwe gained its independence from Britain on 8 April 1980 following a protracted

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ZHRC joins other Government stakeholders at Independence Day Celebrations

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struggle against imperialism. The sacrifices by men and women resulted in the peace and enjoyment of other rights which could not be enjoyed prior to the country's independence. The Commission also got an opportunity to exhibit its services on the sidelines of the main Independence Day activities. Human Rights Officers explained the mandate and work of the Commission to visitors. Random quiz

sessions were held on the stand to assess the level of understanding of human rights and winners got branded caps and pens as prizes. The Commission has undertaken to seize every opportunity to showcase its work at future Independence Day Celebrations and any other gatherings for the benefit of the Zimbabwean citizenry. Next year's celebrations will take place in the Midlands Province.



Some Commissioners and Management visit the ZHRC stand on the sidelines of the Independence Day Celebrations at Murambinda B Secondary School in Buhera on 18 April 2024.

EXHIBITIONS

ZHRC' s 2024 participation at ZITF special



ZHRC Chairperson, Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome facing off ZBCTV's News and Current Affairs team at the 2024 edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Bulawayo.

It has become a tradition that the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) exhibits at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) but this year's showcase was special as it marked Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome's first-ever participation as Chairperson of the Commission.

Although preparations for this year's exhibition was marred by uncertainty following the introduction of the Zimbabwe Gold currency and cost-cutting measures by Government, that did not deter the Commission from exhibiting.

One of the objectives of participating at the annual showcase was to raise awareness on the nexus between business and human rights and common violations of such rights. The other objective for exhibiting was to showcase the work of the Commission on promotion and protection of human rights so as to foster positive image of the country. Also, the exhibition was held to promote awareness of the mandate and work of the ZHRC, among other objectives.

ZITF, which was held from 23-27 April 2024 was held under the theme, "*Innovation: The Catalyst for Industrialisation and Trade*". Entrepreneurship which is the 'capacity and willingness to develop, organise and manage a business venture along with any of its risks to make profit is often cited as a major stimulator of economic growth and economic development by introducing innovative technologies, products and services. Entrepreneurship is closely related to fulfilment of human rights and sustainable economic development. Economic growth and development ultimately stimulate industrialisation and trade from which the country derives resources to enable the fulfillment of socio-economic rights such as the rights to education, healthcare services, food as well as clean, safe and potable water.

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ZHRC' s 2024 participation at ZITF special

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The work of the Commission was linked to the ZITF theme in that raising awareness of the importance of civil and political rights is necessary because fulfilment of such rights are a necessary foundation for peaceful, prosperous and sustainable development through creation of a conducive business environment. Examples are the right to life, right to dignity, right to personal security, political rights, right to fair trial and freedom from torture or cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

As usual, the Commission had several activities lined up for the week. First, the Chairperson appeared in a televised interview that was aired by the national broadcaster, ZTV on 24 April 2024. The Chairperson shared with listeners the

work of the Commission and emphasized its dual mandate. Besides the human rights protection role, the ZHRC has an Administrative Justice function which entails performing the role of Ombudsman/Public Protector. In that role the ZHRC has the obligation to protect people from abuse of power and maladministration by State Institutions and officials of these institutions.

The television interview was followed by a live radio interviews on Star FM and on Khulumani FM on the same topics. Second, human rights officers conducted quiz sessions on the work of the Commission throughout the exhibition and individuals who got the questions correctly were rewarded.



ZHRC Secretariat at the 2024 ZITF stand received visitors from all walks of life who inquired about their rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

“It was not an easy journey,” Dr. Mugwadi reminisces as he leaves ZHRC a happy man



Dr. Elasto Hilarius Mugwadi addressing one of the many Media Conference during the course of duty

It was the end of an era as the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) recently celebrated its longest serving Chairperson, Dr. Elasto Hilarius Mugwadi. Dr. Mugwadi retired on 30 March 2024 after having joined the Commission on 30 March 2010.

The third ZHRC Chairperson, Dr. Mugwadi took over from the current Speaker of Parliament, Hon Jacob Mudenda in 2014 following his appointment to the august house by President Robert Mugabe. Dr. Mudenda had, in turn, taken over the reign at the Commission from the inaugural Chairperson, Prof. Reginald Austin who resigned in 2012 after serving for a few years as Chairperson.

Among the milestones, during Dr. Mugwadi's tenure was the commissioning of a baseline survey to try and determine the human rights terrain in the country in early 2015. The Commission's mission was to establish whether people were aware of their rights.

“In terms of percentages, the findings were that only about 23% of our population are aware of their rights and 13% knew about the existence of the Constitution or they had partially read some of the provisions of the Constitution. Otherwise, our awareness task in terms of our mandate was a mammoth one,” Dr. Mugwadi explained.

Dr. Mugwadi singled out the Commission's first ever investigation at Chingwizi as one of the successes of his tenure.

“Our first investigation that we conducted following a complaint by residents around Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam in Masvingo and Chivi there was to assess, these people had been displaced by the waters of the dam and most of them ended up being resettled at a place called Chingwizi this is in Mwenezi which is a very dry, dry area and they were allocated I think approximately about a hectare. So, most

“It was not an easy journey,” says Dr. Mugwadi as he leaves ZHRC a happy man

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of their families lost their livestock. When we got there when we were carrying out our investigations, you know you could see carcasses of donkeys, goats and cattle just lying around,” he reminisced.

One of our recommendations from the investigation was that villagers should be resettled elsewhere where there was arable land.

Guided by the value of Fearlessness, the Commission also recommended compensation but described that disaster as man-made and that aroused the ire of Government to the extent that it was not debated in Parliament.

One landmark that will linger in Dr. Mugwadi’s mind for a long time to come was the development of the Commission’s logo.

“I would also want to say when we were developing the logo, my colleagues started talking about it in my absence and when I came in they were struggling with the wording (saying) what should we say after Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, ‘To Protect, Promote and Enforce Human Rights’ and Administrative Justice’. So, I came in and said why don’t we simply say, ‘For Human Dignity’. I am the one who coined that expression that you see on the ZHRC logo. It’s my baby. You know human rights are all about respect for an individual (and) their dignity,” Dr. Mugwadi proudly explained.

Dr. Mugwadi successfully led the Commission as it embarked on the National Inquiry on Access to Documentation which was carried out throughout the country from 2019-2020. This was the first-ever national inquiry by the Commission. The Inquiry brought to the fore challenges that were being faced by the citizenry in accessing birth certificates, national identity cards, passports, death certificates and citizenship. During the process, various stakeholders were roped in and these included the Civil Registry Department, the Department of Social Development, Ministry of Health and

Child Care as well as the Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Service.

Maybe the greatest achievement by Dr. Mugwadi was the attainment, after under two years of operationalisation, of an **“A” Status** from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (**GANHRI**) in May 2016 in compliance with the United Nations **Paris Principles** on the Status of National Human Rights Institutions (**NHRIs**). An **“A” Status** is only accorded to National Human Rights

Institutions which have scored positively on all assessment criteria which define effective and credible National Human Rights Institutions according to a set of established global/international human rights standards. In 2023, the Commission was re-assessed and re-awarded the **“A” Status** for its continued stellar performance.

Regionally, Dr. Mugwadi scored measurable successes as Chairperson of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from 2021 to 2023 when he handed the chairmanship to the Chairperson of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana. His tenure saw a total of six NHRIs being accredited with an ‘A’ Status by the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions, underscoring his leadership prowess.

His successes, nationally and regionally are far too much to mention.

However, Dr. Mugwadi’s term of office was not without its challenges, chief among them the lack of resources. When he was appointed Chairperson, the Commission hardly had any offices or assets to talk about.

“Our coming was characterised by the former Permanent Secretary for Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Justice David Mangota as ‘a child that was born when his parents

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“It was not an easy journey,” Dr. Mugwadi reminisces as he leaves ZHRC a happy man

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little expected it because there were no napkins, no bottle of milk, no bib and no perambulator,’ because the Commission was budgetless and with no secretariat,” reminisced Dr. Mugwadi.

When COVID-19 broke out, Dr. Mugwadi had to grapple with the new way of doing business, dubbed ‘the New Normal’.

Meetings had to be held virtually and this

affected not only internal meeting but NANHRI meetings and a host of others. However, the job results were achieved under the circumstances.

Having said all this, Dr. Mugwadi leaves the Commission a happy man. He said,

“I will remain a whistle-blower whenever I come across violations or issues to do with my passion...otherwise, I have no regrets for

Some of Dr. Mugwadi’s moments at ZHRC captured on camera



ZHRC endorsed by ZPCS Recruit Correctional Officers

It is sometimes unusual to get appreciated for sterling effort when one is getting paid for it but for Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission members tributes have been flowing following a training seminar for Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Service (ZPCS) Recruit Correctional Officers held at Ntabazinduna Training School in Matabeleland North from 27 February to 1 March 2024.

The training programme covered the mandate and work of the Commission, characteristics of human rights and categories for human rights. It also included topics on access to justice for prison inmates, minimum standards for prison conditions as well as key findings of the Commission's prison monitoring missions.

While the duration of the training was not enough to cover the entire Declaration of Rights in detail, facilitators managed to dwell on the salient elements that touched on the rights of prisoners and their well-being.

After the training, several Recruit Correctional Officers (RCOs) appreciated the great work being done by the Commission to equip them with human rights skills that are necessary in running their public office.

One of the trainees, RCO Shadreck Muchini confessed how he had benefitted from the training,

"I now know that human rights are inherent in us. Although they can sometimes be limited, they cannot be taken away from us.

"From now onwards, I now view prison inmates differently. Unlike before the training, I now know that they have rights. I used to think that

because they are prisoners, officers could inflict punishment on them anytime, anyhow, as they please," said RCO Muchini.

RCO (Woman) Rutendo Charity Nyamahumba viewed the Commission as part of the prison set-up which has a role to transform ZPCS from a jail to a correctional facility. She said she enjoyed the training in that she was able to freely express herself as RCOs normally do not have a voice since they work with orders. She said,

"I am grateful for the course as it has opened our minds. Prisoners should feel that there is something good that comes out of prison life. I am a better RCO now."

Another RCO, Tashinga James concurred that punishing prisoners was now outdated and correction as well as rehabilitation was the way to go.

While RCO Petunia Dziva appreciated all aspects of the training from the presentation skills to the knowledge of training content by the presenters, she felt that the section on death penalty was somehow discriminatory as it spared women and senior citizens above the age of 70.

The Commission has held a number of human rights trainings for ZPCS RCOs and in-service officials in line with its constitutional mandate of promoting the awareness of the Constitution at all levels of the Zimbabwean society by teaching it in schools and as part of the curricula for the training of members of the security services, the Civil Service as well as members and employees of public institutions.



Ms. Challote Nyakabau, a ZHRC Human Rights Officer for Education, Promotion, Research and Advocacy takes Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Service Recruit Correctional Officers through human rights training at Ntabazinduna Training School in Matabeleland North Province.



ZHRC facilitators led by the Director for Education, Promotion, Research and Advocacy Mrs Karukai Ratsauka (standing fifth from left) enjoy a photo moment with Recruit Correctional Officers at Ntabazinduna Training School earlier this year.



Ms. Wadzanayi Muvevi (centre) receives a certificate of participation at the end of a Workshop on Monitoring and Inspections Manual held in Harare from 12-15 March 2024.



ABOVE...ZHRC Chairperson, her Deputy and Management with Dr. Elasto Hilarious Mugwadi after their last meeting in Harare.

BELOW...Zimbabwe Media Commission Chairperson Prof. Ruby Magosvongwe and staff paying a courtesy call to ZHRC at ZITF.



(From left to right) ZHRC Deputy Chairperson Dr. Dorothy Moyo, Chairperson Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome, the Guest of Honour, Dr. Elasto Hilarious Mugwadi and Zimbabwe Gender Commission Chairperson at Dr. Mugwadi's Farewell Ceremony.



ZHRC Executive Secretary and her Deputy (all in black) pose with a delegation from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia soon after meeting in Harare.



ABOVE...Confirmation of ZHRC's reaccreditation with an 'A' Status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions following reassessment in 2023. **Bottom...**ZHRC hosts the Chairperson of the Burundi Independent National Commission of Human Rights, Dr. Sixte Vigny Nimuraba (seated, second from left).



BELOW...ZHRC Executive Secretary Dr. Delis Mazambani with Guests at the belated Day of the African Child commemorations at Copota School of the Blind in Masvingo on 25 June 2024.



On 12 June 2024, ZHRC Chairperson Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome met the German Ambassador to Zimbabwe, His Excellency Hon. Udo Volz who visited to congratulate her on her appointment.



Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission held a 2-day Knowledge Management and Organisational Learning Orientation in Harare. The aim was to understand the fundamentals and key concepts of Knowledge Management and Organisational Learning.



Recently, the Chairperson hosted Mr Peter Lundberg, the Executive Director of Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law who paid a courtesy call.

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) is the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) as well as the Public Protector for Zimbabwe as provided for by the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act of 2013. It was operationalized by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Act [Chapter 10:30]. The ZHRC took over the advancement of administrative justice mandate from the now defunct Public Protector (Ombudsman) in line with Section 16 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The functions of the ZHRC are outlined in Section 243 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

ZHRC still on top of the game

Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission continues to be acknowledged for its excellent performance in the field of human rights and administrative justice.

The Commission recently received confirmation of retention of the 'A' Status following an assessment done by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in 2023. The 'A' Status is accorded to National Human Rights Institutions that fully comply with the Paris Principles and other international human rights standards.

Announcing the good news to members of the Secretariat, the Executive Secretary Dr. Delis Mazambani said,

I am pleased to advise that undergoing review by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights institutions ZHRC retained its 'A' Status. In addition, ZHRC was elected to represent Southern Africa on the GANHRI Bureau."

The Commission was first awarded the 'A' Status in 2016 when it was barely five years in operation and the retention of the 'A' Status serves to inspire Secretariat and Commissioners to strive to achieve more in as far as human rights protection is concerned.

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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PROTECTING, PROMOTING AND ENFORCING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE