

Review

Harare city council service delivery gone to the dogs (2000 – 14)

Associate Professor Dr. Silas Luthingo Rusvingo

Abstract

Great Zimbabwe University,
Masvingo, Zimbabwe in the
Accounting and Information Systems
Department, Faculty of Commerce

E-mail: srusvingo@yahoo.com
Tel.: +263 772 410 607

The worst that has been said about the Harare City Council (HCC) service delivery is that it is now worse than a dog's breakfast. The reasons invariably cited for the catastrophic decline in HCC service delivery are that the Harare water and sanitation services are so shambolic there are places in Harare without adequate water and sanitation services for up to 12 months to spark fears of another Cholera outbreak similar to the 2008-9 Budiriro Cholera outbreaks which killed more than 4000 people in less than one year. The city in recent years came under fire over its poor storm water drainage system which is responsible for flooding each time there are heavy rains in Harare. People have lost their relatives to flash floods in Harare. The 600 kilometer Harare road network is littered with crater-like potholes which are now a permanent feature of the road network for lack of resources to repair them. Open spaces and road verges are always overgrown with tall grass to compromise residents' security during both day and night. And for want of security at night Harare residents have also lost relatives to night muggers taking cover in the tall and uncut grass. Public street lighting in all areas in Harare is non-existent for not only lack of resources to install public lighting but due to a perennial shortage of electricity countrywide where rolling blackouts are a result of a mismatch between power demand and supply. To expose the catastrophic decline in service delivery the Author, a former employee of the Harare City Council for 30 years at senior level will carry out the relevant and related Literature Review and Research Methodology involving the private media (Private media in Zimbabwe comprises of two prominent dailies circulating in Harare which are the *Newsday* and *Daily News*. On the weeklies the *Standard*, *Financial Gazette* and the *Zimbabwe Independent* newspapers are the most prominent circulating in Harare. Unlike the public media in Zimbabwe the private media is famous for saying it as it is on the ground without fear, favor or prejudice. Whereas the public media in Zimbabwe such as the *Herald* and the *Sunday Mail*, owned by the government are notorious for not stating the truth but propaganda which the paranoid ZANU PF government of His Excellence President Mugabe wants to hear and not what the people should be told. For this reason many people flock to the private media where the editorial policy is balanced reporting) in Zimbabwe which is being done for strategic reasons to be explained later in the relevant footnote to the main text. With the Research Findings now exposed and discussed the Author will then proceed to compile the Paper Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation to wind up the discourse in this Paper.

Keywords: Harare City Council, service delivery, dogs, breakfast, catastrophic and decline

INTRODUCTION

The biggest problem with Zimbabweans, unlike the combative South Africans is their business as usual attitude while Zimbabwe is burning left, right and centre. In almost every city and town in Zimbabwe, citizens

everywhere are bemoaning a humiliating poverty of service delivery such as the embarrassing and arduous dry taps, dark streets at night to become a haven of night muggers and bad roads. Even where Zimbabweans

have mounted serious complaints and protest these have fallen on deaf ears. So many times the hapless ratepayers in Harare have heard about council wage bills that have doubled, leaving little revenue going to service delivery in a salary: service delivery ratio of 70%:30%. At the time of writing this Paper in mid November 2014 it had just started raining and heaps of gravel would be dumped along the roads to patch the pothole-infested roads. This exercise of patching tarred roads with gravel year in year out has not done any good to the roads as potholes have grown to become ditches, making the roads in some places impassable during the rainy season. The work of local government ministry has a direct impact on people's everyday lives and its performance affects their ability to function effectively. The Municipalities which make up this sphere of government are mandated to provide basic services such as water and electricity (Chamunorwa 2014).

In many instances the provision of these services has been very slow, and has not met the expectations of ratepayers and residents, who perceive municipal officials to be self serving and neglectful of their needs. The widespread perception is given credence by the fact that some council officials have been investigated and found guilty of corruption.

In Harare, for instance we have seen top officials at Town House getting themselves obscenely expensive cars and Local Government Minister Honourable Chombo has come out to say there is nothing wrong with that. Yet that is the genesis of the financially crippling problems of debt-ridden HCC. Extravagance means inefficiency. And this charade goes on as millions of Zimbabweans experience continuing shortfalls in basic services such as poor grass cutting in open spaces and along road verges, poor storm water drainage systems, poor refuse removal, to name but a few. It is a shame that which citizens of a nation in a SADC (Southern African Development Community grouping of 14 member states which are namely Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Malawi, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagasca, South Africa, Mauritius and Tanzania. Binding these 14 member states together are a common philosophy on democratic election guidelines and protocols, visa free travels for SADC citizens within the SADC region as articulated above and free trade, among others. (Mufaro 2013)) region of modest economic prosperity are supposed to get from local authorities as a basic right have become a privilege. Accompanying this willful neglect of infrastructure is a long history of governance problems and political interference by ZANU PF leadership in councils. This has included the blocking of all attempts to improve governance and root out corruption by the Honourable Minister in charge. Perhaps the solution to bring back sanity in towns and cities is to make sure that the

municipalities are run by politically neutral and skilled administrators equipped to serve all. Public opinion across the political spectrum agrees that there is a lack of accountability and a massive shortfall in service delivery and the sooner this is redressed the better for the Harare residents and ratepayers. (Chamunorwa, 2014).

There before you is the tantrum of an ignition to the discourse in this Paper on HCC service delivery gone to the dogs. To expose the Research Findings or gaps up next are the relevant and related Literature Review and Research Methodology employed to make a new discovery about the topic under discussion in this Paper.

A statement on the relevant and related Literature Review and Research Methodology to discover more about the variables militating against HCC providing a world class service delivery

In order to expose the required research findings the Author will purposively and judgmentally sample five services provided by the Harare City Council and then google how the service is provided given the challenges facing the HCC, the service provider. The services sampled for this study are:

- Harare water
- Storm water drainage system
- Roads
- Grass cutting in open spaces and along road verges and
- Street lighting

With the statement on the relevant Literature Review and Research Methodology now out of the way up next is the Research Methodology whose primary mission is to source data for use in the next section whose mission is to analyse, present and discuss the Research Findings.

With this out of the way up next is the Harare water and the challenges faced by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Harare Water and Sanitation Department

The Harare Water and Sanitation Department is headed by Engineer C M Zvobgo who is situated in the Old Mutual House at the corner of Speke Avenue and Second Street in Harare Central Business District.

Vision

To be a world class provider of sustainable potable water and waste water services by year 2020.

Mission

To provide all consumers with affordable quality water and waste water services all the time.

Core values

- Integrity
- Innovation
- Commitment
- Team work
- Honesty
- Customer satisfaction

Brief overview

Harare Water and Sanitation Department is mandated to:

- Supply potable water to Harare and surrounding local Authorities of Chitungwiza, Epworth, Ruwa and Norton Town Councils with a combined estimated total population of about 4.5 million people.
- Provide sewerage services to Harare Municipality with an estimated total population of about 2.5 million people.

In discharging this critical mandate the City is experiencing greater than ever pressure to improve the quality and reliability of service provision against aged and inadequate infrastructure, ever depreciating raw water quality, poor revenue inflows, insignificant external support and ever increasing arrears among many high level challenges (Staff Reporter 2014)

Cholera outbreak looms in Harare. The MDC Renewal Team (MDC Renewal Team is an acronym for Movement for Democratic Change Renewal Team formed in April 2014 and whose primary mission was to seek leadership in the wake of the MDC-T disastrous performance in the 31 July 2013 poll in which Tsvangirai achieved a 34% of the vote against His Excellence President Mugabe's 66% of the vote) has warned of an imminent outbreak of communicable diseases such as cholera if the government does not deal with current water shortages as a matter of extreme urgency. The opposition group fronted by Secretary General Tendai Biti and Deputy Treasurer General Elton Mangoma raised the alarm in July 2014 following a tour of Budiro low income and high density suburb of Harare by its local government committee headed by former Harare Deputy Mayor Emmanuel Chiroto.

"The MDC Renewal is seriously concerned by the acute water shortages in Harare which is exposing its residents to communicable diseases such as dysentery and cholera."

"A local government committee of the MDC Renewal Team which was led by Emmanuel Chiroto today toured Budiro Suburb in Harare where it came face-to-face with

the appalling water shortages in the area", said the party in a statement.

Residents of Budiro reportedly told Chiroto that they have had no water supplies since January 2014 and are relying on unprotected wells for cooking, laundry, bathing and flushing the toilets.

"The residents further complained that the boreholes, which were sunk at the height of the 2008 cholera outbreak were no longer functioning resulting in a serious shortage of water and an outbreak of diarrhea especially among children in the suburb, ", said the Party.

"The residents feared that another outbreak of cholera was looming in the suburb. In 2008 Budiro Suburb was one of the hardest hit areas of the cholera outbreak which killed over 4000 across the country (Staff Reporter 2014).

With the water and water related challenges out of the way up next are the Harare storm water drainage systems, which is another potential killer if not properly managed.

City under fire over storm water drains (Jiri 2014)

Harare City Council has been rapped for failing to clear storm drains on time to arrest flash floods on city's streets. In an interview Harare Residents Trust Director Precious Shumba castigated the HCC for refusing to take heed of their advice to clear the drains ahead of the rain season.

"We advised the Councils' engineering department to clear the drains and wrote letters to them, but they did not respond," he said.

"The residents wanted the Council to solve the issue before the rains had started, instead they turned a deaf ear on the matter. Poor drainage system is causing flooding on the city streets and damaging properties" (Jiri 2014).

On Monday 17 November 2014, clogged drains and poor drains and poor drainage caused flash floods in various parts of the city, forcing some shops to close while some cars were submerged. Some residents pointed the failure by council to routinely collect rubbish which had caused the blockage of storm drains.

"The problem is that the responsible authorities do not collect litter on time, which in turn blocks water drains," said George Sand, a city resident.

"Litter is not being collected and the council is sleeping on the job. They are not clearing the drainage system on time and now they are panicking".

However, City Director of Works Engineer Phillip Pfwuka blamed littering on the City's flood woes. He urged people to use bins and designated rubbish dumpsites in order to minimize on rubbish that finds its way into drains.

"We have deployed teams along Baines Avenue, Highfield Road, Kenneth Kaunda, Reikai Tangwena and

Cameroon Street to clear catch pits and storm water drains”, he said (Jiri 2014).

“Road litter caused the major blockages of drains and we are currently carrying out an awareness campaign around town to encourage residents to use bins and designated points to avert littering”. (Jiri 2014)

Cited from Rusvingo (2008: 131) the spine chilling story of Madziire who was trapped to death by the HCC storm water drainage system is prime evidence of the sloppy storm water drainage practices of the HCC to resonate with the above story “City under fire over storm water drains” (Jiri 2014).

The sordid details on the story coming your way in just a moment.

Woman drowns to death in the Harare sewer reticulation (Makore 1994)

Like the rains on Sunday and Monday on 16 and 17 November 2014, on the early afternoon on 2 April 1994 Harare had experienced a severe downpour lasting several hours. The HCC Department of Works storm water drainage maintenance crew had all afternoon been repairing a damaged and leaking sewerage piping system on the corner of Julius Nyerere Way and Park Lane. On knocking off for the day the repairs in progress at the said site were recklessly abandoned without erecting a danger warning sign to other road users. In the said afternoon the whole of the central business district was covered in heavy floods which the poorly maintained Harare storm water drainage system had failed to cope with. The unsuspecting Madziire parked her vehicle on the near side of the flood covered Julius Nyerere way to take delivery of her child retired for the day from a full day care centre situated in the city centre. As the huckless Madziire negotiated her way through the high level muddy waters covering the flooded street she went straight into the gaping sewer piping under repairs by the neglectful Harare City Council storm water drainage maintenance crew and the last we read about her fate was the recovery of her body the next day about a kilometer away from the scene of the incident not only to leave behind the Harare City fathers with broken eggs streaming down their faces but a hapless kindergarten child then without its caring mother because of nothing else but the HCC gross negligence in the way they deliver shoddy services to the Harare Residents and Ratepayers. *Mwari neVadzimu venyika ino ivai netsitsi nemwana akasiwa senherera uye ne vagari vese vemuno muHarare* (meaning The Almighty God and the country’s Ancestral Spirits please have mercy not only on the then motherless child but also Harare Residents and Ratepayers (Makore 1994)

So much about the deplorable situation about the life threatening Harare storm water drainage system. To

follow after this tragedy is the Harare road network and its challenges coming your way in just a moment.

Harare Road network and its challenges

According to Rusvingo (2008:130) due to financial constraints the traditional practice of programmed road maintenance has been abandoned to leave the Councils road network under no regular care. The end result has been a road network infested with crater-like potholes which have not only become a permanent feature of the road network but force Harare motorists to drive in a zig-zag fashion to increase the chances of traffic accidents.

Against this background, so many times have the Harare Residents and Ratepayers heard about Council wages that have doubled leaving little revenue to finance service delivery, a norm where the HCC management prioritise a self serving agenda at the expense of a poor service delivery characterized by bad roads with crater-like potholes (Rusvingo 2008). Soon in mid-November 2014 it will be raining cows and donkeys and as a sign of poor service delivery which prioritise a self serving agenda by the HCC corporate leadership heaps of gravel will soon be dumped along the roads in a desperate attempt to patch up the Harare potholes-infested road network. The exercise of patching tarred roads with gravel, a practice which is rampant in Harare for lack of financial resources, year in year out, has not done any good to the poorly maintained Harare road network as the neglected potholes have grown to become dangerous ditches, making the roads impassable during the rainy season. *MuHarare hanzi ukaona muchairi asinganzvenge nzvenge anenge akadhakwa kana kuti anenge achichaira mota isiri yake.* (meaning Harare motorists waxing lyrical about the poor Harare roads have been caught saying any driver who drives straight without zig-zags to avoid potholes is either dead drunk or he is driving a company vehicle).

So much about another example of a poor service delivery by the perennially bungling HCC. Up next and hoping for a change of fortune is the seasonal service of grass cutting in open spaces and along road verges to expose night muggers to minimize traffic accidents. This coming your way in a matter of seconds.

Grass cutting in open spaces to expose night muggers in open spaces and along road verges to minimize traffic accidents

The story below on overgrown grass in open spaces and along road verges is a captive of the Harare Residents mood vis-à-vis the Harare poor service delivery in this sector. For more details on this please don’t go away as more details on this coming your way in just a moment.

Overgrown grass a cause for concern to Harare Residents (Staff Reporter 2014)

A local residents lobby group in Harare has called for the resignation of Town Clerk Tendai Mahachi for allegedly failing to adequately advise city fathers on important social issues and human resources management (Staff Reporter 2014).

The Harare Resident Trust (HRT) in a press statement said it was deeply concerned by the city's lack of preparedness as the rain season wrecks havoc with motorists and school children are in constant danger.

"The HRT is deeply concerned with the inaction of the City of Harare on the overgrown grass within all Harare communities. The city has experienced heavy rains in the past month a situation that has caused some flooding along main roads due to blocked drainage", HRT said in a statement (Staff Reporter 2014).

It added that the neglect of the overgrown grass has posed serious threats to motorists, pedestrians and school children in Harare.

"We place the blame on the City of Harare's Department of Housing and Community Services, whose responsibility is to ensure a safe environment for communities," a full Council meeting held on 15 December 2014 made a resolution to hire Ward based groups to cut grass within communities," HRT said (Staff Reporter 2014).

"But the Town Clerk Dr Tendai Mahachi advised the Council that there was a standing directive from the Minister of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development Honourable Dr Ignatius Chombo barring City of Harare from engaging part-time workers to cut grass at community level, HRT said.

It added that the excuse demonstrates the incapacity of the Town Clerk to properly advise the City of Harare on operational issues. HRT cited areas of Kuwadzana Phase 3 which it said had grass that has grown to the height of a meter high and Mbare's Stodart Community Hall and other Council recreation facilities creating safe breeding grounds for mosquitoes, snakes and hiding places for muggers.

"The City of Harare should not just watch as the life of school children is put at risk by some incompetent officials in Council. The committee as a policy making body of Council overseeing environment management should effectively represent the interest of residents and push the Town Clerk to make an urgent decision on grass cutting" the Trust said.

City spokesperson Leslie Gwindi in an interview said they were in the process of cutting grass and were not complaining on issues for personnel (Staff Reporter 2014).

"We are cutting grass. The rainy season and grass grows fast and it does not matter how prepared you are.

There are tractors all over and they are doing a good

job", Gwindi said.

There had been reports of muggings and traffic accidents allegedly caused by overgrown grass because road signs had become invisible while pathways had grown into bushes. (Staff Reporter 2014).

So far so good about the simultaneous relevant and related Literature Review and Research Methodology on grass cutting in Harare. How about its flip side i.e. the adverse consequences of grass cutting neglected in open spaces and along road verges. Details which the Author guarantees are a good prospect for you the beloved Reader coming your way in just a few seconds. The nerve wrecking story that follows is not for people of a nervous disposition.

An unidentified man found murdered near the National Sports Stadium (Muronda 2004)

Hanzi nevakuru vekare ndambakuudzwa akaonekwa nembonje pahuma (meaning ignore wise counsel at your peril). The Harare city fathers had, out of great concern caused by overgrown grass in the Harare environment implored the Town Clerk, Tendai Mahachi for permission to engage Ward based groups to cut grass to improve the safety of the Harare community to which he had replied with an emphatic "No" on the pretext of a standing instruction from Honourable Chombo, Local Government Minister. Below are the nasty consequences of Tendai Mahachi's refusal to cut overgrown grass in open spaces.

The grisly murder of Mbudzi of Kuwadzana, one of the high density and low income suburbs in Harare West is a tough lesson from which to learn the hard way on the need to regularly cut grass in Harare open spaces and along road verges to improve not only visibility on the roads but personal security from muggers thriving both during the day and at night (Rusvingo 2008:228) After work on the fateful night of 2 February 2004, Mbudzi had passed through the Harare famous Teresiken Nite club in the "enter at your own risk" Harare Avenues area for a drink or two since it was a happy Friday before the long week-end. He hooked up with a lady of the night whom he chose to drive to the isolated and quiet environment inside the grounds surrounding the isolated Harare National Sports Stadium which the unlucky Mbudzi thought would give him not only maximum security and privacy but a good hide out for "two birds in love" given the tall grass. The unsuspecting Mbudzi drove and parked his vehicle at an isolated spot under the cover of the tall grass in the precincts of the said National Sports Stadium. As he was being entertained by his "lady of the night" three men armed with machetes and other blunt murder instruments emerged from the dark night to demand cash and other precious possessions from the unsuspecting Mbudzi. Acting with the speed of lightning one of the armed men fatally struck Mbudzi with the

sharp edged machete to instantly kill him in cold blood while the other men, two armed robbers were taking turns to gang rape the “lady of the night” and after helping themselves to some cash, cellphones and other priced possessions the robbers and murderers disappeared into the dark night to leave behind them a deceased Mbudzi, a naked and thoroughly traumatized “lady of the night” and a murder case unresolved to this very day (Muronda 2004).

There for you is the spine chilling murder of an innocent Mbudzi who had no one else to blame but the Harare city fathers for a Harare service delivery long gone to the dogs. Another dog’s breakfast is the Harare street lighting. Details coming your way in just a moment in case you want to go away.

Harare street lighting a dog’s breakfast

According to Rusvingo (2008:8) the survey he carried out then established beyond reasonable doubt that street lighting in Harare was the worst ever service provided by the Harare City Council. Rusvingo (2008:134) went on to say that demand and supply of electricity do not match to create a chronic scarcity of electricity in Zimbabwe and the sub region. The land locked country can only generate 65% of its electrical energy needs. The shortfall of about 35% of the country’s energy needs is imported from the neighbouring countries of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Mozambique and South Africa. But the foreign currency shortage and the limited energy supply means that the imported quota of the country’s electrical energy needs is not adequate to balance demand and supply of its electrical energy. And because of this liquidity crunch or crisis which has persisted from the mid 2000s to date means that the external source of electricity is dying as reported elsewhere in this Paper. The unpleasant consequences of this are the load shedding of power outside the advertised power schedules to adversely affect its consumers, urban and rural alike. People waxing lyrical with ZESA have not only renamed it Zimbabwe Electricity Sometimes Available (ZESA) but have coined a narrative in condemnation of Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) by saying *Gara wagadzira magetsi eZESA asati aenda* (meaning the power supply by the perennially bungling ZESA is so erratic people have since ceased to rely on it). The power switch offs which come unannounced in all cases and in all areas for as many as seventeen hours a day, Monday to Sunday and January to December are a cause of nightmare for many Zimbabweans. (Rusvingo 2008: 135).

When you pile all these ZESA shenanigans on an already poorly maintained HCC public lighting the negative achievement is the letting of the cat among the pigeons (Rusvingo 2008).

Given the above dearth of energy in Zimbabwe it is not enough, to flight advertisements of Tocky Vibes (not his real name) on Radio stations such as ZiFM (ZiFM is one of two privately owned Radio stations in Zimbabwe who came on board in 2012. The move came in the wake of a public outrage calling for the liberalization of the airwaves by the government But the liberalization of radio stations was not liberalization per se as the new Radio station owners were senior members of ZANU PF, the ruling party in Zimbabwe since independence from Britain in 1980 to date) on the need to conserve electricity but to seriously think about what to do to restore normalcy in the power sector or risk a rebellion from the energy starved consumers.

Steps have already been taken by the Zimbabwean Authorities fearing a backlash from the troubled consumers. Details coming your way in just a moment.

Harare, Zambian firm in US\$4.5 million solar street lighting deal (Staff Reporter 2014)

The HCC has entered into a US\$4.5 million deal with Zambian firm Lamise Investments to put up solar street lights within the capitals central business district (CBD), the information source has established. Financial challenges have seen the City struggling to maintain and upgrade street lighting systems while as aforementioned, power shortages have compounded the situation. In October 2014 Council spokesperson Leslie Gwindi told the source that the city would need US\$60 million to revamp its lighting system, prompting the Municipality to consider installing a solar powered system to cut costs. The agreement with Lamise entails the Zambian firm putting up solar street lights along 16 streets in Harare at no direct cost to the local authority. The company will in turn get advertising rights on the street lights that it will have put up. The deal is valid for 15 years (Staff Reporter 2014).

The installation and commissioning of the lights will be done in two phases with a thousand lights expected to be put up under phase 1 and 1900 under phase 2.

“... HCC is desirous of issuing advertising rights to Lamise Investments to advertise on the installed solar street lights in return for the installation and commissioning of the solar street lights by Lamise Investments at no cost to Council in CBD area and selected streets in the municipal area of Harare..” read part of the agreement seen by the source (Staff Reporter 2014).

In terms of the deal, the Zimbabwean local authority is among a long list of obligations, expected to lobby government to allow Lamise to import the street lights duty free as well as approve the technical and engineering designs of the systems. Lamise on its part is

expected to maintain and repair the street lights, advertising boards and signs at its cost for the duration of the deal (Staff Reporter, 2014).

Harare Mayor Bernard Manyenyeni, town clerk, Tendai Mahachi and Lamise Investments managing director Walid El Mahas penned the deal on October 28, 2014. (Staff Reporter 2014).

While it is rare kudos for the perennially bungling HCC, there is one big disappointment about the deal signed between the HCC and Lamise Investments. The signed deal only focuses on the CBD of Harare at the total exclusion of public lighting in residential areas where most if not all the people reside. And there was no mention this service would be extended to the Harare residential areas both low and high density residential areas in due course.

Vanenzeve vanzwa. Vanemaziso vaona (meaning those with eyes and ears have seen and heard it from the horse's mouth.) For the relevant and related Literature Review and the Research Methodology to expose the Research Findings on the research topic the Author is done. What remain undone are the Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations. But of the three aforementioned it is the Summary first which is up next.

Summary

As the ignition key to the discourse in this Paper the Author starts with the long journey in this Paper regretting why he was born a Zimbabwean simply because of the amount of suffering and challenges he had to endure since birth to date.

First to challenge the Author was bad governance which is man made. Then sanctions which were also man made and then a host of other man made challenges including, but not limited to the HCC service delivery which has virtually gone to the dogs with no hope of a return to normalcy any time soon. The abnormal is what has come to be the normal in a utopia Zimbabwe with an unemployment rate of +/- 80% and an economy in deflation before recession.

Nhanga ruvanze (meaning the first to see the light of day) was the Harare water which from all the atrocious evidence gathered through the relevant and related Literature Review, Research Methodology and Research Findings was found to be a ticking time bomb and a fatal accident waiting to happen. A case in point was the 4200 Zimbabweans – who perished in the 2008 -9 cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe. Honourable David Parirenyatwa then Minister of Health and Child Care did not even utter a word of apology to the aggrieved relatives of those perished. As a way of a big thank you, people of Zimbabwe not unused to surprises any more woke up one day to be greeted with the bad news Honourable David Parirenyatwa had been recycled to the same

Ministry of Health and Child Care he had personally bungled in prior years.

The second born in the doubtful series was not only the life threatening storm water drains but also a killer in cold blood. The case in point was Madziire who on 2nd April 1994 met her fate before she could take delivery of her kindergarten child retired from full day care centre in the Harare CBD area.

The third born in the doubtful series was the Harare road network most notable for crater-like potholes which had become a permanent feature with no one among the Harare city fathers caring enough to have these life threatening potholes removed from our roads once and for all for the sake of peace of mind.

The fourth born in the doubtful series was the grass cutting in open spaces and along road verges to save human life and improve visibility on the City's roads. The Author will not spare the perennially bungling Harare Town Clerk, Tendai Mahachi his harsh words for the untimely death of Mbudzi found murdered near the National Sports Stadium in Harare. Tall grass which Tendai Mahachi had advised council not to cut on a standing instruction from another perennially bungling Local Government Minister, Honourable Chombo was directly responsible for the untimely death of Mbudzi near the Harare National Sports Stadium (Muronda, 2004).

And finally it was again Tendai Mahachi who presided over the signing ceremony between HCC and Lamise Investments to install solar powered street lighting in the Harare CBD area and under his (Tendai) watch the high and low density residential areas had been left out in the HCC – Lamise solar powered street lighting deal. (Staff Reporter, 2014).

With the Summary out of the way up next is the Conclusion of the study which is up next.

CONCLUSION

According to Rusvingo (2008) Kenkel (1984) defines a Research Hypothesis from which a Conclusion is derived as: "A statement about the value that a parameter or group of parameters can take"

According to Kenkel (1984:343): "The purpose of the Research Hypothesis testing is to choose two conflicting Research hypotheses about the value of a population parameter. The two Research hypotheses are named as the Null Research Hypothesis, denoted H_0 and the Alternative Research Hypothesis, denoted H_1 . These two Research Hypotheses are mutually exclusive so that when one is true the other one is false".

Therefore the definitions of a Null Research Hypothesis, H_0 and the Alternative Research hypothesis H_1 are that: "The Null Research Hypothesis represents an assumption or statement that has been made about some characteristic (or parameter) of the population

being studied. The Alternative Research Hypothesis, H_1 specifies all possible values of the population parameter that were not mentioned in the Null Research Hypothesis (H_0)”.

Therefore for the study in this Paper whose title is “The Harare City Council service delivery gone to the dogs” (2000-14) the Null Research Hypothesis (H_0) and the Alternative Research Hypothesis (H_1) Hypothesis in respect of this Paper titled as aforementioned shall respectively be:

H_0 : The Harare City Council service delivery has not gone to the dogs for lack of financial resources.

H_1 : The Harare City Council service delivery has gone to the dogs for lack of financial resources.

Given the overwhelming evidence given elsewhere in this Paper including its summary which was loud and clear for all to hear and see the Alternative Research Hypothesis namely;

“The Harare City Council service delivery has “gone to the dogs” for lack of resources is to be resoundingly accepted without preconditions while the Null Research Hypothesis as articulated above is to be resoundingly rejected for lack of supporting evidence.

With the exciting Conclusion of the study conveniently out of the way up next are the Recommendations of the study which are primarily designed to address what was not done right vis-à-vis the dying Harare City Council service delivery. The Author promises a “not to miss and feel good” part of this Paper. So if you were going away please don’t as more details on the exciting Recommendations coming your way in just a moment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Before the Author takes a somersault to address the Recommendation section of this Paper, first and foremost the concerned Author would in loud protest and before the world cameras want to say: Shame on you the Harare City fathers for presiding over so much loss of life and limbs when you were the very same people who were supposed to save the same neglectful loss of life and limb as reported elsewhere in this Paper.

- It is regrettable the talkative Author is being forced to say it for the second time in his world circulating publications that the partnership of the Minister of Local Government Honourable Chombo and the Harare Town Clerk Dr Tendai Mahachi must be destroyed here and now if the continuing loss of life and limb in Harare is to be averted.

- Speaking as a former HCC employee for 30 years at senior level the Author’s prayer is Honourable Chombo and Mahachi must go away from Local Government and HCC respectively if we are to avert loss of more life and limb in Harare.

- Sarcastically though very serious the Author wants to park his bus by saying for Mahachi he has become the world famous Suarez formerly of Liverpool Football Club of the English premier League. He is a world class striker emerging as the most decorated player after the 2013/14 soccer season. But on three occasions he had been caught on the wrong side of the law where he unashamedly was caught biting opponent players with the latest reported incident having taken place at the 2014 Brazil World cup held from 12 June 2014 to 13 July 2014 which was set to take all the glamour away from the world famous striker. Assuming he is now being played as a defender at Barcelona Football Club, his new club since after 2014 Brazil World Cup, he is now famous not for scoring genuine goals but own goals because Suarez, a world class striker is being played out position as a defender. The same is true about Mahachi at Harare Town House. He has a PhD in chemistry which makes the laboratory his natural workplace. But what is he doing at Town House as Town Clerk in a purely administrative job? To the Author who wants to call a spade a spade, what we have not done right for time immemorial is to employ a Town Clerk out of position and have people losing life and limb because of unsound advice on social and human resources which he gives to the HCC city fathers. *Mwari we nyasha dai maramba* (meaning God of mercy please forbid).

With the Recommendations done the focus in the next paragraph is to reassure the beloved Reader that all said and done in this Paper was above board. And the only way to achieve that is by way of a Key Assumption under which the Paper was prepared. Details on this is coming your way in just a moment.

Key Assumption

In presenting this Paper the articulate Author would, right from the outset, wish to reassure the beloved Reader through and through that all the facts and figures herein contained were articulately stated as they are on the ground without fear, favor, or prejudice. And the Author will hurriedly wish to add that the mission of this statement is to allay fears or doubt by the Reader and to give him/her peace of mind on the factual contents of this Manuscript in the wake of the somber and solemn atmosphere painted by the footprints of this Manuscript vis-à-vis the tasteless HCC service delivery reported gone to the dogs.

Given the above sentiments given in all honesty, probity and transparency it is as obvious as death coming after life that Zimbabwe as a country is in need of a short prayer especially after taking the beloved Reader through the rough ride terrain of a HCC service delivery long gone to the dogs. The Author being a Christian will take that

responsibility to lead the prayer for our well resourced and beautiful country in particular the HCC. Zimbabwe once touted as the bread basket of Africa is now sadly reduced to a hopeless basket case through nothing else but bad governance.

Short prayer for Zimbabwe in particular the HCC

Ngatinamatirei Zimbabwe nyika yedu yakaisvonaka samara. Ngativharei maziso tinamate tichiti: Mwari wamasimba ose, zvipo zvenyu hazvina kuringana nemashandiro kana muripo wedu. Sunungurai mwoyo nendangairo dzedu kubva muruchiva urwo rwunotiita varanda; itai kuti muhupenyu tive nerudo nokuzviramba kuburikidza nezvipo zvenyasha zvaKristu, anogara nekusingaperi. Amen.

(meaning: Let us pray for Zimbabwe, a well resourced country and HCC for the benefit of its suffering Harare residents and ratepayers. Let us close our eyes and pray as follow: Almighty and generous God, whose gift defies the balance sheet of ownership and just reward; free our hearts and minds from the envy which enslaves us, shape our lives to show your self-forgetting love, through Jesus Christ; the free gift of grace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit; one God now and forever. Amen). (Pew Paper 2014)

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