

NEWSLETTER

DEVELOPMENT WATCH VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

Accreditation of Election Observers and Voter Educators

Election observation is fundamentally an exercise in support of democracy. It helps to promote and protect the civil and political rights of participants in elections. Election observers aim to assess the conduct of an election process based on national and international election regulations. Even though they cannot prevent election fraud, they record and report suspicious practices that can lead to the correction of errors and weak practices.



02 COVID-19 and its impact on people's Operations in Zimbabwe:

The advent of the covid-19 inflicted direct implications on people's day-to-day lives. It has accelerated all forms of violence, as people have been trying to adjust their lives to survive. The poverty gap has been widened especially in Zimbabwe, where the poor become poorer and the rich get the opportunity to increase their wealth in different forms.

03 Insights on how natural capital plunder perpetuates the resource curse:

When proponents of the resource curse coined this paradox, partly it was in reflection of how huge deposits of minerals (natural capital) have failed to translate into improved sustainable socio-economic development in Africa and the Global South broadly.



Chirozva Rural Health Centre install solar-powered potable water: Chief Nyashanu the fountain of wisdom and the custodian of culture, customs, and traditions applauded the installation of the solar-powered system for his community. As a traditional leader, he facilitates development as codified in the Traditional Leaders Act (29:17) section 282(c).



Mukuru is one of the largest money transfer providers in Africa and a leading Next Generation Financial Services Platform that offers affordable and reliable financial services to the emerging consumer.



The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisation (NANGO) is sad to announce the passing on of the NANGO Executive Director

Leonard Mandishara

on Wednesday, 16th February 2022

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

- 1: Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.
- 2: He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up,

Romans 14:8

If we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

We continue to say '**May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace**'



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Statement on the passing on of **NANGO Executive Director, Mr. Leonard Mandishara**

16th February 2022

The NANGO Board, Membership, and Staff learnt with shock the untimely death of the Executive Director of the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisation (NANGO), Mr. Leonard Mandishara, who departed from this world just before midnight on Wednesday 16 February 2022. Mr. Mandishara has not been well for some time. He was admitted at Parirenyatwa Hospital for two weeks in January and received several pints of blood. On Monday, the 14th of February 2022, he became unwell and was admitted to Suburban Hospital where he eventually succumbed to cancer of the blood that he fought with for a while. He was survived by his wife, Dadirayi Mandishara, and their beautiful daughter, Anodiwanashe Mandishara.

Mr. Mandishara worked for the government of Zimbabwe in the Ministry of Macro Economic Planning and Investment Promotion from 2006 to 2013 as an Economist. He then joined NANGO as a Senior Economist in 2013 and was later promoted to the position of Executive Director in 2018. At the time of his death, Mr. Mandishara was a holder of a BSc. In Economics (UZ), MSc. in Economics, and several post-graduate qualifications. On the 11th of February 2022, he was approved for a Doctorate programme with the University of South Africa.

We are indeed saddened and at a loss of words, as much hope for NANGO was hinged on his able and humble leadership. We stand with the family during this difficult time of transition and continue to pray for the strength and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

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The NGO family has lost a strong Cadre and Champion of a just and equitable society for everyone irrespective of one's origin, sex, and beliefs. A young man who was full of promise but his candle burnout before he could accomplish his dreams for humanity. We live to continue the struggle.

We continue to say '**May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace**'

Issued by: **NANGO Board**

Ends//...

- I. The organisation must also -
 - i. provide information about the programmes in which the material will be used;
 - ii. provide the Commission with all the names, addresses, citizenship or residence status and qualifications of the individuals who will conduct voter education; and
 - iii. disclose the manner and sources of funding of its proposed voter education activities.

Accreditation of election observers

Election observation is a process 'of information gathering or fact-finding aimed at reaching an informed judgement about the credibility, legitimacy and acceptability of the electoral process and its outcome.'

ZEC issued out a call for application for accreditation as election observers for the national assembly constituency and local authority by-elections scheduled for the 26th of March 2022. Individuals representing local organisations from Zimbabwe wishing to apply for accreditation as observers must apply for accreditation indirectly to the Chief Elections Officer through the appropriate provincial elections officer in which the observer proposes to discharge their functions no later than 22 March 2022, as per the Electoral Act regulations. Foreign individuals and organisations apply directly to the chief elections officer.

Accreditation of election observers



The provisions regarding accreditation of observers are set out in the Electoral (Accreditation of Observers) Regulations, Statutory Instrument 89 of 2013. Applications must be received at least four days before the first day of polling/voting with the following considerations:

- 1) A local organisation wishing to apply for accreditation of its representatives as observers must be registered as a Private Voluntary Organisation or established under a notarial deed of trust that is registered in the Deeds Office
- 2) No consortium, confederation or similar association of local organisations may apply for accreditation of its members as observers; however, the consortium or association may apply for the members of its management team or secretariat to be accredited as observers.
- 3) No application for accreditation as an observer may be made by or on behalf of—
 - a) a person who has been convicted of any electoral offence or any other offence for which the person has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment without the option of a fine;
 - b) an organisation whose management consists of any member who has been convicted of any electoral offence or an offence involving fraud or dishonesty
- 4) Statutory bodies or independent Commissions established by the Constitution of Zimbabwe may apply for accreditation of their Commissioners, members of their governing boards and their secretariat staff as observers.
- 5) A foreign embassy based in Zimbabwe may make an application on behalf of its diplomatic staff or other nationals of its country (not exceeding five such persons who hold valid permits from the Department of Immigration) to be accredited as observers,

Accreditation Fees

Organisations exempted from paying the accreditation fees

Accreditation applicants are required to pay accreditation fees with the exemption of designated organisations such as the African Union; the Electoral Commissions Forum of the Southern African Development Community (SADC); electoral bodies in Africa performing functions similar to the Electoral Commission; embassies in Zimbabwe representing countries in Africa or any other organisations the Commission deems should be exempt.

Accreditation Fees

- A local observer will pay USD10 or ZWL equivalent at the prevailing bank rate;
- Observers from any country on the continent of Africa other than from the exempted organisations- USD20 payable in cash
- Embassies in Zimbabwe representing countries outside Africa – USD50
- Observers from a country outside Africa- USD100
- Media practitioners who are Zimbabwean citizens but who are working for foreign media houses- USD50
- Local media practitioners who are accredited with the Zimbabwe Media Commission- USD10 or ZWL equivalent at the prevailing bank rate.

Code of Conduct for election observers



Accredited observers are required to generally conduct themselves in a manner conducive to the peaceful,

dignified and orderly conduct of the poll and the electoral processes. The code of conduct for observers is set out in the First Schedule of the Electoral Act. The Code of Conduct requires observers to obey every lawful instruction of an electoral officer; not to hinder an electoral officer in the lawful conduct of his or her functions; not wearing apparel indicating any affiliation with a candidate or political party participating in the poll, wearing of a badge or label bearing proof that he or she has been duly accredited in terms of the Electoral Act, amongst other provisions.

Election observers play an important role in enhancing the transparency and credibility of elections. Their reports provide insight into the conduct of elections in the country and their recommendations are used for improvements for future electoral processes. If an observer considers that there has been any irregularity in the conduct of the poll or the counting of the votes, the observer shall bring such apparent irregularity to the attention of the presiding officer or constituency elections officer at the polling station concerned. CSOs can therefore play a critical role in influencing the attitudes of the public towards exercising their right to vote, promoting and maintaining peace before and after the elections through voter education, as well as influencing the acceptance of the results. By applying for accreditation, CSOs can therefore ensure that elections are conducted freely and fairly and promote good governance.

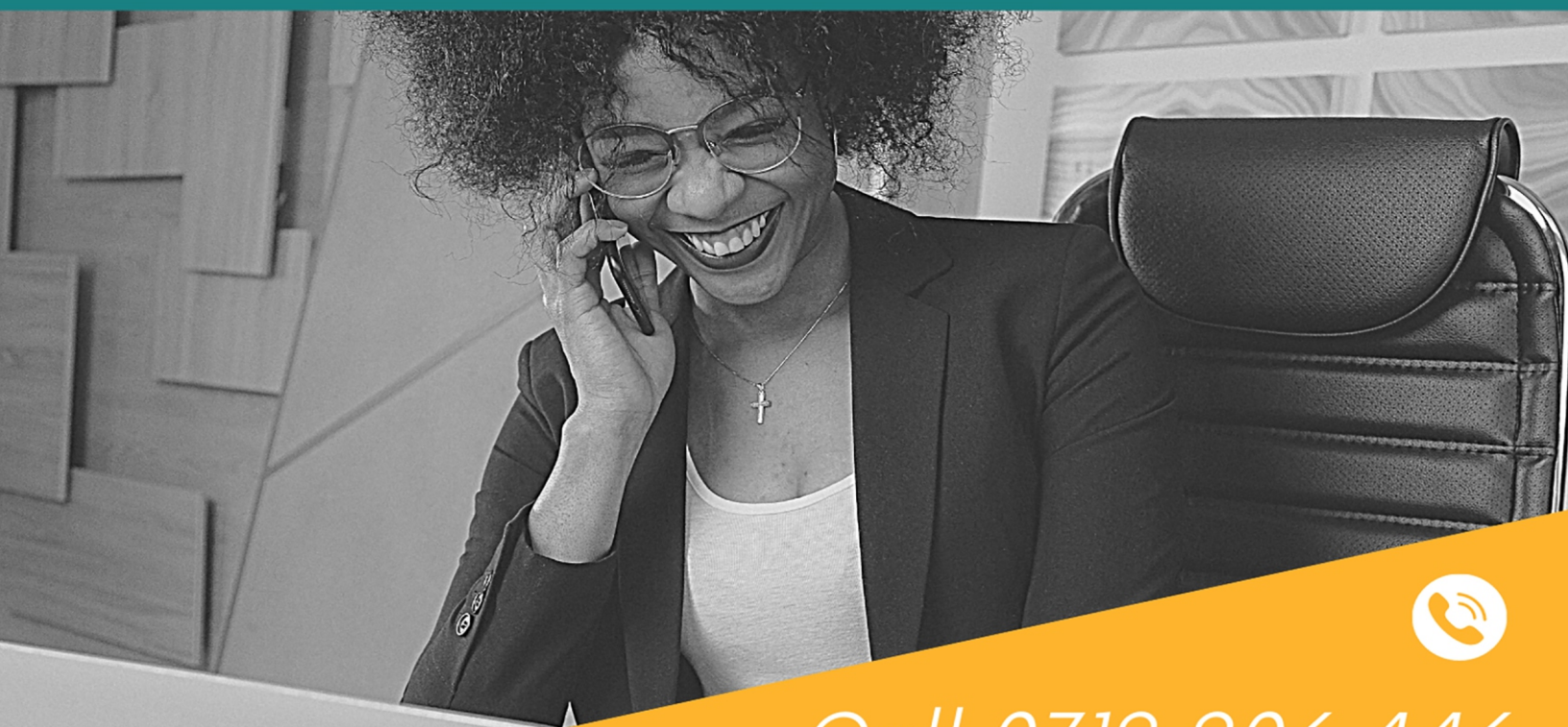


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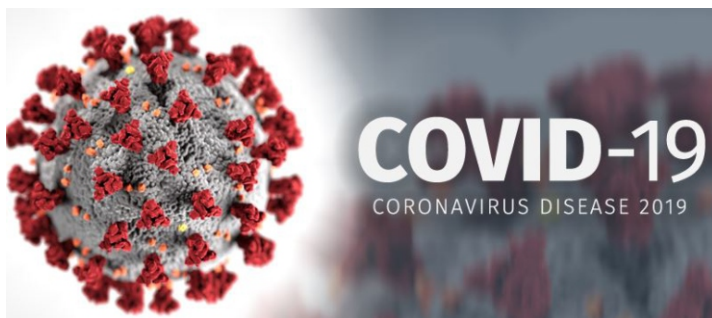
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COVID-19 and its impact on people's Operations in Zimbabwe



By: Staff Reporter

The advent of the covid-19 inflicted direct implications on people's day-to-day lives. It has accelerated all forms of violence, as people have been trying to adjust their lives to survive. The poverty gap has been widened especially in Zimbabwe, where the poor become poorer and the rich get the opportunity to increase their wealth in different forms.

Most families in Zimbabwe are sustained through the informal sector. This is due to the high level of unemployment that is in Zimbabwe that has made individuals create their jobs to sustain themselves and their families. High rates of unemployment in Zimbabwe have caused an economic and social ills which is manifesting itself through rampant drug and substance abuse, child marriages and significant increase in homeless children. This is further exacerbated by the incapacitation of the country to invest in adequate social protection mechanisms in a bid to cushion its citizens who are wallowing in deep poverty. Marginalised groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities continue to be disproportionately impacted by the scourge of COVID19 pandemic. In line with the aforementioned, the income disparities has been further widened. Whilst efforts are being made to rebuilding the nation in the country, the pace is slow and community resilience building is not fully embraced as part of COVID19 adaptation and recovery strategy. Moving forward it is imperative for the country to put redistributive strategies to empower those who are

socially excluded in the spirit of leaving no one and no place behind in the economic recovery efforts. Despite the impact of COVID19, it is still imperative for the countries to implement key programmes for the attainment of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

As the Covid-19 hit Zimbabwe, like all parts of the world most businesses, formal and informal were directly affected. This led to most reputable companies retrenching since they could no longer sustain the same number of employees and since the most companies have been operating sub optimally below their technical and allocative efficiencies. The informal sector was also affected as the cross boarder movements were restricted by the government as part of the COVID19 induced measures as the majority depends on importation of their inventories for business. This further relegate informal traders into poverty due to closure and restrictions on their spaces of operations.

Urban poverty is currently a cause for concern that require immediate attention. It is also worrying that the 2022 National Budget did not provide concrete solution to address the urban poverty and increased vulnerabilities to the urban population through expanding the social protection portfolio of the country. For the primary healthcare services, there is danger that children under the age of 10 in the urban areas may suffer from malnutrition due to food and nutritional deficiencies currently experienced in the urban areas of Zimbabwe. This recent Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC) report revealed exponential increase in urban poverty in the urban areas since the advent of COVID19 in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has recorded gains prior COVID19 on primary health care services as the country registered improvements in maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate.

Most breadwinners especially in the informal sectors were inconvenienced by covid 19 as they could no longer operate as they used to for their families. Covid-19 left a lot of people unemployed due to the shutting down of various companies that could no longer operate and those that cut down their staff because they could no longer pay their employees. This perpetuated income inequalities amongst populations as most people could no longer find help where they used to. Food became a scarce commodity for most people especially in the urban area and those in the informal sector as they could no longer operate as they used to before the pandemic. It became difficult for most families to sustain themselves.

Covid-19 has become a timely reminder on the need to prioritise mental health and wellbeing and psychosocial support due to high incidences of depression, hopelessness and fear instilled by the numbers of deaths and infections that

were presented on daily basis let alone for people who get infected with COVID 19. A lot had to be adjusted, to adapt to the situation although there was significant compromise of the people's social cohesion and interactions. Several suicide cases and mental-related illnesses were on the rise within this period.

Resilience has become an important ingredient for safeguard people to survive through the pandemic. The Government was proactive in procuring vaccines to help its citizens fight the pandemic. Most businesses resorted to digital networking as a way to continue with their operations and adhere to the Covid-19 rules. Since the time that the pandemic commenced, people now know how to work and how to deal with the virus which has made things much easier than they were before.



Insights on how natural capital plunder perpetuates the resource curse

When proponents of the resource curse coined this paradox, partly it was in reflection of how huge deposits of minerals (natural capital) have failed to translate into improved sustainable socio-economic development in Africa and the Global South broadly. This notion of “poverty in the midst of plenty” was for the Global South, an

acknowledgement that when natural capital is exploited and sustainably utilised, it can redeem millions of resource-endowed communities out of poverty. Therefore, modelling development using the capital approach in its broad sense from natural, human, social, manufacturing and financial capital becomes key.

Civilisation aims to then ensure that all these capitals are managed sustainably, improved over time, and are equally nourished through strong governance systems.

In flourishing communities, strong and resilient social institutions, thriving natural ecosystems, and a stable climate underpin economic and societal prosperity. The root of this is an understanding of the symbiotic relationship between sustainable exploitation of natural resources and financing of socio-economic development.

However, for the Global South, inheriting capitalism, austerity, and development assistance often with stringent conditions, has exposed its human, social, and manufactured capital to the benevolence of the global financial architecture. The International Financial Institutions (IFI) drive profit agendas altruistic to national development visions, that are modelled to meet peculiar country needs, to maximise the value of natural capital. Financial capital resultantly drives mining operations, with little considerations for host communities that bear the negative impacts of operations. It also dictates prices of natural capital (mineral commodities) at an international level, while engaging in aggressive tax planning and maximising financial returns.

Mining is a capital-intensive venture with negative environmental impacts and social costs to host communities not the least, direct violence against communities, land and water grabbing. It also leads to unfair displacements of communities, pollution, and sacrilege of cultural norms and values by extractive industries.

A tale of lofty mining targets, with low output

Mining has significantly failed to transform the economic fortunes of the Global South, including Zimbabwe, where there is a general lack of socio-economic development in communities endowed with natural resources. Governments in the global south continuously fail to

maximise revenue generation, lag on the transfer and distribution to sub-national authorities, and focus on equitable revenue sharing from extractive projects to local government, institutions, or directly to citizens.

For Zimbabwe, where the mining sector underpins the vision for an Upper Middle Income Country status through the development of a US\$12 billion mining industry by 2030, this ambitious target is flaunted by lack of transparency, accountability, and secretive contracts. The Auditor General's 2019 report on State-Owned Enterprises and Parastatals, shows that SOEs performance in the mining sector was underwhelming with several governance issues, previously raised continuing unabated by the Mineral Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ).

Similarly, Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC) which replaced former mining companies in Chiadzwa also gets a negative assessment for failing to fulfil its objectives of remitting diamond revenue to the fiscus. Revenue loss risks, therefore, remain high as ZCDC continuously fails to account for diamond revenue. Auditor General Chiri states this could have been facilitated by using non-existent companies as a conduit for siphoning public funds. To avert this, the names of ZCDC's debtors must be revealed and operations in Marange diamond fields should meet international standards for the sector where they are monitored to mitigate against financing conflict or other illicit and criminal activities.

A Chinese-Zimbabwean military venture, Anjin, returned and was handed one of the country's most lucrative diamond-producing blocks, despite past problems of failing to remit diamond revenue to the national fiscus. ZCDC's security standards for the company have deteriorated despite investments into autonomous central monitoring systems, state security assistance, and aerial monitoring. Illegal miners under politically connected syndicates are still operational on the ground and encroach in concessions.

Civil society organisations, including Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), the Centre for Research and Development (CRD), and the Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) have raised concerns over the diamond sector. The annual Diamond Security Indaba hosted by ZCDC has been used to lobby and advocate for the implementation of minimum-security standards, respect of the business, and stop human rights violations, which for a while restricted the sale of local gems. While diamonds from Zimbabwe have Kimberley Process certification, which means they are supposed to be traceable, questions on accountability and transparency in the country's diamond-mining sector persist.

In the gold sector Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) facilitated by

corrupt state officials, porous border posts, and vulnerable artisanal miners erode an estimate of US\$100 million monthly as revealed from a conservative summation issued by the Minister of Home Affairs Kazembe Kazembe.

Transparency initiatives like the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) are then able to provide guides to national authorities on enhancing the management and utilisation of revenue, royalties, and taxes from the mining sector. In meanwhile chaotic mining operations, directly financed by the elite, politicians, dubious foreign investors and concealed beneficial owners are leading to huge revenue losses in Zimbabwe and should be stopped forthwith.

Chirozva Rural Health Centre install solar-powered potable water



By: *Buhera Residents Network Trust.*

Chief Nyashanu the fountain of wisdom and the custodian of culture, customs, and traditions applauded the installation of the solar-powered system for his community. As a traditional leader, he facilitates development as codified in the Traditional Leaders Act (29:17) section 282(c). Chief Nyashanu was quoted saying, "this is a good initiative, the nursing staff will stay longer at the health facility and the Health Centre Committee is working very hard".

The health staff and health centre committee in turn praise the traditional leadership support system as the veins and

arteries of development in the health sector in the community.

Section 77 of the Zimbabwean Constitution provides that every person has the right to safe, clean, and potable water. The health staff at Chirozva clinic were facing challenges in accessing clean water within the proximity. They were forced to rely on community wells as their borehole was old and susceptible to frequent breakdowns at least once every two (2) months.

The Covid-19 pandemic placed a spotlight on the water accessibility state of affairs in the district. In 2021, the government initiated measures to address the water crisis in Buhera as a whole. A blitz to drill boreholes was executed at Chirozva Clinic, Betera Clinic, Masasa Clinic, Zangama Clinic, Mutiusinazita Clinic, and Chimbudzi Clinic to mention just a few. Chisipite Drilling was sourced to carry out the above-mentioned sustainable water projects. Chisipite Drilling also provides other services such as borehole flushing, rehabilitation and deepening, pump installation, and tank installation.

Chisipite Drilling is available on sales@chisipitedrilling.co.zw or [+263712883299](tel:+263712883299) / [+263773511249](tel:+263773511249).

On 21 January 2022 Future Projects Africa carried out tests to measure the water capacity. The Chirozva clinic water table showed a high yielding water capacity that can sustain the water demands of the growing health facility.

On the day before the reopening of the 2022 school calendar, Chisipite Drilling installed a 5000 litre Mega tank and the tap. The solar panels were fitted to trap maximum sunshine and capitalise on the clinic's location in the high arid region of Buhera Central.

Embracing alternative forms of renewable energy is most welcome given the unreliability of hydropower resulting from climate change.

The Health Committee Chairperson of Chirozva clinic Mr. C Kandenga (Musiya Mwema) was elated to see progress in Water and Hygiene during his tenure of office.

The health staff expressed their joy in the initiative as it allows them to venture into nutritional gardening. One of the children of staff was heard whispering, "*saka mhamha takumwawo mvura yemupombi kunge kutown here (so mum we now drink tap water like in town)?*".

Chisipite Drilling officers taught the staff the necessary precautionary measures when operating the system. They were advised that the pump has a sensor that automatically switches on and off when the tank is full. They were also told to be wary of lightning and to keep children away from the water farm.

Buhera Residents Network Trust also witnessed the installation of floor tiles at the Chirozva clinic. The district is embracing environmentally friendly initiatives as well as the spirit of urbanising rural public institutions. Leaders have a big role in being catalysts of change and catapulting progress despite being remotely located.

Buhera Residents Network Trust challenges other public institutions to replicate this kind of development, to work together with local leaders, civic society as well as residents to make fruitful decisions that impact future generations positively.

Residents are also encouraged to attend developmental meetings to remain informed of what is transpiring within their localities.



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Mukuru is one of the largest money transfer providers in Africa and a leading Next Generation Financial Services Platform that offers affordable and reliable financial services to the emerging consumer.

The foundation of our business was built by providing the continent's migrant diaspora with safe, convenient international money transfers. From this base we have grown a wide range of products and services that take their cue from our customers' needs and aspirations for greater financial security and a better life.

To this end, we continue to build a highly robust and resilient physical and digital financial payments infrastructure across Africa that unlocks new value-added services for our loyal customers.

As a fintech provider, Mukuru has underpinned its successful customer engagement strategy with the ability to 'speak the language' of its users and gain grassroots understanding of the unique pain points each consumer faces in each market. Our service leverages over 170 Mukuru Orange Booths and a partner network of over 500 locations to facilitate swift and secure USD cash remittances in Zimbabwe.

Mukuru has more recently expanded into business-to-person transfers, leveraging its extensive physical and digital value chain in Southern Africa to provide regional payroll, bill settlement and humanitarian aid services to organisations' within the NGO sector. It is fiercely committed to its corporate social responsibility across geographies, showing care for vulnerable persons through tailored customer journeys and support interventions.

Mukuru's Enterprise Payment Platform offers aid organisations and employers a tech-based solution to distribute humanitarian aid. Mukuru uniquely operates a fully independent and resilient international USD and ZAR cash supply chain in Zimbabwe. Operational capacity is

designed for scale, with our cash logistics and physical cash disbursement footprint able to respond rapidly to changes in remittance volumes or geographic reach.

Mukuru offers a cost effective, fast and fully traceable way to payout aid and grant money that support millions of the most vulnerable people in the world. Payments can take place from any country and tailored foreign exchange solutions allow for local or international source of funds. Mukuru can payout in accordance with any aid organisation's policies.

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