

ISSUE 7 | JULY 2024

The ZACRAS

Your voice from the communities

IRWAVES



New Baby on the Block: ChiTown FM, a promising Community Radio Initiative





FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Greetings

Welcome to the July edition of the ZACRAS Airwaves!

The month of July marks the end of the first half of the year 2024 and as ZACRAS we hail the immense power that community radio stations hold in fostering dialogue and we would like you to be part of our journey of empowering communities through informing, educating and entertaining marginalized communities.

The month of July was long, I am happy that July 2024 is done and dusted as it brought mixed emotions- cries and laughter and the weather didn't help as it went south at some point with extremely cold weather and a sudden turn of hot temperatures.

This edition is packed with updates from the community broadcasting sector that took place during the month and we continue to provide information to communities in Zimbabwe and also uplifting their voices through our various platforms. We will be sharing essential issues on local developments from all the corners of the country as the closest tool to communities in the margins as we believe that community radios bridge in the information gap between the urban and rural folks.

We are also taking this opportunity to celebrate the appointment of the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) Board Members who we were appointed during the month as it now means that any moment from now we will be hearing more on the anticipated Call for Licensing of more community radio stations as the government has said in various platforms that 5 community radio stations will be licensed in 2024 and as ZACRAS we hope the call will also consider communities of interests as well.

On a very sad note, as we stepped into the mid-month of July, were reminded of how precious life is as we mourned the passing on of our own Mr Trevor Mtisi- the Station Coordinator for Kumakomo Community Radio. In this edition we also pay tribute to our community radio hero and we continue praying for his family and loved ones.

We hope that this newsletter will not only inform but also ignite new ideas and encourages you to keep pushing the boundaries of what community radio can achieve. Together, we are not just listeners and broadcasters; we are changemakers and we are family.

Thank you for your continuous support and for being the voice of our communities.

Sandra Mazunga
ZACRAS National Coordinator



2 Born in Gutu in 1975, Energy Bara is the Secretary of the ZACRAS General Council. He enjoys watching television and he is of sober habits.

He is currently the Station Manager for Wezhira Community Radio and he has held several posts in the media sector and this includes the Masvingo Advocacy Chairman for the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)

He is a holder of a Diploma in Mass Communication obtained from the Harare Polytechnic; he is also a certificate holder of the following:

• Reporting During Transitional Times from the University of South Africa

• International Broadcasting Certificate from the Voice of America

Energy Bara has a degree in English and Communication Studies obtained from Zimbabwe Open University.

Work Experience

- 1999–2003 Bureau Chief – Daily News
- Also Acted as the Daily News Branch Administrator in Masvingo Province
- Filed stories for the British Broadcasting Corporation as the Southern Zimbabwe Correspondent during Election Times.
- 2003 – 2008 Bara worked for several online publications among them the Zimbabwe Times, Zimonline Radio VOP and the Zimbabwean.
-
- 2008 –2012 Masvingo Correspondent for Voice of America, Studio 7
- During elections he has filed stories for BBC Focus on Africa, BBC World Service and BBC News Online



IN LOVING MEMORY

Trevor
Mtisi



For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Always remembered by the entire ZACRAS Family

TRIBUTE TO TREVOR



Waenda mukomana.
Aenda murefu
Vatungamira baba vevana
Asvova zvake mudzidzisi
Tose takavarairwa
Wokubvunza hapana apa

Musimboti wedzinza rose
Atisiya kunge jee imi
Ndaiti manyepo
Nepo ichokwadi
Rufu kutinyangira
Kutisiya tine tariro zhinji
Kusiya ngoma yoda kunakidza

Mukuru wewairesi aenda
Mutyairi wengoro kuenda
Kuenda mbire here imi?
Kuenda pasina kuoneka
Tarwadziwa vadikani
Tabaiwa panyama nhete
Kubaiwa nerakagomara

Atinzvenga zvake Trevor
Kuita fanika kurota nhai
Kuita sendichamuona
Achinyemwerera zvake
Kuita sedambe hama imi



**TREVOR MTISI
MHSRIP**

Aenda zvake wedu munaku
Isu vasara tabaiwa
Misodzi haisi kupera
Ndangariro dzinotirwadza
Apa Trevor watirwadzisa

Waenda hako iwe
Asi wasiya gomba
Wasiya gomba pamoyo
Hameno tinorivhara nei
Wasiya vende shamwari
Tinomuwana kupi umwe
Umwe anenge iwe Gunshot
remadunhurirwa

Waenda zvako muera shiri
Ufambe zvakanaka
Murwendo rwako urwu
Kuda tichasangana
Nerimwe remazuva

Nyanduri : Shiridzinomwa Elvis



12 YOUNG JOURNALISTS GRADUATE FROM ZCMIL'S INNOVATE 360 PROJECT



By Desire Kateyera

TWELVE young journalists who were selected for the Innovate 360 Programme graduated this month after completing a 6 month programme facilitated by the Zimbabwe Centre for Media and Information Literacy (ZCMIL).

The programme, which was launched in January this year will go a long way in transforming media houses using technology.

Posting on Medium earlier this year, Divine Dube, the founder of ZCMIL said that the projects are aimed at exploring cutting-edge technology solutions, such as an AI-powered news discovery tool and a gamified audience engagement system. He also said that other projects will focus on leveraging social media platforms and developing strategic distribution networks.

In addition to their real-world projects, participants will undergo rigorous training on topics such as

audience growth tactics, innovative revenue streams, and product development and management," he added

Among the key speakers were Dr Tawedzerwa Musitini from Internews and Rebecca Archer-Knepper the Public Diplomacy Officer at the US Embassy.

Musitini gave nuggets on reimagining the Zimbabwe Media Sector for the Digital Age and pointed out a few pathways for the future of the media.

The event also saw an Industry Insights Panel discussion from Pilate Machadu (CEO-Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe; Vongai Muzenda (CEO-AB Communications) and Farai Machamike (Managing Editor- Kukurigo) focusing on Monetization of content and growing audiences in light of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the digital era.

4 graduates from the programme were given a chance to spotlight their innovations.



CHITOWN FM, LOTSHA FM CONVENE INAUGURAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS



By Desire Kateyera

In a move to amplify the concerns and perspectives of local communities, ChiTown FM and Lotsha FM held their inaugural community engagement meetings that brought together residents, community leaders, and local authorities to discuss community issues.

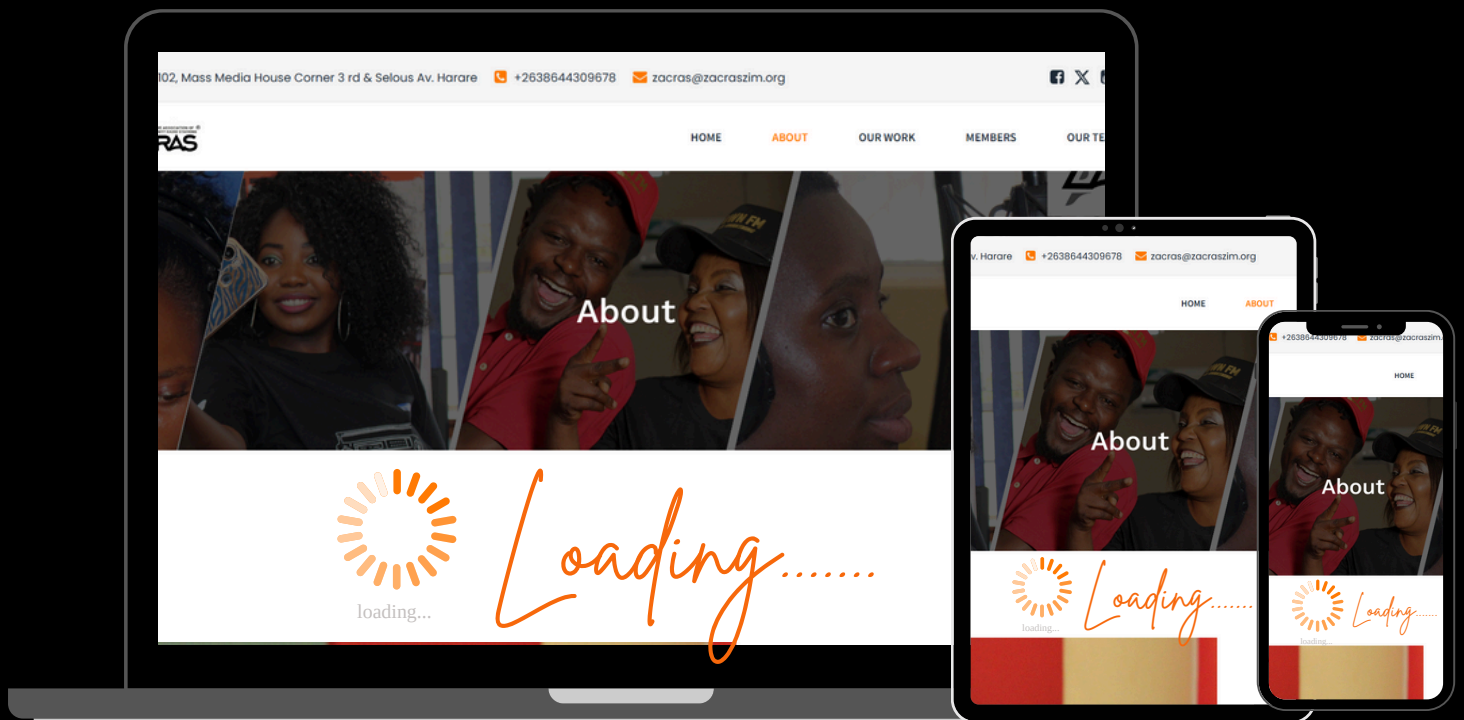
ChiTown FM, a recently established community radio initiative, hosted its first such meeting, supported by the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations (ZACRAS). The gathering provided a platform for community members to directly engage with local authorities and discuss pressing issues affecting the area.

Lotsha FM also convened its inaugural community engagement meeting, fostering dialogue between residents and local leaders. Lotsha, a Community Radio in the border town of Beitbridge sought to leverage the community meeting to amplify grassroots voices and foster accountability.

Community radio stations like ChiTown FM and Lotsha FM are vital in giving marginalized communities a voice. These meetings demonstrate the power of participatory communication to drive positive change at the local level and ZACRAS has for years availed such platforms to communities.

Both ChiTown FM and Lotsha FM plan to build on the momentum generated by these initial community meetings, vowing to continue serving as conduits for community engagement and advocacy. As these grassroots media initiatives take root, they hold the promise of elevating the concerns of ordinary citizens and holding duty-bearers accountable.

Are you ready for a RADIOVOLUTION? WE ARE REVAMPING OUR! Website!



www.zacraszim.org



@zacrasonline



WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS CALL FOR GENDER SENSITIVE REPORTING IN THE MEDIA

By Sandra Mazunga

Women's rights organizations have called for gender-sensitive reporting in the media to ensure that coverage of gender-related issues is fair, accurate, and free from bias.

This call stems from the recognition that media plays a powerful role in shaping public perceptions and attitudes toward gender roles, equality, and women's rights.

The call was made at an Engagement Meeting that was convened recently by Women's Coalition in Zimbabwe (WCoZ) in partnership with Women in Politics Support Unit (WiPSU) and Gender & Media Connect with support from UNWOMEN under the theme Beyond Elections: Advancing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) in Media.

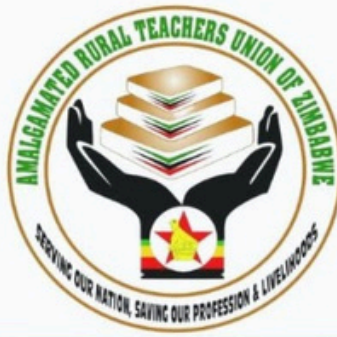
The engagement was held following the gaps that have been noted in the media landscape in Zimbabwe when it comes to reporting in various issues of gender equality and therefore the engagement provided the journalists with an overview of Gender Equality and Normative Framework (Regional, Continental and Global Instruments such as CEDAW, Beijing +30, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 and the National instruments in the country that are advancing GEWE.

Cluster members from WCoZ were given an opportunity to unpack priorities for media coverage and the women's movement encouraged more inclusive and equitable coverage in the media and not to perpetuate stereotyping, misrepresent or underreport.

The key takeaways were:

- Media is key in advancing women's empowerment and gender equality
- Media to uphold the principles of gender mainstreaming an equality
- Media to promote a balanced and non-stereotyping portrayal of women
- Media to amplify the voices of women, girls. Give voice to women Promote diversity and inclusion
- Let women make noise, women make news. Change the narrative

The Convening was attended by representatives from the women's rights organisation, Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC), Zimbabwe Gender Commission, journalists from various media houses including community radio stations.



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EDUCATION REPORTING**



Pauline Chateuka

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Corah FM

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INCESSANT WATER SHORTAGES CREATE STRIFE BETWEEN RATE PAYERS AND ZINWA

By Fortune Nkomo in Tsholotsho

Angry residents have found themselves in a blame game catastrophe, where they label ZINWA as a failing entity due to erratic water supply, which has become a thorn in the flesh.

Many believe that the handover of water reticulation systems from the Tsholotsho Rural District Council (TRDC) to the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) marked the demise of adequate water supply in the face of urban growth. Zhouwane Community Radio Station Chairperson Mr. H. Mpofu is of the notion that, "ZINWA must come to us and clarify why Tsholotsho is dry or rather return the equipment that was removed when the TRDC was running the show. Members of Parliament, Councilors, and traditional Leaders are quiet about the water crisis in Tsholotsho."

Mr. Mpofu argues that the coming of ZINWA has led to the vandalism of many boreholes, and some were piped which are located in the following sites: Mukombe, behind ZRP, opposite the Post Office, two near GMB, and one near the bus terminus.

However, ward 11 Councilor Mr. V. Ntibane believes that the water crisis will soon be history, though he cannot deny that the situation is bad. We have good relations with ZINWA through "Call to Action," which is in line with Vision 2030, where departments and local authorities share reports. As such, we are fully aware of developmental strides at DDF and ZINWA quarterly. We intend to resuscitate all defunct boreholes by solarising them through the WASH program and through Public-Private Partnership, he said. However, he declined to disclose the budget.

The Local Councilor further acknowledged that the grievances raised are not false since water is only available approximately 4 to 10 out of thirty days and the gauntlet is always directed to unavailability of electricity. The whole of Mvundlana suburb is not connected to any ZINWA line.

A concerned resident, Mr. Rodney Rubvuta claims that "ZINWA officials always complain of a low water table and old pipes, ignoring the looming Cholera hazard as the whole CBD, including Hololo, Efusini, Hlalani Kuhle, and Mvundlana suburb residents, resort to open defecation."

When asked for a comment, the ZINWA Tsholotsho District Operator in Charge, Mr. Ranganai Manzungu, said, "I am not allowed to speak to the Press without clearance from the Corporate and Communications Manager." It is therefore difficult for the outraged Citizens to get immediate solutions since all Communications should go through the ZINWA CEO, Directors, management and all departmental heads.



OMAMA BATHAKAZELELA USUKU LWE HEPATITIS B

By Patson Ncube in Gwanda

GWANDA—Omama lamantombazana asakhulayo bebethe gwaqa edolobheni lase Gwanda, eBrethen International Church of Christ lapho abekade bejabulela usuku lwe hepatitis.

Inhlanganiso ezibona ngempilakahle yabomama iWomen Coalition Of Zimbabwe (WICOZ), iCentre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS (CeSHHAR), kanye ne National Family Planning (NFP) bezikhona ukuzohlomisa omama ngolwazi oluphathelele lokuzithuthukisa kunye lokuqakatheka kwamalungelo abomama.

Umgcini sihlalo wogatsha lwe (WICOZ) obona ngeziphathelane labomama abasakhulayo uSithembinkosi Gumbo uthe ukuthakazelela usuku lolu kuqakathekile kubomama ngoba bethola ulwazi lokuzivikela emkhuhlaneni lowu.

"Namhla njengabomama beGwanda siyjabula kanye labomama bonke emhlabeni wonke jikelele sinanza usuku lolu olwe Hepatitis B. Sixhaswe ngabezempilakahle ukuthi bazosifundisa ngomkhuhlane lowu ukuthi sibelolwazi ukuthi ungumkhahlane mhlobo bani njalo ubangelwa yini lokuthi singawuvikela kanjani," kusitsho unkosazana Gumbo.

Unkosazana Gumbo uthakazelele imfundiso evela kwabezempilakahle ngoba ethi izasiza omama ekulwisaneni lobhubhane lomkhuhlane lowu.

"Okusijabulisayo namhlanje yikuthi abezempilakahle basifundise okunengi ebesingakwazi njalo kuzasiza omama abakade bephathekile kuhlelo lolu. Ngoba sinanzelela ukuthi kuba lendaba ezikhulunywayo ngomkhuhlane lowu ezingadukisa omama zibangele ukuthi bengatholi usizo olufaneleyo kwabezempilakahle ngakho ke lokhu kuzavula ingqondo zabanengi babelokuqedisisa bavikeleke."

Okhangele ngoku qhutshwa kwenhlelo kunhlanganiso ye National Family Planning uMongikazi uOnnie Mupunga uthe iHepatitis B ngumkhuhlane ohlasela isibindi .

"iHepatitis B ngumkhuhlane ohlasela isibindi ubangelwa ligcikwane le virus.Umkhuhlane lo uyakwanisa ukuthi uhlele okwesikhatshana emzimbeni kumbe uphile lawo impilo yakho yonke ngoba amavayirasi amanengi kawayelapheki kodwa ayavikeleka ngokungena emacansini sivikele ngekhondomu, ngokungangeni emacansini njalo lokuxwaya ukusebenzisela izinto ezihlabayo.

"Omama kumele baziphathe kuhle babe yisibonelo ekuvikeleni umphakathi emikhuhlaneni lokumemetheka kwayo," kusitsho unkosazana Mupunga.

Ukhuthaze omama ukuthi bayehlolwa umkhuhlane lowu emtholampilo.

"Asihambeni ngobunengi ezibhedlela siyehlolwa imikhuhlane etshiyeneyo mahala kungelandleko. Silabo omama elihlala labo emawadini abakhangele ngenhlelo zempilakahle kasisondeleni siyobhalisa kuzasisiza nxa sesithe savakatshela emtholampilo."

UGrace Gumbo olilunga lenhlanganiso yeWICOZ ongumhlali kaward 7 uthe sekuthe dlwe kuye mayelana lomkhuhlane lowu ngoba ubesemnyameni.

"Ngifunde ukuthi umkhuhlane we Hepatitis B uthelwani njani njalo ngabuya ngafunda ngomkhuhlane wofuba ukuthi nxa umuntu elawo kumele ahlale endaweni etshaya umoya sikhathi sonke ngokuhlala amafasitela evuliwe Kanye lokuhlala phndle okubetha khona umoya," kusitsho unkosazana Gumbo.

uThandekile Sibanda ongomunye obephathekile kuhlelo lolu olilunga lenhlanganiso yabomama abasakhulayo uthe ufunde kakhulu ngemikhuhlane etholakala kubomama.

"Ngifunde ngemikhuhlane eminengi etholakala kubomama ikakhulu leyi ephathelane ngobuhlungu emzimbeni, kuvuvuka kwembilaphi ukuthi zimpawu ezitshingisa ukuthi kuyabe kukhona okungahambi kahle emzimbeni ngakho ke kumele ozizwa enjalo asondele kwabezempila kahle athole usizo, " kusitsho unkosazana Sibanda.

UMervis Ngwenya uthe intsha ilenhlanhla ngokuthola izifundo ezihle ezifundisa ngokuthi omama mele baziphathe njani.

"Intsha yanamuhla ilenhlanhla ngoba ithola imfundiso yokuthi baziphathe njani njengabomama bakusasa thina asizange salithola lelithuba.Ngikhuza njalo intsha labadala ukuthi mele sizimisele ekulwiseni lokumemetheka kwemikhuhlane njalo sivikele masingena emacansinsini."

"Okunye okumemethekisa imkhuhlane yikungananzwa kwamalungelo abomama kucina kusenza besabe ukuthi batshele omkabo ukuthi bavikele nxa sebesesikhathini socansi," kusitsho unkosazana Ngwenya—*Ntepe-ManamaFM*



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Joseph Andrasi

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July Photo Dump





COUNCIL TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS WHO DODGE SERVICE CHARGES

By Fortune Nkomo in Tsholotsho

Dr. Malandule, the treasurer of Tsholotsho Rural District Council urged Tsholotsho business and residential property owners to commit themselves to paying outstanding and current service charges.

Speaking at the community engagement meeting held at the Roman Catholic Hall on the 1st of August 2024, Dr. Malandule outlined that, "The billing system is dead, and if the local authority does not collect revenue as anticipated, the authority will automatically face consequences, and there won't be any development." The council has been struggling to raise adequate funds to smoothly render its services in Efusini, Hlalani Kuhle, Hololo, and Mvundlana suburbs.

The local authority had budgeted US\$1,900,000.00 for the year 2024 through the selling of new stands. However no stands have been sold as it is a crime to sell serviced land, according to Chapter 20:18 of the regional, Town and country Planning Act (1996), section 68 prohibits the sale of serviced land in urban areas, and make it an offense punishable by a fine or imprisonment. In that regard, the Council is obliged to first service its stands by engaging private developers with the local government overseeing the processes.

To ensure that the processes work efficiently home owners and the business community should play a pivotal role in supporting the Council by paying services charges that are pegged at US\$144.00 for high density suburbs, US\$178.00 Medium density suburbs and US\$216.00 for low density suburbs annually.

However the community complained of council's high bills and refuted legal action against those failing pay on time adding that 2024 is a difficult year as people are suffering from devastating El-Nino induced drought. They requested the Council to come up with a payment plan for the amounts they owe.

The Council will make use of Zone Leaders to create a database of properties with owners who avoid payments of lease and service charges, forcing the Council to remain with no option than to take legal action.

GUESS THE COMMUNITY RADIO STATION



Send your answers on WhatsApp or
via text to 0774844502.
Answer in the next Issue.

**Last Edition's Answer:
INGQANGA**



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