



MUNICIPALITY OF CHEGUTU

Newsletter

Issue 3 September 2018

Volume No.3

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Roads Rehabilitation
Installation of Water Meters
Upgrading of Water Infrastructure
Acquisition of a Fire Tender
Completion of Chinengundu
Maternity Wing, AND MORE

And More.....

OUR VISION

TO BECOME A COMMUNITY-CENTRED,
COMPETITIVE AND ATTRACTIVE
INVESTMENT DESTINATION IN
ZIMBABWE

OUR MISSION

TO PROVIDE QUALITY MUNICIPAL SERVICES
AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO STAKEHOLDERS
IN AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER
THROUGH A COMMITTED WORKFORCE

OUR CORE VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY
TRANSPARENCY
INTERGRITY
TEAM WORK
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



TOWN CLERK'S OVERVIEW

Chegutu Municipality continued to post major milestones during the period 2017-2018 in its efforts to improve delivery of Municipal services to its residents and stakeholders. The major challenges that residents of Chegutu Municipality have experienced are that of inadequate Municipal water and perennial sewer blockages which have impacted on public health, with sanitation-related water-borne diseases such as Cholera having recurred. However, Council has taken significant steps towards addressing water and sewer challenges. The Municipality identified rehabilitation of water infrastructure as a key step towards improving sanitation conditions.

In that regard, Council appealed to Government for assistance in the wake of subdued internal resources to undertake the capital projects.



**Town Clerk,
Mr. Alex Mandigo**

Government has since allocated a loan of \$1 million for water infrastructure rehabilitation and installation of water meters. The loan will be disbursed directly by the Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ) to the contractors upon completion of the projects. The project to install 4,000 water meters is already in progress while tenders for the rehabilitation of main water pipelines, tower tanks and water treatment plant had since been concluded and the winning bidders are to commence work soon. Repairs to broken down water and sewer pipes will be attended to through Council's internal resources. In that regard, Council calls upon ratepayers to honour their dues on a monthly basis so that Council could mobilise additional resources for water and sewer infrastructure rehabilitation so as to improve sanitation conditions within our town and curb outbreak of diseases such as Cholera and Typhoid.

The Municipality has also prioritised rehabilitation of roads. Under the Emergency Roads Rehabilitation Programme, 3 major roads have been prioritised, i.e. Hippopools linking the CBD with the high density suburbs, Station Street, the bypass road for heavy trucks and buses as well as Concession Hill Road, which links the CBD with the southern low density suburbs. Hippopools has since been reconstructed and resurfaced, while completion of Station Street had been affected by foreign currency shortages for importation of materials such as bitumen by the contractor. As such, the road is still work-in-progress, while Concession Hill Road is yet to be attended to. Council also embarked on the construction of a major link road in the new suburb of Kaguvi Phase IV, opening of roads in Kaguvi Phase III infill and routine maintenance of roads in all other suburbs.

Overall, Council has been doing much better in terms of attending to major service delivery issues, despite the macro and micro economic challenges facing the country at large. I call upon residents and stakeholders to keep working closely with the Municipality towards improvements in service delivery and capital development.



Former Mayor holding the Municipality's local government award at the 2017 LOGIC conference



Visit to the raw water source at Clifton Dam by the 2018 SLB team



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As newly elected Mayor of Chegutu Municipality, I want to thank fellow policy makers for showing confidence in me by electing me as Mayor for Chegutu Municipality for the period 2018-2023. It is indeed an honour for me to be serving the Municipality, residents and stakeholders in the office of Mayor. This is my second term in office as a Councillor. As Mayor of Chegutu Municipality, I value the principle of teamwork between and among fellow Councillors, management and the residents of Chegutu, which should see us overcoming challenges that our Council face. Indeed, it is my vision that Chegutu Municipality should transform into a modern urban settlement with sufficient services consistent with the status of a Municipality. This is not a pipe dream but a vision that we can collectively achieve.



**His Worship the Mayor
Cllr. H. Muchatibaya**

The scriptures say 'My people perish for lack of vision'. It is my firm conviction that the people of Chegutu share my vision of a modernised Chegutu town. A town where clean potable water is readily accessible, sewerage is efficiently conveyed to treatment ponds, refuse is collected regularly, streets are clean, the CBD is developed with modern high-rise buildings similar to other towns, increased economic activity with viable industrial and commercial enterprises and an efficient road and transportation network. We can achieve this if we work together and focus on developing our town. The policy-making body which I head will do all in its powers and in the confines of the law, to draw up policies that advance the Municipal development agenda. Likewise, management as headed by the Town Clerk will implement the policies and programmes of Council. In the same context, the residents and ratepayers will be expected to play their part by paying their monthly dues to fund the development of the town. Fellow Councillors shall be regularly updating residents and ratepayers of developments within Council through feedback meetings, in line with the mandate given to us when residents elected us into office to represent their interests. Let us all join hands together to develop our town.

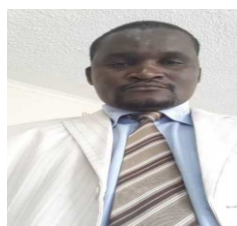
The newly-elected Councillors for the 2018-2023 Council



**Cllr. Z. Fungurani
(Ward 1)**



**Cllr. M. Banda
(Ward 2)**



**Cllr. A. Mukutuma
(Ward 3)**



**Cllr. S. Banda
(Ward 4)**



**Cllr. K. Tembure
(Ward 5)**



**Cllr. D. Guyo
(Ward 6)**



**Cllr. N. J. Machingura
(Ward 7)**



**Cllr. E. Dzeka
(Ward 9)**



**Cllr. A. Kundhlande
(Ward 11)**



**Cllr. M. Shumba - Deputy Mayor
(Ward 10)**



**Cllr. R. Mahano
(Ward 12)**



Above Left: The Chamber Secretary administering the Oath of Office and Loyalty to the new Councillors. Right: Some of the residents who witnessed the swearing in of new Councillors



The District Administrator, Mr. Tomu conducting elections for Mayor and Deputy Mayor



Engineer Nyarumbu taking the new Councillors through the water treatment process at the water treatment plant during the orientation programme for the new Councillors



New Councillors at the raw water source at Clifton Dam



REHABILITATION OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Chegutu Municipality has been afflicted by water-borne diseases such as Cholera and Typhoid, mainly due to aged water infrastructure. Most of the water pipes were installed more than 50 years ago and were now characterised by frequent pipe bursts, thereby creating conditions for cross contamination of Municipal water with effluent. At the same time, Council's water account has not been performing due to dysfunctional water meters. As such, billing for water consumption has not been yielding any significant revenue to Council for plough-back into water rehabilitation projects.



**Director of Engineering Services,
Eng. A. Nyarumbu**

These circumstances prompted Council to appeal for financial assistance from Government to address water availability challenges. Government accordingly heeded Council's plea and availed a loan of \$1 million through the 2018 national budget. The loan was made available through the Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ) and was specifically allocated for purchase and installation of water meters and rehabilitation of the water supply network.

While the project to install water meters is in progress, Council has already engaged a contractor to upgrade the main water pipeline from the water treatment plant to the water reservoirs from 250mm to 450mm. This will increase the amount of treated water getting into the reservoirs, which will, in turn, increase the amount and pressure of water reaching residents. The other contractor will also upgrade the pumps at the water treatment plant to improve treatment and pumping capacity. Another contractor will repair and upgrade the water reservoirs, i.e. the Chakari Tower Tank and the ZRP reservoir. Repairs and upgrading of the water reservoirs is set to improve the quantity of water being pumped to the residents. Currently at Chakari Tower Tank, the inlet pipe is also the outlet pipe, meaning that treated water coming from the water treatment plant has to fill up the tank first, then after that, the same pipe is used to convey water from the tank to the users in the high density suburbs and Jason Moyo Airbase. This affects the quantity of water being transmitted to residents. This challenge will be addressed through separation of the inlet and outlet pipe so that at any time, there will be water coming into the tank and also being conveyed to consumers. The ZRP reservoir which has not been fully operational will also be attended to so that residents in the low density suburbs can access adequate Municipal water. These projects are set to improve access to water by residents and also reduce incidents of water-borne diseases.



Upgrading of the main water line from current 225mm to 300mm to increase amount of treated water pumped to consumers



Upgrading of suction pipe from 225mm to 400mm to increase quantity of raw water getting into the treatment works for purification and distribution to residents



3. INSTALLATION OF WATER METERS

Chegutu Municipality has already commenced installing post-paid water meters in suburbs already accessing consistent water supplies, i.e., ZMDC, Heroes, Umvovo, Kaguvi Phase III and Rifle Range. The contractor is already on the ground installing the meters. The initial project targets to install 4,000 meters. Currently, the Municipality is losing a lot of revenue as most property owners have non-functional water meters or no meters at all. While Council charges \$10.00 as unmetered water consumption charge per month, some residents use far much more water exceeding this charge. The metering of properties is set to control usage of water by residents, a situation that will also build up pressure of the water to reach other suburbs. At the same time, revenue inflows from water will also improve, thereby capacitating Council to continue investing in repairs and upgrading of water infrastructure for sustainability of service delivery.

While Council had initially wanted to install pre-paid water meters, the capital outlay in terms of the computer hardware and software as well as the actual pre-paid water meters was on the high side. The availed loan was not going to cover any significant works if the option of the pre-paid water meters had been pursued. As a result, Council decided to go for the post-paid water meters. Pre-paid meters remain the best technology going forward in terms of efficiency in managing water usage by residents themselves as well as collection of water revenue by Council. In that regard, Council will pursue that strategy in future.

Meanwhile, as the project to install the post-paid water meters gathers momentum, Council encourages property owners to cooperate with the personnel doing the work. The personnel have positive identification, which property owners can also verify. Residents are also called upon to secure and safeguard the meters as they are their property. Council will recover the cost of the water meters on a piece-meal basis, through monthly bills. The revenue to be realised will be used to roll-out the metering project to other suburbs. Residents are also reminded that vandalism of water infrastructure, including the meters attracts a penalty of \$400,00, hence they should not attempt to tamper with all Municipal infrastructure.



Post-paid water meters being installed, starting with suburbs already receiving consistent water supplies



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Kaguvi Phase IV Water Supply Project

Consistent with Council's objective of improving water supply coverage in all suburbs, Chegutu Municipality has just completed installation of a main line for the supply of water to the new suburb of Kaguvi Phase IV and also the installation of communal water taps. Completion of this project has facilitated access by residents of the new suburb to clean potable water within reasonably short walking distances. Previously, the Municipality used to supply clean water to the residents using a water bowser in the summer season when Council boreholes drilled in the suburb would have a low yield of water due to water table fluctuations. However, supply of water using the water bowser was proving to be too costly as the water bowser ended up being dedicated to the supply of water, thereby depriving its use in other projects such as road works. The installation of the communal water points has also assisted in curbing potential outbreak of water-borne diseases such as Cholera and Typhoid within the suburb and the entire Municipal area.

Council has also activated processes towards reticulated water supply for each property through a partnership with Zimplats, who are also a beneficiary of the Kaguvi Phase IV project. Zimplats purchased some stands for its employees in that project and, through the partnership, Zimplats will construct trunk offsite infrastructure such as a main water line, main sewer line, sewer ponds and a water reservoir. The trunk infrastructure is set to benefit the entire Kaguvi Phase IV residents through the subsequent door-to-door water and sewer reticulation in the entire suburb.

In the meantime, Council encourages all beneficiaries with outstanding land purchase dues to pay off, and all property owners to also pay service charges to capacitate Council to develop the new suburb.



Water pipes installed in Kaguvi Phase IV suburb



CHEGUTU EAST HOUSING PROJECT

The Chegutu East Low Density Housing project commenced in 2007 as a self-financing project whereby beneficiaries pulled their resources together for land servicing, through coordination from the Municipality. A contractor was hired to construct roads as well as install water supply infrastructure. However, the run-away inflation that characterised the period 2007-2008 seriously affected the project as the value of payments that were being made by beneficiaries was being eroded and, hence, could not suffice at any point to procure water reticulation materials or pay the contractor. As such, the beneficiaries, contractor and Council decided to halt the project in 2008. When the multiple currency system was introduced in 2009, Council mobilised beneficiaries to resume the project, but the majority of them could not afford to contribute towards completion of outstanding works as the new stable currency regime affected those whose financial capacity was linked to the previous informal trading of currency during the hyperinflationary period. After a series of meetings with beneficiaries, it was then agreed that for those beneficiaries who would pay up their contributions towards land servicing, Council would forfeit part of the land purchase component and enter into an agreement of sale with them. Council wanted the long-standing project to be completed hence it decided to forfeit the land purchase price in respect of those beneficiaries who were willing to abide by the agreed position. Those who could not afford to proceed with the project were advised to drop off and their stands allocated to others with capacity. After a tender process, beneficiaries noted that the expenses of engaging a contractor to complete the outstanding works were on the high side, hence they requested Council to take over completion of water and roads servicing, with beneficiaries paying the servicing costs allocated to each of them, depending on the respective stand sizes.

Council prioritised completion of the project under the 100-day projects towards the end of 2017. The Municipality purchased water pipes and fittings such as valves and Council plumbers worked on the outstanding water servicing works. Water servicing has since been completed and some beneficiaries who have complied with the agreed position have since connected water to their stands and constructed their houses. Roads have also been opened to facilitate access by the stand owners to their properties. Graveling and compaction of the roads is still outstanding.



Completion of water servicing in the Chegutu East Housing project. Above, the Rapid Results team which also comprised stakeholders was assessing progress of the project.

Meanwhile, those beneficiaries who have demonstrated lack of capacity to pay their contributions towards land servicing had their stands reposessed and allocated to others with capacity as agreed during beneficiary consultative meetings. There is now progress on the ground with increased construction activity. Completion of this project is testimony of Council's commitment to the delivery of well-serviced housing stands to reduce the housing backlog and also improve the built environment.



ROADS REHABILITATION

The period 2017-2018 witnessed posting of other major milestones in terms of roads rehabilitation. The Municipality prioritised 3 major roads for reconstruction and resurfacing under the Emergency Roads Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP). The programme witnessed Council reconstructing Hippopools Road, the major link road between the high density suburbs and the CBD. Council ripped off the previous badly-damaged surfaced road, regavelled and compacted the road and then subsequently resurfaced it. The road is now in mint condition thereby significantly improving accessibility to the CBD and other areas by residents in the high density suburbs.



Council road compactor working on Hippopools Road



Completed Hippopools Road

Station Street, the CBD by-pass road for haulage trucks and buses has also been prioritised for repairs. The road has been reconstructed, regavelled and compacted. The road now requires putting of crusher run before surfacing to make sure that it is able to withstand the pressure coming from the heavy vehicles. The contractor is due to procure the crusher run and complete the outstanding works.



Above: Council equipment working on Station Street.

Concession Hill Road is also a priority road under the programme. Badly-damaged road sections will be reconstructed while other sections will be repaired before resurfacing. This road is also a major street that links the southern low density suburbs to the CBD. Work on this road has not commenced. Delays in the disbursement of project funds from ZiNARA as well as foreign currency shortages to procure non-locally available roads materials such as bitumen have affected timeous completion of the prioritised roads under the ERRP.

The Municipality also embarked on various road rehabilitation works within the residential suburbs, with badly-damaged roads in Hintonville being repaired. There were also some road works carried out in the high density suburbs. Notably, Council opened up a major ring road for the new suburb of Kaguvi Phase IV to improve accessibility by residents and motorists. The 2017 rain season had witnessed serious damage to the road network in the suburb, affecting mobility by residents. However, the situation has now improved and Council will keep on attending to all Municipal roads to improve accessibility.



SERVICE LEVEL BENCHMARKING

Service Level Benchmarking (SLB) is a scientific process by which urban local authorities are assessed on how they are performing in terms of water supply, waste water (sewerage) management, solid waste management, roads and public lighting and corporate governance. Previously, the process used to only assess the former 3 service areas but from 2018, the latter 2 were also added. Local authorities are assessed on the basis of internationally-accepted standards of service provision. Teams of peer Town Clerks/ Town Secretaries and Heads of Department from various local authorities are constituted to assess each local authority on the basis of performance indicators formulated for the assessment process. The Service Level Benchmarking now forms the basis for urban local authorities awards which are held at the annual Local Government Investment Conference.

From 2013 when SLB was introduced, Chegutu Municipality has been facing challenges in terms of supply of adequate water as well as recovery of costs for water supply. The peer reviewers have observed that Chegutu Municipality has high non-revenue water, while water supply coverage was also low. As such, Council has been progressively working towards addressing these challenges through rehabilitation of the water treatment plant, installation of bulk water meters, repairs to pipe bursts as well as the current projects to upgrade the main water supply pipeline from the water treatment plant, repairs and upgrading of water reservoirs and upgrading of pipes at the water treatment plant and installation of post-paid water meters. Sewer pump stations and sewer ponds were also rehabilitated and upgraded, although the challenge of safe disposal of effluent remains a daunting task. To address the challenge, Council is soliciting partners/ investors who can utilise effluent from the sewer ponds for agricultural purposes. On solid waste management, Council procured a refuse compactor to facilitate efficient refuse collection. The compactor has a self-weighing technology, which enables Council to establish the tonnage of refuse it collects from residential, commercial and industrial properties. On roads and public lighting, the Municipality is progressively attending to the road network. Most of the CBD roads have been resurfaced, with Hippopools having been recently resurfaced and Station Street currently being attended to. Council is also exploring solar technology for public lighting with preliminary engagement of some suppliers of such technologies having been done. Efforts at improving service provision have seen Council being commended by peer reviewers on work being done since the SLB process began. On corporate governance, Council continues to upgrade the skills of its personnel through continuous in-house training and university training programmes. Plans have also been initiated towards clearing salary arrears, while Council is currently paying employees on a monthly basis. Efforts at clearing the audit backlog are underway as only books for one financial year are yet to be audited. While Council continue to be affected by resource constraints due to non-payment by residents/ ratepayers, with the little resources trickling in, there has been progressive improvements in service delivery and Council expects to score even higher in 2018 in terms of the SLB ratings.



2018 SLB peer review process team at the water treatment plant and in the Council Chamber, comprising peer reviewers from different local authorities, Councillors, residents' associations and Council staff.



REFURBISHMENT OF TOWN HOUSE

The Municipality has completed the first phase of rehabilitating Town House Building. Under this first phase of the project, the porous roof deck was resealed using bitumen. The leakages were threatening to weaken and destroy the structure. The front offices were also installed with new modern partitions and curtain blinds, while a Reception area with a new reception desk was established. A major facelift was also done on the Town House rates hall with a new counter with a granite top having been installed, complete with speak holes and payment counters. The front-office door was also replaced with a new door, complete with a door screen to improve security. This development has renewed the internal appearance of the Municipal civic centre particularly at the front office which is now more welcoming to ratepayers and other members of the public and visitors coming to Town House.

The security situation of the Town House premises and other Municipal stations has also improved to safeguard Council assets.

The second phase of the rehabilitation project will involve replacing the peeling ceiling, re-painting of the interior and exterior walls to restore the outlook of the building. A security wall will also be installed around the civic centre to manage human and vehicle traffic into the civic centre. To improve the outlook of the civic centre grounds, Council will 'green' the park and install sprinklers so as to maintain the lawn and flowers, commensurate with the status of the premises as the Town House park. Council also intends to construct properly- surfaced parking bays for the convenience of ratepayers, stakeholders and visitors coming to the premises.

While these are the interim measures to spruce up the image of the civic centre, the long term plan is also to construct a more spacious civic centre office complex to accommodate staff who serve the public. The current building was constructed more than 50 years ago when the town was still very small and there were also very few Council employees then.



Above Left: The old rates hall at Town House



Right: The newly refurbished rates hall.

**Below Right:
The newly established Reception at Town House**





HOUSING DELIVERY

During the period 2017-2018, the Municipality continued to provide and allocate more residential stands to beneficiaries. The Municipality opened up 151 medium density stands in Kaguvi Phase IV measuring between 800 to 2200 square meters. More than 50% of the stands have since been allocated to beneficiaries, some of whom have already started developing their properties.

On the other hand, there has been increased activity in the Kaguvi Phase IV suburb in terms of property development as a significant number of beneficiaries have since developed housing structures and occupied their properties. The project has availed close to 2,000 high density residential stands measuring an average of 300 square meters and has significantly reduced Council's Housing Waiting List.



**Director of Health, Housing and
Community,
Ms.S.Dzivai**

With clean Municipal water having been availed by Council through communal taps, the potential for disease outbreaks has been mitigated. In the absence of reticulated sewer, residents continue to use Ecosan toilets which did not pollute underground water due to the technology used for this type of ablution facility.

Council also opened up and allocated 91 high density residential stands in Kaguvi Phase III near the cooperatives block of stands. Opening of some of the roads to service the stands has since been done and the works are ongoing. The stands are located within an already serviced area, hence Council will soon connect the stands to water and sewer reticulation services. The stands were sold on cash basis, i.e. full payment before allocation, at a price of \$12.00. per square meter. Sale of the stands was advertised locally to encourage local residents to take advantage of this opportunity to own their houses, while press advertisements were also flighted. The housing cooperatives have also been commended for servicing their blocks of land through installation of pipe networks for water and sewer reticulation.

For the Chegutu East low density project, as agreed during beneficiaries' meetings, Council has since completed water servicing and some beneficiaries have already connected their properties to Municipal water. Opening of roads has also been done and gravelling and compaction of the roads will also be done by Council.

Meanwhile, the layout plan for some 1,500 low density residential stands opposite David Whitehead Textiles had been completed and now awaited approval by the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing. The layout for the remainder of Kaguvi Phase IV estate, measuring 500 stands has also been completed and awaited approval by the parent Ministry. Approval of these plans will pave way for opening up of additional residential suburbs to alleviate accommodation shortages and at the same time widening the revenue base of Council.

The ongoing water infrastructure rehabilitation and upgrading projects are set to improve conditions of living in most of the suburbs currently affected by lack of adequate Municipal water.



COMPLETION OF CHINENGUNDU CLINIC MATERNITY WING

The completion of Chinengundu Clinic Maternity Wing in 2018 has transformed the clinic into a polyclinic which now provide a range of medical services. The clinic is no longer limited to the provision of primary health care but is now set to also provide the full range of maternal health services, i.e. pre-natal, delivery and post-natal services. This is in addition to other services such as HIV testing and counselling, dispensing of anti-retroviral treatment and many others.



The recently completed Chinengundu maternity wing.

The maternity wing has capacity to accommodate 8 expecting mothers at a time and plans are in progress to improve its holding capacity. To pave way for opening of the facility, Council has requested for complementary health personnel from the Ministry of Health and Child Care, who have undertaken to assist as the coming in of this polyclinic relieves pressure on the only public health institution, Chegutu District Hospital, which provides maternity services. Council also requires equipment such as vacuum machines, laundry equipment, catering equipment and other diagnostic equipment. Well-wishers are called upon to assist Council to operationalise the maternity wing for the benefit of expecting mothers.

Apart from Chinengundu Polyclinic, Chegutu Municipality also provides medical health services at its Pfupajena Clinic located at Welfare Centre. The infrastructure at the clinic also requires upgrading and Council hopes that Government will also provide funding for medical services through the health levy being collected from mobile communication companies. Inadequate funding and shortage of material resources such as drugs and equipment affect the provision of curative health services. Health services are a social service hence requires to be subsidised from the national fiscus as the meagre Council revenue cannot suffice the demand for quality health services.



Section of the maternity ward



Fully-tyled maternity bathrooms



RE-ORGANISATION OF VENDING ACTIVITIES

The Municipality has re-organised vending activities through availing vending space along Station Street. The identified space has capacity to accommodate about 500 vendors. This comes in the background of increased vending activities within the CBD which created chaotic conditions characterised by congestion caused by both human and vehicular traffic. A situation whereby vendors operated from everywhere was no longer tenable as it affected organised business activity.

Council sat with the vendors' associations and agreed on the basic infrastructure that required to be put at the new vending site, principally the ablution facility to be used by vendors. While the vendors association had agreed with its membership to mobilise resources for construction of the toilet, the initiative could not yield the desired results as the project was abandoned soon after the foundation stage. Council took over the project to complete the toilet building. Council also conducted plumbing works as well as construction of a septic tank. Upon completion of the toilet, vendors were allocated space at the site, relieving the CBD of illegal vending activities.



Toilet at the new site for vending activities

On a related note, Council, through a partnership arrangement with Welt Hunger Hilfe (GAA) managed to rehabilitate the public toilet at the main bus terminus for the convenience of the travelling public as well as vendors operating at that site, who mainly comprise vegetable vendors and those who sale clothes and other agricultural produce. The toilet was repainted with new toilet seats and cisterns fixed. Floor tiles were also laid, while overhead water tanks were also installed. A solar lighting system was also installed for convenience of use at night. In addition to this ablution facility, the public toilet at Western Shops was also similarly rehabilitated for the convenience of vendors operating at the shopping centre as well as members of the public. Chegutu Municipality provides a monthly stipend to the community based organisations manning public toilets to ensure maintenance of the newly installed infrastructure and regular cleaning of the ablution facilities. These efforts are in line with Council's goal of improving sanitation and hygiene in public places to curb recurrence of diseases such as Cholera and Typhoid.



Refurbished public ablution facilities



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

**Director of Central Administration/
Chamber Secretary, Mr. J. Chikuruwo**



Local authorities in Zimbabwe are constitutional entities and are established in terms of Chapter 14, Part 3 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. In addition, the Urban Councils Act Chapter 29:15 guides the operations of all urban local authorities including Chegutu Municipality. In addition to these statutes, there are also other pieces of legislation such as the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act, the Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act, the Public Finance Management Act, among others. The Municipality of Chegutu also has various by-laws such as the Traffic By-laws, Public Health by-laws, Registration of Premises By-laws, Fire By-laws, Informal Traders and Street Vendors By-laws and Building By-laws, among others. As expected, the Municipality has been abiding by these statutes in administering the affairs of Chegutu residents.

To further strengthen the operational environment, Chegutu Municipality formulated various policies. These include the Housing Policy, the ICT policy, Transport Policy, Staff Development Policy, Strategic Plan, Clients' Service Charter and Employment Code of Conduct, among other policies. The policy framework has facilitated efficient operations, despite prevailing macro and micro-economic challenges. Workplace relations have largely been cordial, anchored by the Works Council where Management and employee representatives meet to discuss workplace issues of mutual concern. As such, no workplace demonstrations or protests have occurred over that past 10 years, a positive indicator of sound industrial relations. This is in spite of the fact that Council owes employees in salary arrears. Regular engagements between the employer and employee representatives have resulted in both parties coming up with arrangements to pay salary arrears, while also paying current salaries as they fall due.

On the other hand, Councillors and management have also been enjoying sound working relations, despite occasional minor differences. The focus has been on improving service delivery, especially the issue of accessibility to potable Municipal water by residents. The convergence of ideas over critical issues has resulted in Council registering some milestones in terms of service improvement, such as ongoing water infrastructure rehabilitation projects, roads rehabilitation projects and housing delivery. Notably, Council operations continue to be anchored on the highly qualified and experienced workforce. All departments are manned by substantive HoDs and section heads. Continuous review of manpower levels and skills is being done to ensure that personnel is strategically placed to meet organisational goals. A human resources skills audit was conducted in June-July 2018 and has since been completed. Updating of employee skills continues to receive priority in line with the changing business environment. The Internal Audit section also monitors compliance of Council operations and finances in line with policies, procedures and statutes to ensure good corporate governance. Generally, the policy framework of Council is conducive for operations and service delivery while continuous review is also being undertaken.

Stakeholders such as Residents Associations continue to play a pivotal role in Municipal development and Council engages these associations regularly on any pertinent issues. They participate in budget formulation processes, strategic planning and other programmes.

The relationship with Central Government has also been cordial, resulting in Council receiving financial assistance in terms of Government loans for infrastructure development, which funds have been properly used and acquitted.

Council is currently arranging a strategic planning workshop to review the current one and also come up with a strategic plan for the period 2019-2024. The current one expires in December 2018. All stakeholders will participate in the formulation of the strategic plan.



FINANCIAL SERVICES

There has been a significant improvement in the performance of the Municipal budget. While in previous years, budget performance was at an average of 55%, in 2018 the average performance has been 75%. The increase has been due to robust revenue and debt collection strategies as well as positive performance of the estate account through disposal of stands. Council has a mobile revenue and debt collection unit which follows up on all outstanding Council dues.



Director of Finance, Mr. T. Mandude

The positive budget performance has seen Council being able to fund most of the basic service delivery expenditure such as purchase of water treatment chemicals, purchase bulk water meters, repairs to water supply infrastructure at Clifton Raw Water Pump station and at the water treatment plant, fuels for refuse management, etc. In addition, Council has also lately been managing to pay employee salaries every month. Arrangements have also been put in place for piece-meal payment of accrued salary arrears. Payment of statutory creditors such as ZIMRA and NSSA is also ongoing through payment arrangements entered into with these bodies, while trade creditors are also being paid. Due to such robust payment arrangements, the risk of garnishee orders from statutory creditors has been minimised while that of property attachment from trade creditors has also been mitigated. Council continues to call upon all ratepayers to honour their dues so as to sustain service delivery and Council operations. All payment methods, i.e. swipe, ecocash and cash are available at the Municipal rates halls at Town House, Chegutu and Pfupajena.

The Municipality continues to value the participatory budgeting approach and involvement of ratepayers and stakeholders in matters affecting Municipal development. As such, ratepayers fully own the resultant annual budgets because they are extensively consulted during the budgeting process. The stakeholder-wide Municipal Budget Sub Committee will be meeting as soon as the new Councillors commence their duties to review performance of the 2018 budget and draw up targets for the 2019 budget, before proceeding to engage residents in the various wards as well as stakeholders on the 2019 budget targets.

On a related note, Council has also put effort towards clearing the backlog of statutory audits. The 2015 books of account have since been audited by external auditors while final accounts for 2016 have also been submitted to the external auditors for auditing. The target is to also have the 2017 accounts audited by end of 2018, so that audited accounts are current.

Apart from revenue from rates, service charges and estate development, the Municipality is also realising dividends from its income generating project at Risboro Farm. Operations at the farm are taking place through a partnership arrangement with Jordan Farming, and the arrangement is that Council gets a percentage of all income realised from sales of crops. Farming activities at the farm include production of potatoes, seed maize, commercial maize, livestock, etc. Council also realises some income for leased premises such as liquor outlets and other Municipal premises.



Newly-refurbished Town House rates hall



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chegutu Municipality has identified investment attraction as one of the key strategies towards improving local economic development. The Municipality is an agro-mining town characterised by rich agricultural soils at surrounding farms as well as rich deposits of minerals such as gold, platinum and chrome. Council has space available for construction of mineral processing plants, agro-processing plants, office space and residential accommodation. Ongoing rehabilitation of water infrastructure will also ensure that there is adequate treated water for use by commerce and industry. It is also envisaged that major industries in Chegutu such as David Whitehead and Chegutu Cannery will be capitalised and revived to improve economic activity within the town.

In an effort to improve affordability of investment space, Council has reduced the minimum deposit required for purchase of industrial and commercial stands from 50% and balance over a period of 24 months to 20% and balance over a period of 5 years. This allows the potential investors to devote more resources towards construction of their business premises while also paying for the land through flexible terms.



In terms of plan approval, Council has reduced the turnaround time from the previous 4 weeks to about 2 weeks now. Business licenses are issued within a period of two days from the date of application if all requirements are availed and the premises meet minimum public health standards.

Investment opportunities available include construction of a Chrome smelter, shopping malls, high-rise flats, factory shells, primary, secondary and tertiary institutions and recycling of liquid and solid waste. The coming in of the Chegutu Adventist University is also set to create huge demand for student accommodation. Chegutu Municipality has several stands for construction of high rise flats to accommodate students and other tenants.

To improve competitiveness amongst other players providing investment opportunities, the Municipality has adopted a marketing strategy that involves participating at major exhibitions such as the Provincial investment conferences, the annual Local Government Investment Conference while plans are also underway to participate at the Harare Agricultural Show and the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair. Publicity through the highly interactive Municipal website is also helping to reach out to international investors. The recently declared special economic zone status for Chegutu is also set to improve investment into Chegutu, to create more jobs and increase the town's GDP.



ACQUISITION OF A FIRE TENDER

In early 2018, Chegutu Municipality acquired an additional fire tender from the United Kingdom. The fire tender has all basic fire-fighting equipment and has the technology to extinguish fire caused by industrial chemicals. This latest acquisition complements another fully-equipped fire tender acquired in 2017. The fire tender was acquired through Operation Florian Mission Project, an organisation that assist African fire brigades to acquire civil protection equipment such as fire tenders, ambulance vehicles and emergency rescue equipment.

Commenting on this latest acquisition, the Director of Central Administration/ Chamber Secretary said this fire tender has improved the capacity of Council in the provision of emergency services such as fire rescue services and road traffic accident rescue services. Council's fire brigade is now properly-equipped to save lives and property of the Chegutu residents, the travelling public, commerce and industry even beyond the boundaries of Chegutu District. This is, indeed a positive development that also promotes investment into the Council area as investors also want their capital investments safeguarded from emergencies such as fire outbreaks.

Apart from the fire tender, Council is also progressively acquiring emergency rescue equipment from the same organisation, such as protective clothing, holmatro equipment and breathing apparatus. Through the ongoing water network rehabilitation project, Council is also targeting to rehabilitate fire hydrants dotted around the Municipal area to facilitate efficient control of fire outbreaks. The Chief Fire Officer also thanked Council for equipping the Fire Brigade in the provision of fire-fighting services which has significantly improved the brigade's effectiveness in providing such services.





COMPLETION OF THE MASTER PLAN

Preparation of the Chegutu Municipality Master Plan has been completed, with a draft Master Plan already in place and awaiting submission to the Minister of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing for approval, once the advertisement and objection period has lapsed. Relevant documentation is being consolidated and finalised before flying an advertisement in the newspaper for any objections from residents and stakeholders to the Master Plan.

The Master Plan was extensively consulted on with two main stakeholders' consultation workshops being held to get inputs from various interested parties. Residents Associations, i.e. the Combined Chegutu Residents and Ratepayers Association and Chegutu Residents Trust; the Chegutu Business Development Association, SMEs associations, surrounding farmers, Government Departments, Provincial Planning Office, Ministry of Mines, Department of Roads, Chegutu Pastors' Fraternal and other stakeholder groups participated in the consultation workshops which yielded the Master Plan.



Stakeholders follow proceedings at one of the Master Plan Stakeholders' workshops

Notably, Chegutu Municipality last reviewed its Master Plan in 1981, and this policy document had long been overtaken by events on the ground associated with urban growth. Thus Council has since gone beyond the Municipal boundaries that were demarcated in the old Master Plan.

The new Master Plan now incorporates surrounding farms into the Municipal boundaries and also demarcates industrial, commercial and industrial zones to cater for various land use requirements. Notably, the Municipality has run out of space for residential, commercial and industrial uses hence the incorporation of surrounding farms. The draft Master Plan also provides additional land for the growth of the CBD. Finalisation of the Master Plan is indeed a milestone for the Municipality as it provides the framework for the development of the town. It is also important to note that Chegutu Municipality has managed to ensure that there are no illegal developments within the town as all housing projects are properly planned for by Council and have basic services. Council was also commended by Government for promptly servicing the Garikai houses when that project was implemented, contrary to the situation in some local authorities where such projects have either taken too long to service or still remain unserviced.

The Municipality continues to enforce its Building By-laws, the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act as well as other policies to curb illegal developments that are often the incubation points for diseases such as Cholera and Typhoid. Notably, causes of such diseases in Chegutu have been the aged water supply network susceptible to cross-contamination with effluent as well as cases originating from other areas outside Chegutu.



EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Chegutu Municipality has some vacant school stands both in the high density and low density suburbs. The number of schools within the Municipal area, especially in new suburbs such as Kaguvi Phase IV as well as the low density suburb of Hintonville is still below minimum standards. As such, pupils are still walking long distances to the nearest primary or secondary school. As such, Council has reserved some stands for development of schools. Investors can come in and purchase the stands to develop private schools or they can partner with Council to develop the schools. To facilitate uptake of the stands and development of schools, Council has come up with flexible payment terms for school stands. The deposit requirement for payment for the stands has been adjusted from 50% and balance over 6 months to 20% and balance over 5 years. This ensures that priority is given to the development of the school infrastructure while also paying for the stand. Council wants to make sure that pupils have access to schools within reasonable walking distances.

Chegutu Municipality currently has two Council primary schools namely Kaguvi and Chinengundu Primary Schools. The pass rate for Grade 7 pupils over the past two years has been an average of 75% which is encouraging. On co-curricula activities, there has also been some pleasing results especially in Quiz and sport. In 2017, the Chegutu Quiz Team won the Provincial Quiz competitions and their prize was a 2500 litre water tank. In 2018, the Chegutu Quiz Team won the National Quiz competitions and they won an HP printer. The Quiz team raised the pride of Chegutu Municipality and indeed that of Chegutu Municipality. Such success stories are commendable and we expect more accolades.



Adellia Chikohomero, the Quiz Team member, with Tadiwa Njovhana, the Quiz Team member, holding their prize of a 2500litre water tank.

The printer won at the national competitions

Chegutu Municipality also has a youth leadership development policy whereby it runs a Junior Council programme. Every year, a new Junior Council is selected from budding leaders within schools. The Junior Council programme is coordinated through the Community Services portfolio of Council with a view to nurture values of civic participation and civic leadership among the youth. After selection of the Junior Councillors, they undergo an induction programme convened by Council while the National Association of Junior Councils also conducts some trainings.



The 2018 Junior Council.



The Junior Council in an induction workshop



SPORTS

The Chegutu Municipality soccer outfit, Chegutu Pirates Football Club is still playing in the First Division of the Northern Region Soccer League. The team has managed to play consistently throughout the 2018 soccer season and is currently on position 8 out of the 18 clubs in the league. Chegutu Municipality continues to sponsor the club in collaboration with other well-wishers, as part of community service.

Meanwhile, the Municipality is still soliciting for sponsors for the club as it cannot manage to meet the club's financial needs due to other pressing service delivery priorities. Previous efforts at securing a long-term sponsor could not yield the desired fruits after the sponsor withdrew from the agreed arrangement. The residents of Chegutu like their soccer club, Chegutu Pirates, hence the decision by Council to continue funding the club for the rest of the 2018 season after the sponsor withdrew.

Plans have also been made to refurbish the Council stadium (Pfupajena Stadium), which is the home ground of the club to meet minimum league standards. Due to limited fiscal space within Council, prospective sponsors/ investors are invited to partner Council in refurbishing the soccer pitch, dressing rooms, ablution facilities as well as re-construction of a durawall to facilitate collection of gate entry fees. The stadium can be refurbished under a Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangement or a partnership with Council. The capital injected can then be recovered from gate takings and stadium hire fees to be paid by organisations such as churches, musicians and even other soccer clubs. The stadium has potential to become a Premier Soccer League ground hence there is huge potential for handsome returns on investment.



Chegutu Pirates Football Club players.



SOCIAL SPORTS PROGRAMMES

Chegutu Municipality participated at the 2017 edition of the Inter-Cities Social Sports Festival held in Bindura in October 2017. The Municipality participated in soccer, netball, tug of war, snooker, chess and other sporting disciplines. The sports festival is now on the national local authorities' calendar. The event bring various sporting teams from urban local authorities to interact through sport as part of the wellness programmes for local authority workers. The workers take time off from their routine duties of service delivery to mix and mingle with their peers for social networking, physical health and competitive sporting with the view to boost morale and general wellness for even increased performance of Municipal duties. Through this annual event, Council staff from various local authorities also get the opportunity to share notes and experiences related to their everyday duties.



Group Team Photo



Tug of war team in action



The Town Clerk supporting the teams

The Chegutu Municipality teams will also be participating at the 2018 edition of the Inter-Cities Sports Festival, which trainings being conducted twice a week in the afternoon, while friendly matches are also being conducted with nearby teams in Chakari as well as Jason Moyo Airbase. While the Council teams did not manage to win some trophies at the 2017 edition of this sporting event, the teams expect to get some awards at the 2018 edition. The competitions are getting tougher each year but the Council teams are also equal to the task and anticipate to raise the Municipal flag even higher at the forthcoming festival.

Apart from the Inter-cities event, Chegutu Municipality also hosts the Chegutu Annual Sports, Arts and Culture Festival. The inaugural event was held in October 2017 with various Council teams competing with community teams in various sporting, arts and cultural activities. This annual event brings together sports, arts and culture where community teams and groups freely participate and compete as part of social well-being programmes. The sports festival facilitates social cohesion through interaction between and amongst community groups as well as Council. Preparations for the 2018 edition of the Chegutu Annual Sports, Arts and Culture Festival are in progress.

Meanwhile, the Chegutu Municipality netball team won the Chegutu Netball league in 2017 and walked away with the coveted trophy. The ladies played exceptionally well throughout the 2017 season and deserved the trophy. The Team also won the Chegutu Mayor's Cup for 2017.



The Director of Housing displaying the netball trophy



The netball team getting a feel of the well deserved trophy



REFUSE COLLECTION

DAY	ZONE	WARD/AREA
Monday	High Density	7° 4,5,6, Heroes and Respective Shopping Centers and Schools
	Low Density	2° Hartley 1, Dr Mackenzie st, Wise drive, Knight Avenue
Tuesday	High Density	7° 4,8,9 Chegutu and Pfulajena Shopping centers
	Low Density	8° (° 4,5,6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 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2179,



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Chegutu Municipality continues traversing the path of participatory and transparent local governance as it seeks to uphold the values of democracy as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The Council is alive to its mandate of serving the citizens of the Municipality in terms of the Constitution and the Urban Councils Act. Notably, the term 'democracy' has Greek origins and it means rule of the majority or self rule.



*Administrative Officer
Mr. S. Gwakwakwa
Editor*

Thus the electorate has the right and power to elect leadership in the form of Councillors to represent and advance their interests. The Councillors, as policy makers and with the technical guidance of Council management come up with policies that are then implemented by the technocrats in advancement of the aspirations of the residents. The interests of the residents always relate to improved service delivery in the manner of access to potable Municipal water, sanitation services, accessible roads, housing, health services etc. At the same time, provision of these services comes with a cost. As such, democratic governance comes with rights as well as obligations. The residents expect quality Municipal services and Council also expects residents to fund the quality services. Where there is no funding, there is no means by which Council can deliver. Thus the Councillors cannot come up with policies or resolutions where there is no funding to implement the policies. Therefore, residents/ratepayers and stakeholders as well as Council should all play their part in the local government system to sustain it.

On its part, Chegutu Municipality pledges to play its part within the limits of available resources to improve the provision of services. As highlighted in this edition of the Newsletter, a lot has happened and there are many more projects in progress.

Council keeps upholding the principles of transparency and accountability in serving the citizens of our beloved town. Residents can get in touch with Council on the following Numbers;

Town Clerk	068215 2898
Director of Central Administration/ Chamber Secretary	068215 2311
Director of Engineering Services	068215 2331
Director of Finance	068215 3505
Director of Health, Housing & Community Services	068215 2268
Fire & Ambulance Services	0779474527

Residents and stakeholders can also visit the Municipal website at www.chegutumunicipality.co.zw or email chegutumunicipality@gmail.com

The Municipal website also has a Live Chart Platform on the homepage which provides an interactive platform for residents to inquire on any issues and get instant responses.

Your Councillors are also at your disposal for any feedback on Council projects and programmes. Please get in touch with them.

For service delivery issues, please visit our Engineering Offices and register any complaints. Our staff will attend to the challenges.

Chegutu Municipality continues to value your feedback on Council operations. We call upon you to keep supporting Council efforts towards improving service provision.

REMEMBER, WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.