



#### HEAD OFFICE

📍 Megawatt House • 6th Floor • 44 Samora Machel Ave • Harare • Zimbabwe | P Bag 250A  
☎ Tel: 263-242- 7081110 / 734734 / 734732 / 734355 • Fax: 263-242-707667  
✉ email: [rea@rea.co.zw](mailto:rea@rea.co.zw)  
🌐 Website: [www.ref.co.zw](http://www.ref.co.zw)



## RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND

*Magetsi Kumusha / Amagetsi Ekhaya*



# 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER MAGAZINE 2019



By Decadesigns Advertising



➡ HARSH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS  
➡ REF BUYS NEW VEHICLES

➡ HOTSPECK REVITALISED  
➡ LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





## RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND

*Magetsi Kumusha / Amagetsi Ekaya*

# “power” kumusha

● Grid Electricity



● Biogas Energy

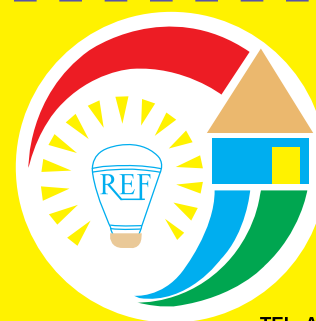


● Solar Energy



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✉ email: [rea@rea.co.zw](mailto:rea@rea.co.zw)  
🌐 Website: [www.ref.co.zw](http://www.ref.co.zw)



## RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND

### HEAD OFFICE HARARE

MEGAWATT HOUSE; 44 SAMORA MACHEL AVE HARARE  
P.O BAG 250A HARARE  
TEL. ALL DEPARTMENTS +263 -242 -708110/764570/ 791725-30 Cell: +263 772 134 806-9  
FAX: +263-242 – 707667  
Website: [www.rea.co.zw](http://www.rea.co.zw)  
CENTRAL STORES: +263-242-2933494

### PROVINCIAL ADDRESSES

#### MATABELELAND SOUTH PROVINCE

##### BULAWAYO

RICHMOND HOUSE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR, CNR LOBENGULA/KHAMI RD, BULAWAYO  
P.O BOX 1492 BULAWAYO  
TEL. ALL DEPARTMENTS: +263-292-884564-6  
PROVINCIAL MANAGER: +263-292-885857  
FAX: +263-292-884567

#### MATABELELAND NORTH PROVINCE

##### BULAWAYO

RICHMOND HOUSE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR, CNR LOBENGULA/KHAMI RD, BULAWAYO  
P. O BOX 1492 BULAWAYO  
TEL. ALL DEPARTMENTS: +263-292-886022-4/886016  
PROVINCIAL MANAGER: +263-292-886022  
FAX: +263-292-886015

#### MASVINGO PROVINCE

##### MASVINGO

1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR ZIMRE BUILDING CNR HUGHES ST/SIMON MAZORODZE MASVINGO  
P.O.BOX 487 MASVINGO  
TEL. ALL DEPARTMENTS+263-392-262583/262527  
PROVINCIAL MANAGER: +263-392-264452  
FAX: +263-392-264011

#### MANICALAND PROVINCE

##### MUTARE

1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR, JOTALI BUILDING 106 HERBERT CHITEPO ST. MUTARE  
P.O.BOX 1648 MUTARE  
TEL. ALL DEPARTMENTS+263: 2020-66818/63181/63391  
PROVINCIAL MANAGER: +263- 2020-66292

#### MASHONALAND WEST PROVINCE

##### CHINHOYI

STAND NO. 252, ZESA OLD AREA OFFICE, 53 MAGAMBA WAY CHINHOYI  
P.O BOX 810, CHINHOYI  
TEL. ALL DEPARTMENTS: +263-6721-28463-5  
PROVINCIAL MANAGER: +263-6721-27362  
FAX: +263-6721-27363

#### MASHONALAND EAST PROVINCE

##### MARONDERA

No. 6 LONGLANDS ROAD, INDUSTRIAL SITE, MARONDERA  
TEL. ALL DERPARTMENTS: +263-6523-26877/26884-5  
PROVINCIAL MANAGER: +263-6523- 26880  
FAX: +263-6523-26606

#### MASHONALAND CENTRAL PROVINCE

##### BINDURA

31A APPLEBY STREET  
P. O BOX 452 BINDURA  
TEL. ALL DEPARTMENTS+263-66210-7383/7447/7743  
PROVINCIAL MANAGER+263-66210-7895  
FAX+263-66210-7895

#### MIDLANDS PROVINCE

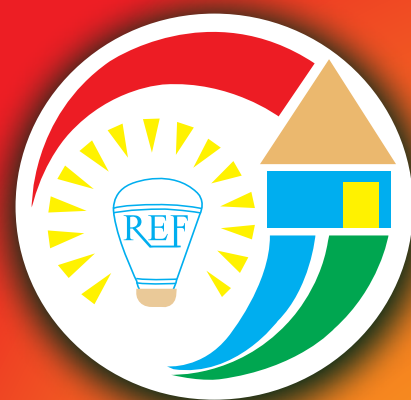
##### GWERU

STAND NO. 2101 CNR BRISTOL RD/ HALIFAX  
TEL. ALL DEPARTMENTS+263-5422-228553/228568/  
228532/228347/ 224680/228869/228868  
PROVINCIAL MANAGER: +263- 5422-228514  
FAX: +263-5422-228514

#### HOT-SPEC ENGINEERING

STAND No. 6020 NYAKAMETE MUTARE  
General Line - +263-2020- 66536





## **RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND**

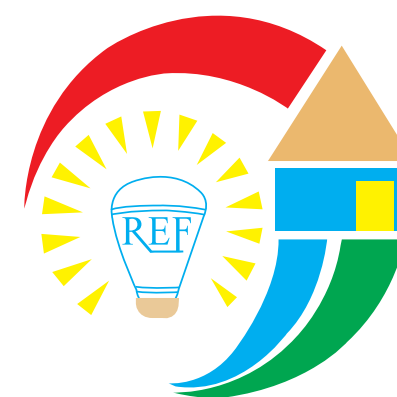
*Magetsi Kumusha / Amagetsi Ekhaya*



**Dr Sydney Z. Gata | Executive Chairman of ZESA Holdings**

The Rural Electrification Fund (REF) Board, management and staff congratulates, Dr Sydney Z. Gata on his appointment as the Executive Chairman of ZESA Holdings.

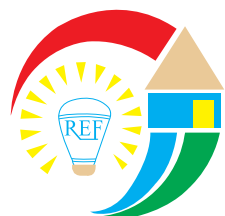
We are convinced that with your vast experience in the energy sector and commitment to duty, you will do justice to improve generation capacity and address energy challenges facing the country.



## **RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND**

*Magetsi Kumusha / Amagetsi Ekhaya*





## RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND

Magetsi Kumusha / Amagetsi Ekhasya



### MISSION STATEMENT:

Empowerment of rural communities of Zimbabwe through provision of sustainable modern energy services



### VISION:

Universal access to sustainable modern energy services by rural communities in Zimbabwe by 2030



### VALUES:

In our conduct as REF we are committed to the following core values

Transparency - Openness and communication

Accountability - Being responsive, responsible and answerable to stakeholders

Integrity - Adherence to fair and ethical principles

Teamwork - Working together for a common goal

Empathy - Feeling for others and providing needed support

Innovation - Constantly - finding new ways of doing things better in pursuit of excellence

## kids' CORNER

### Everyday is Earth Day

e	a	r	t	h	p	a	o
g	r	s	a	v	e	a	f
g	e	a	c	i	o	e	m
r	u	r	e	d	u	c	e
o	s	i	t	t	e	r	
w	e	g	e	h	e	r	t
r	e	c	y	c	l	e	r
h	t	r	a	s	h	t	e
o	g	k	s	v	e	a	e
p	o	l	l	u	t	e	s
t	n	e	n	e	r	g	y



earth save reduce recycle reuse  
energy grow trees pollute trash litter



Table 12.10: National Statistics on the Electrification Status of Rural Schools and Health Centres as at 31 December 2019

Province	NO. OF RURAL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS			TOTAL ELECTRIFIED			OUTSTANDING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS			PERCENTAGE COMPLETION (%)				
	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Clinics	Total	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Clinics	Total	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Clinics	Total	Aggregate Total	
Manicaland	839	382	274	1495	560	300	262	1122	279	82	12	373	67	75
Mash Central	497	218	145	860	386	158	118	662	111	60	27	198	78	77
Mash East	658	308	189	1155	421	213	130	764	237	95	59	391	64	66
Mash West	682	328	109	1119	414	172	85	671	268	156	24	448	61	60
Masvingo	848	349	188	1385	368	239	157	764	480	110	31	621	43	55
Mat North	555	162	107	824	310	114	98	522	245	48	9	302	56	63
Mat South	503	149	125	777	329	133	123	585	174	16	2	192	65	75
Midlands	742	317	204	1263	325	223	193	741	417	94	11	522	44	59
Total	5324	2213	1341	8878	3113	1552	1166	5831	2211	661	175	3047	58	66

Note:

1. Electrified institutions include those that were done by both ZESA and REF

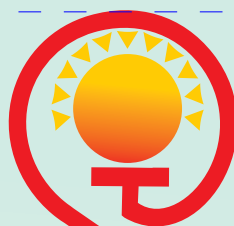
2. Electrified institutions include those where solar micro grid systems have been installed.

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### CUSTOMER'S COMMENTS

My homestead was left out during electrification of our village.  
I require electricity. Please help.

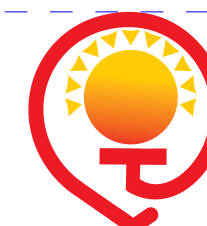
**Kebby Madzikangava | Tsakare Village A. Mt Darwin | 0777690624.**

We require biogas training in our village.  
**Martin Mashamba | Mash Central | 0778808862**

The project of electrifying Nhoro and Jemwa schools needs urgent attention.  
The project started before 2008 and its not yet complete. Please do something.

**Nhoro and Jawara schools in Mt Darwin South ward 13 Chesa East.**  
**Contact us on 0771647599**

Well done REF for doing a good job in the villages,  
**Rungano Karimanzera**  
**0716801305**



### REF FOOTBALL CLUB BEGINS 2020 REPARATIONS AS ZIMBABWE PARASTATALS SOCIAL SOCCER LEAGUE SEASON APPROACHES.

By Aswell Clifford

Preparations for the 2020 Zimbabwe Parastatals Social Soccer League (ZPSSL) has begun and REF FC is gearing up its preparations to bring excitement to soccer loving employees and club executive.

REF FC have already bolstered their squad with the return of the club legend Martin Magaya from nursing an ankle injury including the teams's former combative defender Bellamy Nyadzayo who was busy the better part of last year.

In an interview with the Magazine reporter, REA FC Head Coach, Israel Yaluka said the club started their 2020 season preparations two weeks ago with a game against Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) where the electricity boys won by two goals to one.

Last week another preparatory game also meant to assess fitness, ability and preparedness of players was played at ZESA Training Centre where REF boys lost the game by four goals to three to ZESA football club.

"We are happy that our preparations are going on well and many workers are coming in good numbers to watch our preparatory games," said Yaluka.

Yaluka said that while all seasoned players have been retained, the club was expected to sign one or two new players from provinces to boost their chances of winning

"There are players who have been identified by the technical team comprised of contract workers and students on attachment from different colleges and universities," he said.

Last season, the team played well despite problems which arose during the early stages of the season when club chairman, Wearpinative Kagodo fired the entire coaching executive for poor results and lack of commitment to the club.

Yaluka said that when the 2019 season ended, REF club was 4<sup>th</sup> on the table with 16 teams.

"While we were number 4 on the log, this year we are aiming for the first place," he said.

The head coach praised the REF Executive led by the Chief Executive, Eng Joshua Mashamba for supporting the club to engage in sporting activities as part of team building and socialization of all its employees.

"We are very thankful to the executive for the support and we want to encourage them to continue with the gesture," he added.

Edited.



## HOW IT SPREADS

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:



- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands
- Rarely, fecal contamination

## PREVENTION

There are currently no vaccines available to protect you against human coronavirus infection. Transmission is reduced thru:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick

If you are mildly sick, keep yourself hydrated, stay at home, and rest.

If you are concerned about your symptoms, you should see your healthcare provider.



## PURE PLATINUM CLINCHES ZIMBABWE PSL 2019 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

By Gilmore Goredema

FC Platinum have been crowned champions of Zimbabwean football for the third time in a row after defeating Caps United 1-0 in a sink or swim encounter played at the National Sports in the last game of the 2019 season.

The win in Harare was the culmination of an outstanding season and the deliverance of a well-deserved piece of silverware to cap it all for FC Platinum, who made a dramatic comeback in the title contention towards the end of the season.

Playing with 10 men after Congolese striker Nsiala Mawete Guyve was sent off at halftime following a clash with United's goalkeepers coach Witness Munkuli, a 59th-minute strike by Perfect Chikwende sealed victory for the Zvishavane based club. Coming from a good build-up from the midfield by Rodwell Chinyengetere and Never Tigere, Chikwende was on target and silenced the drum beating and signing Green Machine fans.

Soon there was jubilation after the man in the middle blew the final whistle. Lizwe Sweswe, the FC Platinum coach attributed the success to hard work and determination of players and the club executive.

"It is every coach's dream to win the title because it adds value to your CV. Many had ruled us out after Norman Mapeza (former coach) Left but the key point was to keep working hard to achieve these results. Credit to my boys they have done it again," said a jubilant Sweswe.

Gweru-based sides Chapungu and Tel-One join Hwange and Mushowani Stars who were relegated to the unfashionable Division One league. Three other bottom of logo teams, Herentals, Bulawayo Chiefs and Yadah survived relegation.

## EDITORIAL TEAM



Johannes Nyamayedenga | Editor



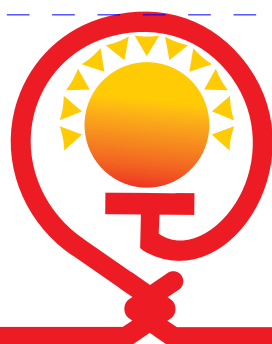
Bridget Wata | Secretary / Reporter



EDIT







## FROM THE EDITOR

The decision taken by the REF Board to allow the Fund to purchase heavy duty trucks and light project vehicles to replace the obsolete fleet of vehicles is highly commendable. REF bought nine heavy duty trucks and 15 project vehicles at a cost of about 9.4 million dollars. The vehicles have already been delivered to all the eight rural provinces. Before purchase of the vehicles, progress in service delivery was negatively affected as drivers spent long hours to get to project sites because the vehicles were no longer efficient and often broke down.

Many provinces were forced to hire vehicles to transport materials such as transformers and

conductor to project sites. Apart from being very expensive to the Fund, the process of hiring vehicles was cumbersome and not efficient. The state of affairs then, was a thorny issue which troubled provincial managers, Executive Directors and the Chief Executive. With the new trucks now on road, moral is back in all the provinces and all drivers and project coordinators are expected to reach project sites to delivery materials on time and without any hindrances.

Now those projects vehicles have been bought although additional are still required, the REF Board is called upon to closely look into the welfare of management to capacitate them so that they will be

from page 17



Thyme has both culinary and medicinal uses and is a common remedy for a cough, a sore throat, [bronchitis](#), and digestive issues. To treat coughs using thyme, look for a cough syrup that contains this herb. Alternatively, make thyme tea by adding 2 tsp of dried thyme to a cup of hot water. Steep for 10 minutes before straining and drinking.



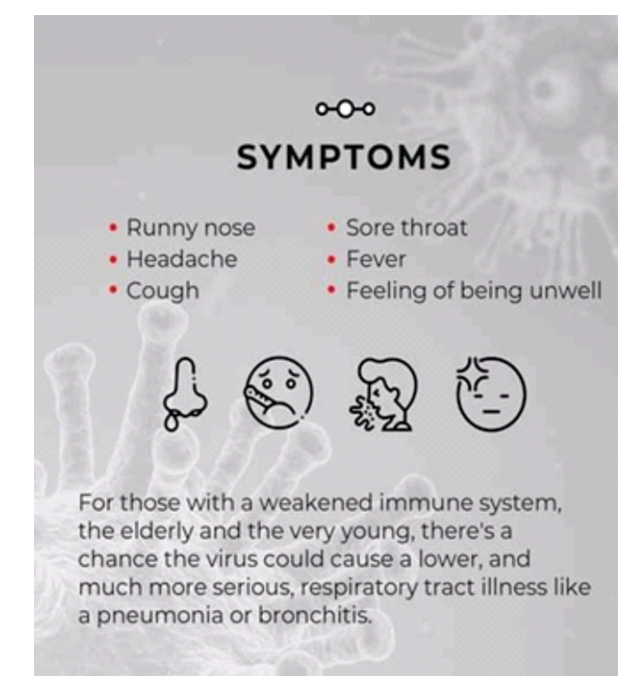
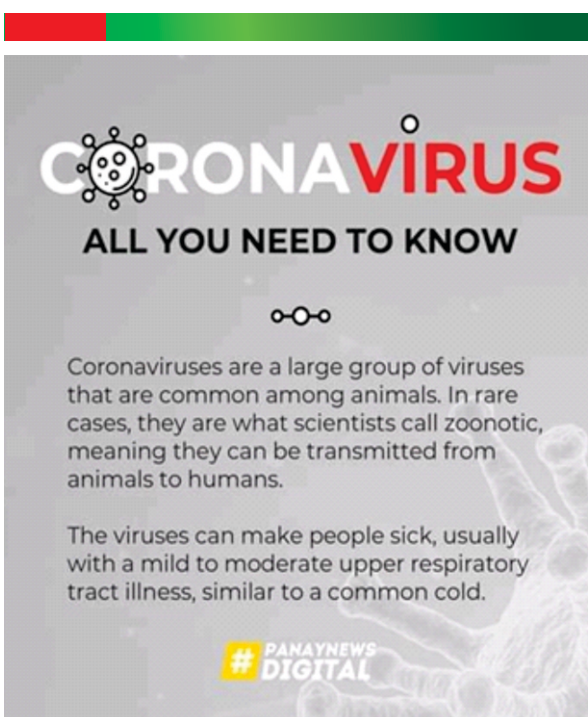
[Acid reflux](#) is a common cause of a cough. Avoiding foods that can trigger acid reflux is one of the best ways to manage this condition and reduce the cough that accompanies it.

The foods and beverages that most commonly trigger acid reflux include:

*Alcohol, caffeine, chocolate, citrus foods, fried and fatty foods, garlic and [onions](#), [mint](#), spices and spicy foods, tomatoes and tomato-based products.*



Washing hands regularly: Use soap and warm water to remove bacteria and viruses from the skin. Teach children how to wash their hands properly. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer outside the home when necessary.



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Ginger

Ginger may ease a dry or asthmatic cough, as it has anti-inflammatory properties. It may also relieve nausea and pain. Brew up a soothing ginger tea by adding 20–40 grams (g) of fresh ginger slices to a cup of hot water. Allow to steep for a few minutes before drinking. Add honey or lemon juice to improve the taste and further soothe a cough. Be aware that, in some cases, ginger tea can cause [stomach upset](#) or [heartburn](#).



Fluids

However, people with additional symptoms of a cold or [flu](#) may benefit from warming up their beverages. The same study reports that hot beverages alleviate even more symptoms, including a [sore throat](#), chills, and [fatigue](#).

Hot beverages that may be comforting include: clear broths, herbal teas, decaffeinated black tea, warm water, warm fruit juices



Steam

A wet cough, which is one that produces mucus or phlegm, may improve with steam. Make a steam bowl. To do this, fill a large bowl with hot water. Add herbs or essential oils, such as eucalyptus or rosemary, which may also relieve decongestion. Lean over the bowl and place a towel over the head. This traps the steam. Inhale the vapors for 5 minutes. If the steam feels hot on the skin, discontinue until the skin cools down.



Pineapples

Pineapples contain bromelain, which may help to treat a cough.

Bromelain is an enzyme that comes from pineapples. It is most plentiful in the core of the fruit.

Bromelain has [anti-inflammatory properties](#) and may also have mucolytic properties, which means that it can break down mucus and remove it from the body. People who take blood thinners or specific [antibiotics](#) should not take bromelain.

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ENG J.V MASHAMBA | REF C.E.O



## INTERNAL MEMO

To: The Provincial Manager At: Mat North Province  
From: The Chief Executive At: Head Office  
Date: 17 February 2020  
REF: JYM

## REF: COMMENDATION FOR OUTSTANDING EXHIBITIONS

Reference is made to the above subject.

I have taken great pleasure to write to you expressing my heartfelt appreciation of the outstanding work you did at the 2019 agricultural show held in Hwange in August 2019 where you scooped the first prize in the Light Industry category.

Winning in any sport or activity is not just a sign of hard work and commitment to duty but team spirit. During the exhibition days, organisers of the annual event working together with the Public Relations and Marketing team from head office put up a good show that attracted the attention of judges.

The coveted award put REF on strategic position in the market and this continues to enhance our image as a reliable provider of affordable modern energy services for rural communities in Zimbabwe.

It will be unfair if I do not mention the role played by other staff members especially those from procurement and finance, both from head office and the province who worked tirelessly behind the scenes towards the successful participation at the Hwange provincial agricultural show. On behalf of the REF, I want to encourage you to continue doing good for the Fund.

Eng.J.V Mashamba  
Chief Executive



## EDITOR'S COMMENT

The Chief Executive, Eng Joshua Mashamba who was touched by the hard work and commitment to duty exhibited by organisers of the Zimbabwe International Trade (ZITF), Zimbabwe Agricultural Show (ZAS), Provincial Agricultural shows and other exhibition platforms, took a decision to write commendation letters. The winners and runner-ups received letters of praise and encouragement to continue doing good. Those who did not win also received commendation letters for putting up good exhibitions during shows and were encouraged to improve their displays in future and be counted among the winners.

The letters were posted to individual provinces. However, while Eng Mashamba wrote to all who participated at the annual exhibitions, the magazine did not find enough space to publish all the letters. Only one letter was published in the magazine. Provinces whose letters were not published, must not think they were sidelined but it is the question of space.

Editor

J Nyamayedenga





## REF PURCHASES NEW FLEET OF PROJECT VEHICLES TO REPLACE AGING AND AN UNRELIABLE VEHICLES



REF Board Chairman Mr W.A. Chiwewe

By the Editor

The Rural Electrification Fund (REF) Board approved the purchase of heavy duty trucks and light project vehicles at a cost of \$ 9 453 306 to allow the Fund to carry out its rural electrification program efficiently and without major disturbances.

REF bought nine heavy duty trucks and 15 pick-up light vehicles just before the end of last year. The vehicles were delivered to REF Central Stores and later distributed to provinces.

Before the acquisition of the vehicles, progress in the rural electrification exercise was hampered by the non-availability of reliable project vehicles. The entire fleet of heavy duty trucks and light vehicles were old, unreliable and confined to garages for long periods for repairs.

REF Chief Executive, Eng. Joshua Mashamba told the Magazine reporter that the request by the executive and management to buy a large fleet of project vehicles at once was granted. He said he looked forward to seeing a giant step in the right direction in project implementation. "As CEO of this Fund, I am happy with the board for their timeous approval of the purchase of project vehicles," he said.

"My office was inundated with complaints of vehicle

breakdown which forced line construction workers to abandon work or to arrive at their project sites late," he added.

The CEO said that he was expecting an improvement of project implementation in the 2020 financial year.

As a stop gap measure, the Fund was relying on hiring vehicles from private companies to transport project materials and line construction workers to project sites.

The exercise was cumbersome and was very expensive to the Fund.



Newly acquired heavy duty trucks



Light vehicles for projects



Work is expected to improve following the purchase of vehicles



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION TIPS THAT ARE ACTUALLY EVIDENCE-BASED

It's easy to get confused when it comes to health and nutrition. Even qualified experts often seem to hold opposing opinions. Yet, despite all the disagreements, a number of wellness tips are well supported by research. Here are 27 health and nutrition tips that are actually based on good science and thorough research.

1. Don't drink sugar calorie
2. Eat nuts
3. Avoid processed junk food (eat real food instead)
4. Don't fear coffee
5. Eat fatty fish (it has good protein)
6. Get enough sleep
7. Take care of your gut health with probiotics and fibre
8. Drink some water, especially before meals
9. Don't overcook or burn your meat
10. Avoid bright lights before sleep
11. Take vitamin D3 if you don't get much sun exposure
12. Eat vegetables and fruits
13. Make sure to eat enough protein
14. Do some cardio (good exercise)
15. Don't smoke or do drugs, and only drink in moderation
16. Use extra virgin olive oil
17. Minimize your sugar intake
18. Don't eat a lot of refined carbs
19. Don't fear saturated fat
20. Lift heavy things
21. Avoid artificial trans fats
22. Use plenty of herbs and spices
23. Take care of your relationships
24. Track your food intake every now and then

25. If you have excess belly fat, get rid of it

26. Don't go on a diet

27. Eat eggs, yolk and all

*The bottom line: A few simple steps can go a long way toward improving your [diet](#) and wellness. Still, if you're trying to live a healthier life, don't just focus on the foods you eat. Exercise, sleep, and social relationships are also important. With the tips above, it's easy to get your body feeling great every day.*

## HEALTH MATTERS Compiled by Bridget Wata

### What can I do to make my cough go away.....?



#### Honey tea

A popular home remedy for coughs is mixing honey with warm water.

According to some research, honey may relieve coughs.

To use honey to treat a cough, mix 2 teaspoons (tsp) with warm water or an herbal tea. Drink this mixture once or twice a day. Do not give honey to children [under 1 year](#) of age.

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## RELIGIOUS MATTERS AND BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

To Trust in God Promotes Inner Peace and Health – John 14:27-

When you are anxious and in a state of inner turmoil, the systems of your body interact in ways that are not good for your health. The nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular and immune systems interact with one another in such a way as to have an adverse impact on your physical health. [Psychoneuroimmunology](#) is the study of the interaction between psychological processes and the nervous and immune systems of the body. A variety of health conditions are linked to poorly managed psychological stress – low back pain, high blood pressure, ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome, rashes, abdominal pain, insomnia, headaches, panic attacks and the common cold are a few conditions.

Conversely, when you're in a state of inner peace, the body is in a state called [homeostasis](#). This is when all your bodily systems are functioning well and good physical health is promoted.

To Trust in God or To Worry – We Have a Choice

God knows that it's not good for you to worry or to be anxious and that's why he inspired authors of the Bible to address this issue in their writings to us. He wants you to trust in God and his promises.

"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up." [Proverbs 12:25](#)

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." [1 Peter 5:7](#)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in



Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." [Philippians 4:6-9](#)

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all." [2 Thessalonians 3:16](#)

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear." [Matthew 6:25](#)

To Trust in God – What Jesus Says

Jesus' solution to troubling life circumstances is to bring your concerns to him in prayer... and to trust in God – that he will attend to matters.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." [Proverbs 3:5](#)

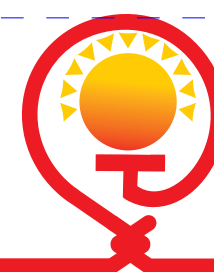
When you give your concerns to God and trust in him, you can have inner peace. Jesus tell us –

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." [John 14:27](#)

The peace that Jesus provides is unlike any peace that other people and other things can give you. The peace that Jesus provides also brings your bodily systems to a state of homeostasis... and this is good for your health. God designed our bodies, including our mind, to function in a way according to his guidelines to us in the Bible. He knows that to trust in God promotes peace, and that when we experience his peace, well being and good physical health are promoted.

When we have good physical health, we're better able to use the gifts God's given us to serve in his Kingdom. When this happens, God is glorified.

That's why it's important to trust in God.



## REF BOARD APPROVES A \$295 MILLION ANNUAL BUDGET TO FUND PROJECTS IN 2020.



Chief Finance Officer, Mr William Magombedze

By the Editor

The Rural Electrification Fund (REF) has unveiled a 295 million dollar annual budget to fund all its activities in 2020 financial year.

The budget amounting to \$294 851 358 was already approved by the REF Board. It was then presented to the parent Ministry of Energy and Power Development for the minister's endorsement.

As is the case every year, REF management prioritises its core business of providing energy in all the rural areas of Zimbabwe and allocated the bulk of the budget which constitutes 65 percent to fund project implementation. Soon after presenting the budget to the REF Board, the Chief Finance Officer, Mr William Magombedze emphasized budget control measures to all heads of departments and sections.

"It is a requirement that we all stick to the budget and avoid unnecessary expenditure," he said.

Mr Magombedze said that under the Corporate Governance Act which calls for 30 percent and below on staff costs to income ratio, REF has achieved the target and is operating at 20 percent.

"We are operating in line with the Corporate Governance Act and this is a great achievement on our part as REF," added Mr Magombedze.

REF gets the bulk of its funding from electricity consumers who pay a six percent levy on all electricity they consume. Other sources of funding include fiscus allocation and funds from donors and friendly countries.



## HARSH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AFFECT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION BY REF BUT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN REGISTERED



Acting Projects Director, Eng Dominic Muhwati

By the Editor

The harsh economic conditions which characterised 2019 have negatively affected REF's project implementation efforts but despite the downturn the Fund managed to scrap through and almost achieved the set target.

With an initial target of 519 projects, REF managed to complete 134 grid extension projects, leaving 318 at various stages of completion. As for biogas, six institutional biogas digesters were completed and four others are set for completion any time soon.

Acting Projects Director, Eng Dominic Muhwati said that during the course of the year, REF struggled to procure line materials such as transformers and conductor thereby affecting the smooth implementation of projects. "A number of grid projects have not been completed due to shortage of transformers, despite having completed line construction," he said.

"Currently we are having 199 institutions that require only a transformer to be completed," he added. Eng Muhwati said that the supply of transformers had not improved since the beginning of the year, further denting all hopes by the Fund to rapidly and equitably complete all outstanding projects and start new ones.



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He said that there was not much REF could do since the beginning of the year as suppliers engaged to supply transformers and other materials were failing to deliver citing foreign currency shortage as the reason. "Out of a total requirement of 273 transformers for the year, only 45 were received to date which constitute a mere 16 percent of the Fund's annual requirement," lamented Eng Muhwati. Despite the harsh economic conditions, Eng Muhwati assured rural communities that REF will re-strategise and ensure that service delivery was not further compromised. The projects completed in 2019 pushed the total number of all public institutions and homesteads electrified by REF countrywide to 9 405 since the Fund was formed in 2002.

*"it's the time, light up someone's rural home today"*



## HOTSPECK ENTERPRISES BACK ON TRACK AND PRODUCING ENOUGH POLES FOLLOWING REPAIRS OF THE PLANT



**A telelogger loading poles in the truck**

Hotspeck Enterprises, a subsidiary of the Rural Electrification Fund whose core business is the production of electricity transmission poles is now operating at full throttle after experiencing challenges in the past few months.

The plant situated in the Nyakamete Industrial area in



Mutare city had been operating on a slow scale and producing very few poles owing to the delay in carrying out maintenance work. Just before the end of 2019, REF hired experts from Denmark where the plant was acquired to carry out repair work and service the plant.

Acting General Hotspeck manager, Mr Leonard Mutasa told the Magazine reporter that soon after repair work, production of electricity transmission poles increased bringing excitement to some of their disgruntled clients

"We are happy that we are now operating normally and meeting the demand of our clients," he said.

Before the maintenance work on the plant, there was high demand of electricity transmission poles from all the eight REF provinces and other customers like the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC).

Hotspeck has since diversified into producing cross arms, fencing and roofing poles as a way of generating additional revenue for the company.

The plant gets its raw poles from smallholder farmers and other timber plantations run by large corporates mainly in the eastern highlands.



**Men at work making cross arms at Hotspeck, pole plant**



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**Gilmore Goredema attained Bachelor of Honours Degree in Human Resources Management from Masvingo State University**



**Patience Shutu graduated with Bachelor of Honours Degree in Accounting at the University of Zimbabwe and won a book prize**



**Bridget Marware is now a holder of Bachelor of Honours Degree in Business Management from Midlands State University**



**Lorraine Maviza was awarded Bachelor of Honours Degree in Business Management from Masvingo State University**

*[She was the best student and received a trophy]*





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He was remanded out of custody to February 6 on \$500 bail.

The court was told that on January 17 at 2pm, Muchetu and Patricia Noko, who is still at large, stole 3500m HD aluminum conductors from their employer's storeroom.

They loaded it into a Toyota Hilux driven by Moses Zivengwa to whom they misrepresented that he had been hired by REF to transport the conductors.

Zivengwa allegedly took the conductors to Thandolwenkosi Mhlanga at number 144A Fife Street and 15th Avenue in the city centre for safekeeping.

Ananias Manjoro saw the pair taking out the company's property without paperwork and reported the matter to REF's Loss Control Officer, Mr Prince Trust Ndlovu.

Investigations led to Muchetu's arrest and the recovery of the conductors.



## Academic Achievements



Brian Mahachi is now a holder of Bachelor of Honours Degree in Transport and Logistics from Chinhoyi University of Technology



Rebecca Munyoro is now a holder of Masters Degree in Accounting obtained from Midlands State University

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## REF IN PICTURES



Let there be electricity at rural schools in the country



Let there be electricity at rural schools in the country



Let there be electricity at rural schools in the country



The Minister of State for Midlands Hon L. Mavima commissioning electricity at Manzimanyama school in Zhombe



Men at work drilling a pole to mount a cross arm



Energy and Power Development Minister, Hon Adv Chasi pose for a photo with REF CEO, Eng Mashamba at the ZAS show last year

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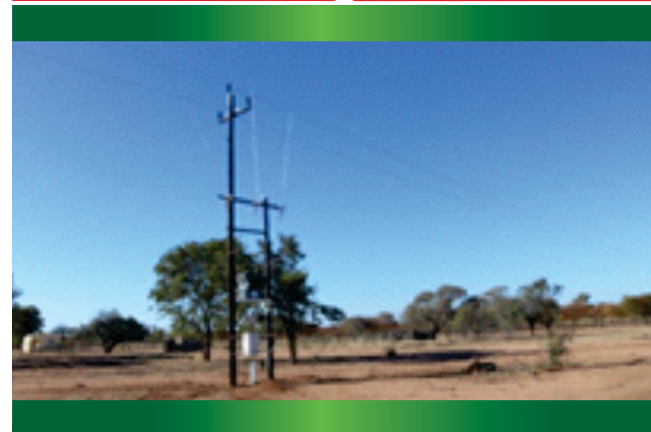
Villagers at a REF stand inquiring on how they can benefit from the fund's products and services



Artisans from Denmark pose for a photo with REF CEO Eng Mashamba (second from left) soon after the maintenance of the plant



Newly acquired REF vehicles set to improve service delivery



Bringing electricity to the rural areas of Zimbabwe



Customers at REF stand in Harare inquiring on how to benefit for our products & services



Staff members from Masvingo join others in clean up campaign



## CEO URGES STAFF TO REMAIN RESILIENT AND SHRUG OFF CHALLENGES CAUSED BY ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS.



By the Editor

REF Chief Executive, Eng Joshua Mashamba has urged all staff members to shrug off challenges caused by the current economic conditions but to devise strategies to overcome impediments and continue to provide quality service to rural communities.

In his belated New Year message to all staff members, Eng Mashamba said that true heroes emerge during hardest times, stating that all REF staff must stand up and prove a point in service delivery.

He said that 2019 was a difficult year and thanked REF staff members for their resilience and hard work in providing energy in the rural areas of Zimbabwe.

"There were a lot of challenges in the previous year but to a large extent you overcame them," said Eng Mashamba.

REF managed to complete 134 grid extension projects, leaving 318 at various stages of completion. As for biogas six institutional biogas digesters were completed and four others are being worked on.

"It is commendable that you exercised a spirit of hard work and love of your work and company," he said.

During the course of the year, operations were seriously affected by the breakdown of the old and unreliable fleet



of lorries and light project vehicles. Project coordinators and line construction workers were forced to abandon company vehicles and using their own or sometimes hiring from private companies just to make sure that service was provided.

With foodstuffs, bus fares and fuel having been increased before salary adjustments were effected, REF staff members continued coming to work as usual and working hard without showing any signs of pain.

In a related but different story, the CEO has extended his appreciation to organisers of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) and all agricultural shows for putting up good exhibitions.

"I want to thank exhibitors and all those who worked behind the scenes for organising good shows which continue to improve the image of REF," he said.

Despite all odds caused by the harsh economic conditions last year, REF won the first prize in the energy sector at ZITF in Bulawayo. Three provinces namely Masvingo, Manicaland and Matabeleland North REF scooped first prizes in the Energy sector and Light Industry category. In Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Midlands, Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland South, REF was announced as runners up.



## REF storekeeper suspended over missing aluminium conductor

A RURAL Electrification Fund (REF) employee based in Bulawayo has been taken to court for allegedly stealing 3 500m of aluminium conductors worth \$100 000.

Maxwell Muchetu (36), facing charges of theft was not asked to plead when he appeared before Bulawayo magistrate Lizwe Jamela recently.

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