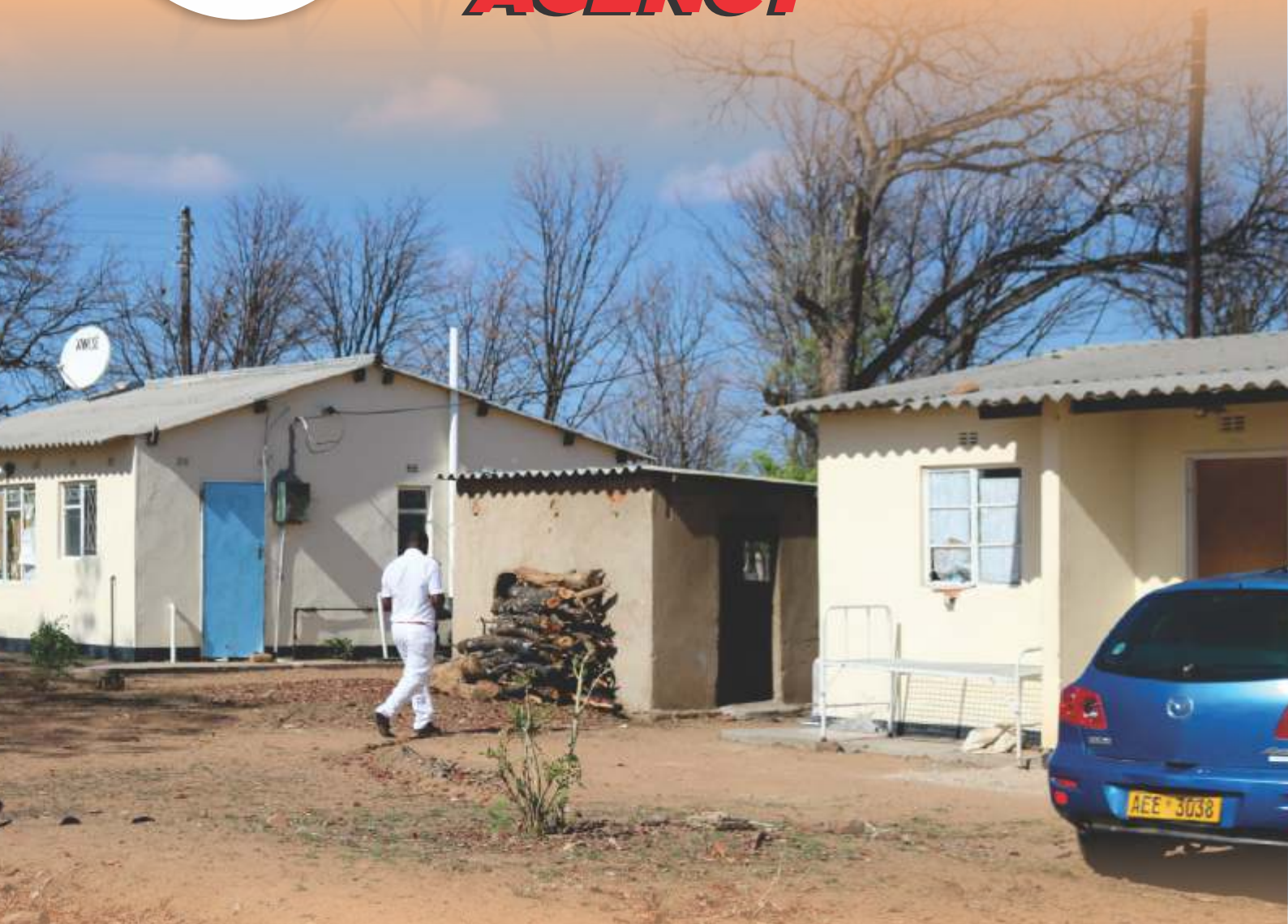


RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY



1st QUARTER

***Magetsi Kumusha
Amagetsi Ekhaya***

MISSION STATEMENT • VISION • VALUES

VISION

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

MISSION

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

CORE 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

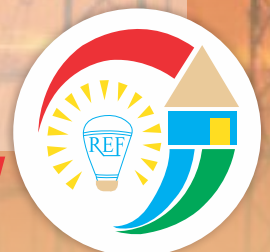
Integrity: adherence to fair and ethical principles

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

**RURAL
ELECTRIFICATION
AGENCY**



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From the Editor's Desk

The 2020 year will be remembered for many years to come because of the Covid 19 pandemic which broke out and killed thousands of people and affected millions the world over, Zimbabwe included

Covid 19 which is believed to have been first diagnosed in China spread to many countries of the world this year forcing governments to introduce drastic measures that include locking down to control the unknown disease from fast spreading.

During the early days when the disease was at its peak, the government ordered the lockdown of the country and advised both the private and public sectors to allow employees to work from home, save for those in essential services.

REF whose responsibility is to provide energy in the formally marginalized rural areas was not spared. Many of its workers stayed at home working from there except a few whose duties were essential.

The lockdown directive affected REF's project implementation as electricity line construction workers were de-camped from many villages where they were doing work. As a result REF missed its target. While the government has relaxed some regulations, REF is slowly but surely getting back to work.

This year, the Fund managed to conduct eight high key switch on ceremonies in all the provinces soon after the relaxation of the once strict regulations. Switch on ceremonies are meant to promote brand visibility and allow senior government officials as well as those from REF to meet, mix and mingle with beneficiaries of products and services.

All the switch on ceremonies were conducted in accordance with government regulations on public gatherings,

EDITORIAL TEAM



Johannes Nyamayedenga
EDITOR



BRIDGET WATA
SECRETARY

It's the time

**LIGHT UP
S O M E O N E ' S
RURAL HOME
TODAY**

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REF chief executive officer, Eng Joshua Mashamba has described 2020 as the most difficult year in project implementation in view of the Covid 19 pandemic which killed thousands of people and affected millions more the world over.

In statement to staff members, Eng Mashamba said that the Covid 19 pandemic which also affected Zimbabwe forced REF to de-camp line construction workers from project sites they were working on soon after government ordered a lockdown of the country to avoid the spread of the disease.

Covid 19 broke out in Zimbabwe in February and government directed the lockdown in early March and introduced a host of measures to be undertaken by all Zimbabweans as a measure to control the pandemic which originated from China.

“In view of the Covid 19 pandemic, we were left with no choice but to embrace measures spelt out by government to stop the spread of the disease,” said Eng Mashamba.



CEO, Eng J V Mashamba

Eng Mashamba said that the targeted projects could not be implemented as line construction workers were de-camped and ordered to go home as per the requirement of the government despite the fact that materials were readily available.

While employees of local companies contracted the Covid 19 virus with some succumbing to the disease, the case was different at REF.

“I want to thank all staff members for taking precautions to avoid contracting the disease,” he said.

The Chief Executive also took the opportunity to praise organisers of the switch on ceremonies from both head office and provinces for a well-coordinated approach in the midst of Covid 19.

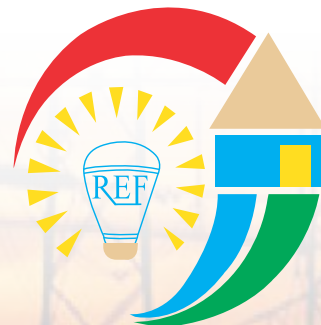
While mentioning in particular the Public Relations and Marketing team as well as the Covid 19 taskforce led by Ms Sanele Dube, Eng Mashamba said that had it not been for a well-coordinated approach and team work, cases of Covid 19 could have been reported at switch on ceremonies.

“Keep up the good work and raise the flag of your company very high,” he said.

Since Covid 19 is not yet over, Eng Mashamba said that the momentum set by organisers of the switch on ceremonies must be maintained for the good of the Fund.

It's the time

LIGHT UP S O M E O N E ' S RURAL HOME **TODAY**



Magetsi Kumusha
Amagetsi Ekhaya

PRESIDENT MNANGAGWA APPOINTS MUZARABANI NORTH LEGISLATOR AS THE NEW MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER DEVELOPMENT

By Johannes Nyamayedenga

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency, Emmerson Mnangagwa has appointed the Muzarabani North Member of Parliament, Honourable Zhemu Soda as the new Minister of Energy and Power Development.

The latest appointment was announced by the Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Dr Misheck Sibanda.

Hon Soda took over from Advocate Fortune Chasi who was relieved of his duties by President Mnangagwa over accusations of his conduct which had become incompatible with government.

The new minister joined politics in 1994 as a member of the youth league of and rose through the ranks to become a member of parliament for Muzarabani North Constituency on the ZANU PF ticket.

Hon Soda who was born in 1974 in Centenary attended Muzarabani Primary as well as Muzarabani and Machaya secondary schools. He attained a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Accounting with the Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA).

Before becoming a legislator, Hon Soda worked as an accountant with Cottco in Sanyati until 2004 and later joined Alliance Gineries as Regional Manager before retiring in 2017.

Ends.



Energy and Power Development Minister, Hon Z Soda



REF BOARD COMMITS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY TO ALL BY 2030, SAYS CHIWEWE

By the Editor

Rural Electrification Fund Board chairman, Mr Willard Chiweve has re-affirmed the Fund's commitment to provide access to modern energy to all the rural areas of Zimbabwe by the year 2030.

Addressing villagers who converged at Magura secondary school in Zaka district to witness the commissioning of electricity, Mr Chiweve said that the Fund had made tremendous progress in the provision of energy in rural Zimbabwe for economic empowerment and development.

Mr Chiweve said that as long as adequate resources were available, there was no reason why the Fund could fail to achieve its target of universal access to modern energy services by the year 2030.

“With adequate resources and support, we think we can achieve our target of providing modern energy services to all communities by 2030,” he said.

So far REF has electrified 9 507 rural public institutions countrywide that include schools, rural health centres, business centres, both small scale and large scale farms and homesteads since its inception in 2002.

The chairman said the launch of the launch of the Renewable Energy Policy will speed up the rural electrification process as embracing both solar and biogas energy will complement the conventional grid electricity.

Over the years, REF has been focusing on grid electricity with very little effort in renewable energy technologies. With the launch of the Renewable Energy Policy, use of solar and biogas energy will increase the pace of rural electrification program.

ends

SWITCH ON CEREMONIES ROUND UP

By the Magazine Reporter

The Rural Electrification Fund (REF) has conducted high key switch on ceremonies in all the eight rural provinces in its bid to meet beneficiaries of energy projects and assess the impact of energy in rural Zimbabwe.

The switch on ceremonies were conducted under strict requirements of observing Covid 19 regulations outlined by the government where a maximum of 50 people are required to attend public gatherings.

Former Energy and Power Development Minister, Advocate Fortune Chasi officiated at the ceremonies in both Matabeleland North and South provinces, Mashonaland West and Masvingo provinces. In Mashonaland East, the then Minister seconded the Deputy Minister to represent him.

In Matabeleland North, former Minister Chasi praised REF staff and management for bringing electricity to Ndamuleni Primary school, about 20 kilometres North East of Lupane Centre.

The former minister who departed from a prepared speech and speaking fluently in vernacular Ndebele encouraged the school to put electricity to good use and promote quality education for their children.

From Lupane, Advocate Chasi proceeded to Plumtree where he also commissioned electricity in Manguba village where REF electrified Manguba secondary schools and Phakama primary school as well as a community borehole.

There, the former minister blasted thieves describing their actions as retrogressive for vandalising electricity lines stealing copper wire which they sell in South Africa. He said such actions disrupted agricultural activities and plunged many business centres, growth points, schools, clinics and villagers in darkness.

Ends'.



Hon Soda switching on the light to signal the commissioning of biogas digester.

By the Magazine Reporter

Energy and Power Development Minister, Hon Zhemu Soda has commissioned three energy projects undertaken by the Rural Electrification Fund soon after taking oath of office.

The commissioned projects are the Ruya Biogas in Mt Darwin, Donsa and the Garahwa electrification in Midlands and Chipinge districts respectively.



Unveiling of the plaque to signal the commissioning of electricity at Garahwa school in Chipinge

MINISTER SODA COMMISSIONS PROJECTS IN THREE PROVINCES, PRAISES REF FOR HARD WORK OF IMPROVING THE LIVES OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

In Chipinge, REF extended the grid network to Makoho and both Garahwa Primary and secondary schools, the business centre and Chief Mupungu's homestead.

Addressing villagers at the commissioning ceremony, Hon Soda said that the provision of energy in rural Zimbabwe was one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals whose objective was to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all the people.

“Our Government has always recognized the importance of energy in general and electricity in particular as a vehicle for economic and social development of our country,” he said.



Teachers at Garahwa school in Chipinge are now enjoying the comfort of electricity

The Minister lamented poor funding of REF stating that the 6 percent levy that the Fund gets from electricity sales and the fiscal allocation were not adequate to accelerate the program to sustain the momentum already gained in project implementing. He said that funding challenges were exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic which choked levy inflows as many companies were closed.

Despite the challenges, Hon Soda promised to explore ways of supporting REF to achieve its mandate.

“My Ministry will continue to explore ways of supporting REF to enable it to carry out its mandate of facilitating rapid and equitable provision of energy in rural Zimbabwe,” added Hon Soda.



REF Board member, Mr P Ndemera giving opening remarks at the biogas digester commissioning at Ruya Adventist High school in Mt Darwin

From Chipinge, Hon Soda's commissioning itinerary took him to Midlands and Mashonaland Central provinces. In Midlands, the Minister commissioned the Donsa Electrification Project where REF electrified three primary schools, one secondary school, Donsa Business centre and Rural Health Centre.

Hon Soda wound up his itinerary in Mt Darwin where he commissioned a 50 cubic metre biogas digester built by REF to supply methane gas to the kitchen for use in preparing food for the students and teachers. Ends.



Newly electrified nurses houses at Donsa centres in Zhombe

It's the time
**LIGHT UP
SOMEONE'S
RURAL HOME
TODAY**

COVID 19 PANDEMIC AFFECTED REF'S PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

By the Magazine Reporter

Project implementation in rural Zimbabwe has not lived up to expectations in the entire 2020 financial year after the Rural Electrification Fund (REF) suspended operations in line with government which had directed a lockdown after the Covid 19 pandemic ravaged the whole world.

Covid 19 pandemic was first diagnosed in China and later spread to all countries of the world, Zimbabwe included killing thousands and also affecting millions.

In view of the pandemic, the government of Zimbabwe immediately ordered a lockdown of the country and directed all worked to operate from home except only those in essential services to contain the disease. This resulted in REF missing its target because there was no electricity lines that could be built from home.

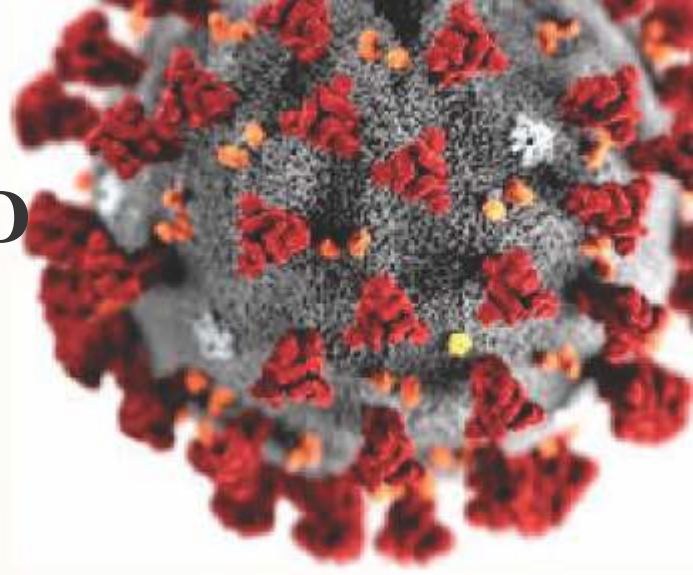
Projects Director, Eng Lukas Mkucha said that as from the beginning of the year, 77 grid electricity projects were completed, leaving 333 at various stage of construction. He said only one biogas project was built and completed this year out of a target of four.

Eng Mkucha who was presenting his report to the 31st Edition of the Rural Electrification Fund Board meeting in July said not much progress was achieved owing to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The completed projects pushed the number of electrified institutions to 9 489 since the formation of REF in 2002.



All people attending switch on ceremony were first required to undergo Covid 19 checks and got sanitised.



Covid 19 taskforce screening people entering the venue of a switch on ceremony

It's the time **LIGHT UP SOMEONE'S RURAL HOME TODAY**

By Johannes Nyamayendenga

Magazine Editor

The Rural Electrification Fund (REF) has appointed all three Executive Directors after intense interviews conducted by consultancy and the REF Board, making it possible for the Fund to operate efficiently.

Appointed Executive Directors took up vacant positions of Planning and Technology, Projects and

REF NOW HAS A FULL COMPLEMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE DIRECTORS

Finance. Before the appointments effected this year and announced by the Chief Executive, Eng Joshua Mashamba, REF relied on seconding some senior managers to act on those positions on a regular basis.

The three directors are Eng Cliff Nhandara who took over the post of Planning and Technology, Felisters Makumbinde who was appointed Finance Director and Lukas T. Mkucha who assumed the post of Projects Director.

Eng Cliff Nhandara

Planning and Technology Director

Former Business Development Manager with REF, Eng Cliff Nhandara has been appointed substantive Director for Planning and Technology on 1 January 2020 after acting on that post for almost eight years.



C Nhandara Planning and Technology Director

Eng Nhandara started acting as Business Development Manager (now Planning and Technology) on 15 June 2013 when the then position holder, Eng Joshua Mashamba was elevated to the position of Chief Executive of the Fund.

Before then Eng Nhandara was the Business Development Manager (Planning and Technology) since July 2005.

Eng Nhandara joined REF from the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) where he occupied various positions that include assistant engineer (Commercial) stationed in Bulawayo urban and then moved to planning in the same section as a senior engineer.

In 1995, he relocated to the Eastern Region as a senior engineer responsible for network operations and maintenance based in Mutare district. Two years later, Eng Nhandara undertook a course in Energy and Environment in Germany and on his return he was appointed Customer Services Manager of the Eastern Region. In 2004 he assumed the post of Commercial Manager in the same region where he was responsible for the expanded customer service function that include technical appraisal of new customer projects, new connections, key accounting management, billing and revenue collection.

Since joining REF, Eng Nhandara whose major role is research and development, is credited for championing the exploitation of biogas energy which saw REF constructing over 70 biogas digesters countrywide to allow rural public institutions to access affordable energy for various domestic use. In addition, the Planning and Technology Director is a key driver credited for drafting the Rural Energy Master Plan (REMP), an important and prestigious document which clarifies energy requirements for various communities.

Born in Mhondoro in 1968, the Planning and Technology Director holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from National University of Science and Technology and a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Zimbabwe.

Eng Lukas T Mkucha

Projects Director

Former Matabeleland North Provincial manager, Eng Lukas Tapiwanashe Mkucha has been appointed as the Projects Director of the Rural Electrification Fund following recent intense interviews conducted in Harare by consultancy and REF Board.

Eng Mkucha took over the post from Eng Batsirai Machamirei who retired from the Fund last year. He joined REF as one of the young pioneer group of junior staff in 2003 soon after its formation in 2002 and rose through the ranks to the position of provincial manager.



engineering trainee based at Hwange Thermal Power Station before he was transferred to the Northern Region in 2001 working as

Eng Mkucha was appointed acting provincial manager for Mashonaland West province in 2009. The following year in 2010 he was subsequently appointed Provincial Rural Electrification Manager for Matabeleland North province, a post he held until his recent appointment in 2020 as the Executive Director responsible for Projects.

Eng Mkucha has a first class Degree in Electrical Engineering and also holds a Master's in Business Administration as well as an MSc in Electrical Power Engineering among other qualifications that include a Diploma in IPMZ Training, ZESA Operations Senior Authorisation, Quality Assurance Part 1 and 2 and Project Management from the University of Durban.

During his time with ZESA and REF as an electrical engineer and provincial manager respectively, Eng Mkucha scooped a number of awards as a team leader and others as an individual in recognition of his exceptional and outstanding performance.

He won the Safety Award in the Individual category at Hwange Power Station in 2000 and scooped the 2nd runner up medal in leadership in the Zimbabwe Institute of Management for public institutions. In 2017 he was nominated as the best manager of public utilities by the Zimbabwe Institute of Management for the Southern Region.

His vast experience in management and administration will help in project implementation in the country. Eng Mkucha is married and has three children.

FELISTERS MAKUMBINDE FINANCE DIRECTOR

The Rural Electrification Fund Board (REF) has appointed Mrs Felisters Makumbinde as the Director for Finance with effect from 1 January 2020.

Mrs Makumbinde took over the post from Mrs Ferida Matambo who left the Fund last year when her term of office expired.

Before joining REF, the new Director worked for various organizations in the last 25 years amassing experience in the finance, administration and business management portfolios.

Her experience which spans over 25 years, 20 of which were in senior management and strategic positions in both the public and private sectors once worked for Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission Distribution Company (ZETDC) where she headed management accounting Division for three years, and Commercial Division for another three years, before leaving to join Heritage Insurance Company as a Corporate Financial Accountant.



Mrs F Makumbinde, Finance Director

She left Heritage in 2009 to join AC Controls Pvt Ltd as Finance and Administration manager. In 2011, she became the Finance and Administration Director, heading Finance, Administration and Business Development Divisions up to December 2016.

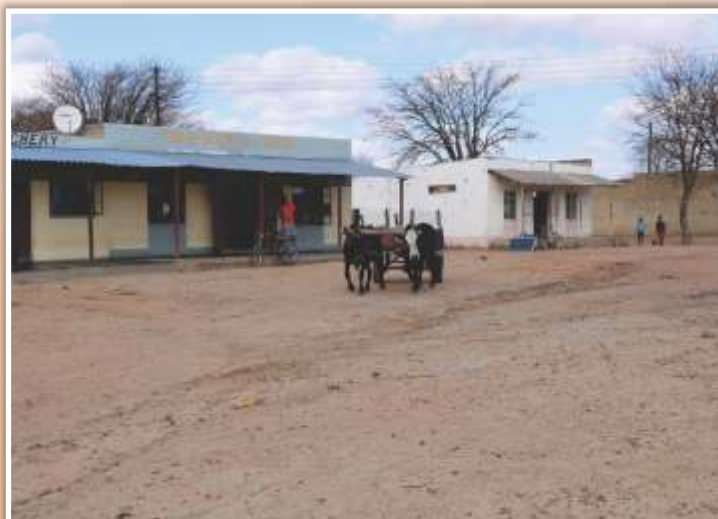
Mrs Makumbinde joined REF from Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration and Management (ZIPAM) where she was the Finance and Administration Executive. With her vast financial experience, she contributed immensely to the turnaround of the Institute in 2018, making it one of the few State Enterprises now operating profitably.

She holds a degree in accounting with the University of South Africa (UNISA), a Master's in Business Administration (UZ). She is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators (ACIS).



RURAL ELECTRICITY IN PICTURES

Chijawi primary school in Hurungwe appealing for computers after getting electricity



Donsa Business centre now electrified.



Energy and Power Development D Minister, Hon M Mudyiwa officiating at Nyamanyora in Mudzi



***Magetsi
Amagetsi***

REFURBISHMENT FUND FEATURES



Nyakunhuwa Rural Health centre in Zaka District now has electricity



Rural business people who had been using paraffin powered refrigerators are now enjoying modern energy, thanks to rural electrification program.



A shop owner enjoys watching television...thanks to REF for bringing electricity to the rural areas



On the dance floor during the commissioning of electricity are former Energy Minister, Hon F Chasi, REF BOARD Chairman, W Chiwewe and Deputy Minister, Hon Mudywa in Zaka



REF OBSERVES COVID 19 PREVENTION MEASURES AT SWITCH ON CEREMONIES

In an effort to combat the spread of corona virus in the organisation, the Rural Electrification Fund has crafted guidelines in line with government regulations to control the disease which has killed hundreds of people and affected millions the world over.

The guidelines tabled by the Human Resources and Administration section outlines precautions to be taken by employees at workplace and those conducting business outside office like in the construction of lines in the villages, conducting switch on ceremonies and running exhibitions.

REF's Employee Relations Officer, Ms Sanele Dube said that her section intensified health and safety measures outlined by government which called for the observation of social distancing, mask wearing, sanitisation and working from home to some staff members.

“Our Covid 19 cases were very minimal as we followed regulations outlined by government and REF.” she said.

She welcomed the efforts taken by management to provide all the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well as availing vehicles to transport workers from their homes to work place.

During switch on ceremonies, the Covid 19 task force comprised of Ms Dube, the Salaries and Administration Officer, Mr Bellamy Nyadzayo and Personal Assistant to the Chief Human Resources and Administration officer, Ms Tafadzwa Murindagomo provided the much needed assistance to scores of villagers attending the gatherings.

Upon arrival at the venue of the switch on ceremony, villagers, government officials and ministers were first subjected to random testing hand sanitized, random screened and having temperature to ascertain their health before directed to the venue,



Covid 19 taskforce screening people entering the venue of a switch on ceremony

cases which were not serious, adding that all the affected had recovered and were reporting for duty at their work places.

The Employee Relations Officer was, however, quick to point out that Covid 19 was not over advising all REF employees and management to remain vigilant and adhere to laid down regulations.

“We are encouraging all workers to continue observing Covid 19 regulations because the disease is still with us,” she added.

The observation of the regulations paid dividends and no case was reported at all switch on ceremonies.

BY ASWELL CLIFFORD

The North Zimbabwe Conference which runs the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) churches in the country has expressed gratification to Rural Electrification Fund (REF) for providing energy to their schools in the country.

Speaking at the commissioning of a biogas digester at Ruya Adventist High school in Mt Darwin, Senior Pastor Watson Mbiriri said that many of their schools in the country have benefited from electricity and biogas digesters.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH (SDA) PRAISES REF FOR PROVIDING ENERGY TO THEIR SCHOOLS

He said that the provision of energy has improved good relationship between REF and the SDA.

“I want to thank you (REF) for the relationship that we have built and the amazing work you are doing in electrifying our schools,” he said.

Pastor Mbiriri said that seven schools have already benefitted from either electricity, solar or biogas energy. He said that the benefiting schools are Marange, Chikwariro, Karirwi in Mutare District, Tsikada in Makoni district and both Chitikira and Manyenyedzi in Hurungwe district of Mashonaland West province. Also electrified is Gatora school in Wedza district.

“Today we are pleased to join the Minister of Energy and Power Development, Hon Soda at the commissioning of the biogas digester at our school,” he said.

“On behalf of the SDA church, I would like to assure the Hon Minister that we will use the gas wisely in our kitchen and prevent the biogas digester from vandalism,” he added.

Pastor Mbiriri urged REF to continue doing their good work of providing energy in rural Zimbabwe to improve the standards of education.



SDA Senior Pastor, Watson Mbiriri

It's the time
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REF ENGAGES A CONSULTANCY TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH ON CUSTOMER SATISFACTION RESEARCH AND ELECTRICITY IMPACT IN RURAL ZIMBABWE

By Bridget Wata

The Rural Electrification Fund (REF) has engaged a consultant to carry out a survey on the impact of energy in rural Zimbabwe to establish the impact of electricity, level of satisfaction as well as perception by the beneficiaries. The survey is the first to be conducted by REF since its formation in 2002.

REF's Public Relations and Marketing Executive, Mr Johannes Nyamayedenga said that the Fund found it necessary to engage a professional company to conduct a research in order to establish the impact of energy, the needs of customers and the level of satisfaction.

“Over the years we have been relying on assumptions which might not be a true reflection of what is happening on the ground, hence the need for a proper research on the impact and level of customer satisfaction,” he said.

Mr Nyamayedenga who was speaking to REF management just before the consultancy representatives presented their methodology, said that the results of the research will help the Fund to get accurate information on the needs of potential beneficiaries and provide guidance on the direction to take in project implementation.

“In simple terms we want to know the impact of energy to our customers, the level of satisfaction and of appetite for our products to those who are yet to benefit,” he added.

He said that the REF Board and management found it imperative to institute the research with the objective of evaluating on how REF was viewed by its diverse customers who include villagers, smallholder farmers, business persons and representatives of public

AUDITOR KATSAMATEKA DIES



ASWELL CLIFFORD.
BULLETIN REPORTER

The entire REF family was recently plunged into mourning when a fellow workmate, Mr Archibold Katsamateka, an internal auditor (financial), passed on in Harare after a long illness.

Katsamateka's untimely death comes as a great shock to both his family, friends, relatives and the organization.

A fellow auditor Mr Walter Taderera who shared the same office with him since 2012 described Mr Katsamateka as a hardworking person who was committed to his duties and related well with others.

“Archibold was someone you could share problems with and interacted well with others,” he said.

Mr Taderera said that Mr Katsamateka devoted much of his time to his family and also enjoyed adventure with friends where they could drink, share experiences and watching his favourite international soccer team Chelsea.

Internal Audit manager, Miss Yeukai Gaihai described the death of Katsamateka as a great loss to the REF family.

“We worked well with him for the last nine years and his death has created a void in the section,” she said.

Miss Gaihai said that his death came at a time when internal auditors were understanding auditing issues and interacting well with province during business time.

Mr Katsamateka joined the Rural Electrification Fund in August 2011 as the Internal Auditor (Financial).

He was a holder of a Bachelor of Accounting Degree with the Zimbabwe Open University which he obtained in 2012 in addition to other various Diplomas in the field of finance and accounting.

Mr Katsamateka was born on 21 October 1969 in Mabvuku Township in Harare and grew up there attending both primary and secondary schools. He was buried at Mabvuku cemetery in Harare.

Mr Katsamateka is survived by his wife Ratchell, children and grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by fellow workmates.

REST IN INTERNAL PEACE

TIPS FOR SURVIVING A HEAT WAVE WHILE IT IS HAPPENING



1. Stay hydrated with plenty of water—even if you're not thirsty. Hot weather causes you to sweat, and it's vital to replenish the lost fluids or you'll overheat. Have a water bottle within reach as you go about your day to avoid dehydration.
2. Never leave children or pets alone in hot vehicles—even for a second. Keep your pets indoors and make sure they have access to a cool space and plenty of water.
3. Stay inside during the hottest part of the day (10 A.M to 4 P.M.) and limit time outside in the Sun. Avoid strenuous activity and postpone outdoor games and events.

FORMER REF BOARD MEMBER AND MARONDERA WEST LEGISLATOR CHIDHAKWA DIES

The Chartered Institute of Customer Management (CICM) was engaged by REF to undertake the research. The company has already begun its work with researchers deployed in all the eight rural provinces to compile data.

Outlining their methodology to REF management, Charlene Chibonda of CICM said that the company was likely to take eight weeks to collect data, sample it and deliver the results to REF.

By the Magazine Reporter

Former board member of the Rural Electrification Fund (REF) and Marondera West Constituency Member of Parliament, Hon Patrick Chidhakwa has died.

The untimely death of Hon Chidhakwa shocked many people not only in Marondera West constituency but also from the REF staff and fellow board members.

Hon Chidhakwa, former ward four councillor and Marondera Rural District council chairman collapsed in Parliament and was rushed to South Africa for treatment and passed on there.

"We have lost a hard worker in our ward," said Mr Peter Chanengeta, an Agritex officer who worked closely with the late in ward four.

The late MP is credited for championing the construction of a classroom block at Chiseve primary school where children from the area were conducting lessons in a former farmhouse.

"It is very difficult that Hon Chidhakwa is no more," said Mr Tichafara Gundo, the Chief Executive officer of Marondera Rural District Council.

"He was one of the finest councillor and chairperson of the council I had worked with," added Mr Gundo.

During his stint as Marondera Rural District Council Chairman, Hon Chidhakwa led his council to initiate many developmental projects which were

implemented by Mr Gundo and council workers.

REF Chief Executive Officer, Eng Joshua Mashamba described the death of Chidhakwa as a great loss to the nation.

"This is sad news indeed," he said.

Chidhakwa served as REF board member for more than a year and resigned from the Fund after he was elected Member of Parliament for Marondera West constituency in the harmonised elections in August in 2018.

Mr Chidhakwa who was appointed to the REF board in November 2017 through a ticket from the association of rural district councils where he was the deputy president, tendered his resignation soon after taking oath of office.

Apart from resigning from the REF board, Mr Chidhakwa also informed Marondera Rural District council that he was longer the council's chairperson as well as ward four councillor as he had moved up the ladder to become a legislator.

It's the time

LIGHT UP
S O M E O N E ' S
RURAL HOME
TODAY

TIPS FOR SURVIVING A HEAT WAVE WHILE IT IS HAPPENING

4. When you're in the outdoors, make sure you stay out of direct sunlight as much as possible. Wear a hat or even carry an umbrella. Wear sunscreen!
5. Set your air conditioners to a lower temperature and use curtains or blinds to keep direct sunlight out. If A/C is not available, stay indoors on the lowest floor in a well-ventilated area with fans. Keep shades and blinds closed. If you don't have air conditioners, place a tray or dish of ice in front of a fan and it'll help to cool your room quickly.
6. Don't drink alcohol, sugary soda, coffee, energy drinks, or other caffeinated beverages, as they dehydrate you! That's the last thing you need during a heat wave.
7. Eat small meals and eat more often. Eat food with nutrients (not empty carbs) and also food with higher water content (fruits and vegetables).
8. Wear light, loose-fitting, airy, light-colored clothing and a hat made of breathable material. Tight clothing traps heat.
9. Check on family and friends who are elder or more susceptible, especially if they may have lost A/C. If you or someone you know is experiencing heat-related issues (rapid heartbeat, dizziness, fainting, headaches, muscle cramps, vomiting, diarrhea), call your doctor.
10. If you feel overheated, cool off with wet washcloths on your wrists and neck or take a cool sponge bath or shower. Carry a cold water bottle spray or cooling facial mist with you, and spritz cold water on your pressure points to bring your body temperature down.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

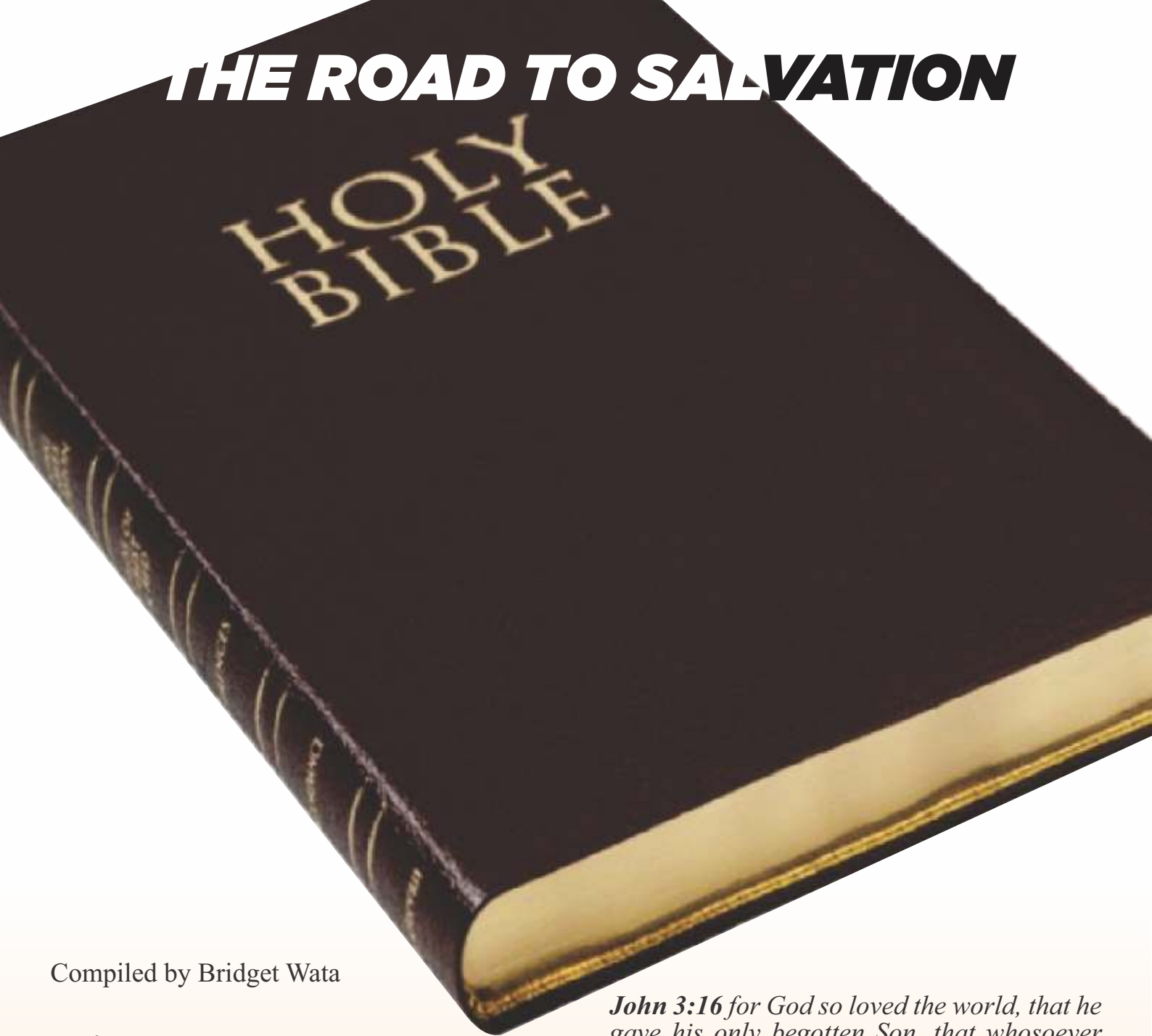


Margret Katanganda graduated with a Master's Degree in Strategic Management and Corporate Governance at Midlands State University.



Innocent Rewu graduated with a Master's Degree in Science- Supply Chain Management-Logistics at Chinhoyi University

THE ROAD TO SALVATION



Compiled by Bridget Wata

As we push for better lives and livelihoods, we must never forget that it is critical never to lose our salvation in the process. After all has been achieved on earth and we have driven the best cars, built our dream houses and gathered all that defines physical prosperity, our souls remain the most valuable when we have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

***Mathew 16:26** for what is man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Our profit is in accepting the gift of life given to us through Jesus Christ.*

***John 3:16** for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. **Ephesians 5:16-17**¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

***Mathew 6:19-21** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

***Proverbs 4:23**
Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*



AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS; ZIMBABWE MEETS ALGERIA

WARRIORS coach, Zdravko Logarusic, has thrown in his final ace and got rewarded with a priceless goal as Zimbabwe put up a good fight to pick an important point in their 2021 AFCON qualifying campaign.

Initially the hosts looked dead and buried, when they went down 0-2, in their battle against the African champions, Algeria, at the National Sports Stadium in Harare. The high-profile game played in an empty stadium where fans are not allowed due to Covid 19 pandemic was the first soccer match to be played on Zimbabwean soil since the

captain Knowledge Musona reduced deficit when he scored a beautiful goal from a free kick in the 43rd minute, giving hope to scores of fans who were watching the game on television.

At half time the Croatian coach made changes to his team when he threw in four substitutes and was rewarded with a late goal from Prince Dube. The in-form Tanzanian based forward, with his first touch, forced his effort home for the equaliser in this foul-goal thriller.

The Warriors lost the reverse fixture 1-3 in Algiers. The point helped Algeria to book their place at the next AFCON finals on 10 points, while the Warriors now have to battle the Zebras of

REA FC TO START TRAINING AHEAD OF THE 2020/21 ZIMBABWE PARASTATAL SOCIAL SOCCER LEAGUE SEASON.

Botswana and Zambia's Chipolopolo, for the other slot.

The Warriors have five points, from four games, with both their home matches ending in draws, while Botswana are now in third place, with four points, after a 1-0 win over Zambia recently. The Zambians have three points, with just one win, a scrappy 2-1 victory over Botswana last week, in their four games.

Zimbabwe will host the Zambians in Harare and travel to Botswana in their final two games, while the Zebras also have an away game against the Desert Foxes. The Zambians have a home game against Algeria and an away battle in Harare.

Zimbabwe: T. Shumba, T. Darikwa (P. Dube 82nd min), J. Dzingai, T. Hadebe, A. Chicksen (D. Lunga, 46th min), J. Zemura (K. Mahachi, 46th min), T. Rusike (O. Karuru, 46th min), M. Nakamba, K. Musona, D. Moyo (K. Billiat, 46th min), T. Kadewere.

Algeria: R. M'bolhi, A. Mandi, D. Benlamri, A. Bensebaini, M. Halaima, A. Guedioura, M. Benrahma (Y. Brahimi, 72nd min), I. Bennacer (M. Abeid (79th min), R. Mahrez (A. Ounas, 79th min), S. Feghouli (J. Belkebla (68th min), A. Delort (B. Bounedjah, 68th min)

By Aswell Clifford.

The 2020 to 2021 Zimbabwe Parastatal Social Soccer League (ZPSSL) season which was set to start in March has been rescheduled to this November, the same date for the commencement of the national soccer calendar in Zimbabwe.

All sporting activities in the country have been banned by the government in a bid to curb the spread of the coronavirus outbreak, which affected all countries of the world.

The electricity boys are representing the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) in the ZPSSL, but their preparations were affected by coronavirus lockdown which prevented them from conducting sessions as a team since March.

In a statement, REA FC chairman Wearprinacieve Kagodo confirmed the development.

“Permission has been granted for the resumption of group training ahead of the ZPSSL assignment under strict COVID-19 regulations,” he said

REF FC head coach Israel Yaluka said that REA FC players were ready after a long break caused by Covid 19 pandemic and were looking forward to start training. He said that he was happy that all players were fit and no injury worries ahead of their training.

“My boys are 100 percent fit and are ready for the training,” he said.

REA FC will be seeking to win this season's title after they finished without any silverware last season.

Table 5: NATIONAL STATISTICS ON THE ELECTRIFICATION STATUS OF RURAL SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CENTRES AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2020

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	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Clinics	Aggregate Total
Manicaland	839	382	274	1495	576	310	267	1153	263	72	7	342	69	81	96	77
Mash Central	497	218	145	860	389	160	118	667	108	58	27	193	78	73	81	78
Mash East	658	308	189	1155	425	214	130	769	233	94	59	386	64	69	69	66
Mash West	682	328	109	1119	415	173	86	674	267	155	23	445	61	53	78	60
Masvingo	848	349	188	1385	376	241	161	778	472	108	27	607	44	69	85	56
Mat North	555	162	107	824	312	114	98	524	243	48	9	300	56	70	92	64
Mat South	503	149	125	777	330	133	123	586	173	16	2	191	65	89	98	75
Midlands	742	317	204	1263	329	224	193	746	413	93	11	517	44	71	95	59
Total	5324	2213	1341	8878	3152	1569	1176	5897	2172	644	165	2981	60	72	87	67

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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Magetsi Kumusha Amagetsi Ekhaya