

# EARTH SATELLITE STATION MAZOWE

Issued 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1985

The PTC Bulletin does not state the reason for issuing these stamps. The Mazowe Earth Satellite Station was opened by then Prime Minister. Robert Mugabe on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1985. The stamps therefore were issued in advance of the Station's official opening.

*(Extracts from the PTC Bulletin No 2 of 1985)<sup>2</sup>*

## The Stamps and their description

The potential of Satellites as a means of communication was first seen by Arthur C Clarke the famous science writer. In an article in Wireless World in October 1945 he described a scheme for global telephone calls and television by Satellite.

The Intelsat V Telecommunications Satellite featured on the 26 cents stamp was launched in December 1980 and placed in geostationary orbit 35 800 km (22 300 miles) above the equator. This Satellite has a specially designed capacity to handle simultaneously 12 000 telephone circuits plus two television channels. The mass of the Satellite at launch was 1 864 kilograms and after the firing of the apogee motor weighed 1012 kilograms. The expected lifespan of the Satellite is approximately 84 months.



Featured in this stamp is an Intelsat Standard 'A' Earth Satellite Station costing Z\$ 10 million which has been established in the picturesque Mazowe valley approximately 40 kilometres from Harare. This international project allows Zimbabwe to communicate directly with all countries who are connected to the Intelsat Global Satellite Network.

Services provided for include high speed data facsimile, multi-channel telephony as well as colour television reception and transmission.

The site chosen although surrounded by low hills allows communication with satellites placed in orbit over both the Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions.

A modern terrestrial Microwave Radio Link allows all traffic to flow between the Earth Satellite Station at Mazowe and the Posts and Telecommunications centre in Harare.

## Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC <sup>1</sup>	Value	Description
657	81	26c	Intelsat V
	a.		Non-fluorescent coated paper
658	82	57c	Earth Satellite Station Mazowe
	a.		Non-fluorescent coated paper

## Technical details

<b>Stamp size:</b>	26c	35 x 30 mm	57c	66 x 26 mm
<b>Sheet Size:</b>	26c	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps),	57c	30 stamps (10 rows of 3 stamps)
		Each stamp with two panes per printed sheet		
<b>Artist:</b>	Colour photograph of Intelsat V used by kind permission of Ministry of Post & Telecommunications, Bonn, West German, and is from their publication "The Programmed Skies". <sup>2</sup>			
	The 57c stamp is from an original painting by Richard Jack, a Zimbabwean artist resident in Harare. <sup>2</sup>			
<b>Paper:</b>	ZSC paper type B – HS6, florescent coated paper with PVA gum with a blueish/greenish tinge. (see notes below)			
<b>Print colours:</b>	All values - Black, magenta, cyan, yellow			
<b>Perforations:</b>	26c	SG 14½ x 14, ZSC 14¼ x 14		
	57c	SG 14½, ZSC 14½		
		Top margin:	Perforated through.	
		Other margins:	Imperforate	
<b>Printer:</b>	Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe			
<b>Printer's Imprint:</b>	Bottom Margin, 26c below Row 10 Columns 2 to 4. 57c below Row 10, under all three stamps Imprint printed in black			
<b>Cylinder numbers:</b>	Bottom margin under Row 10/1. Colours reading from left All values – cyan, yellow, magenta, black			
<b>Colour register:</b>	Type TL 4– round boxed – right margin opposite R10/1. Colours reading down. All values – cyan, yellow, magenta, black			
<b>Sheet Value:</b>	Bottom margin, 26c below R10/5, 57c below R10/3 Printed in black			
<b>Sheet Number:</b>	Type SN 4a with 'PTC' prefix, right margin, opposite R10, reading down.			
<b>Print numbers:</b>	26c	500,000	57c	510,000
<b>Issue date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> July, 1985			

**Withdrawal from sale:**

**Demonetarisaton:** 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1994

**Notes on paper**

The Zimbabwe Colour Catalogue list both values and having printings on both fluorescent and no-fluorescent paper. From the back of the stamps the gums appear to be the same with both papers. It is possible that they are the same paper but where the fluorescent coating has been considerable reduced for part of the paper used in the print run.

From the information available, the non-fluorescent paper appears to be with the lower sheet numbers (noted on PTC 0018 and PTC 0019), with a sheet number of PTC 0106 for a fluorescent block of four. It is possible therefore that the non-fluorescent stamps are from an early print run, but to extent of it is still to be ascertained.

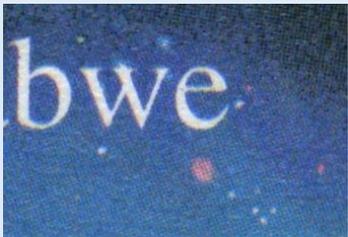
Although the Zimbabwe Stamp Catalogue lists both values as having non-fluorescent paper, so far only evidence has been found for the 26c.

**Listed varieties**

The only listed varieties are the differences in paper fluorescence discussed above

**Unlisted Varieties**

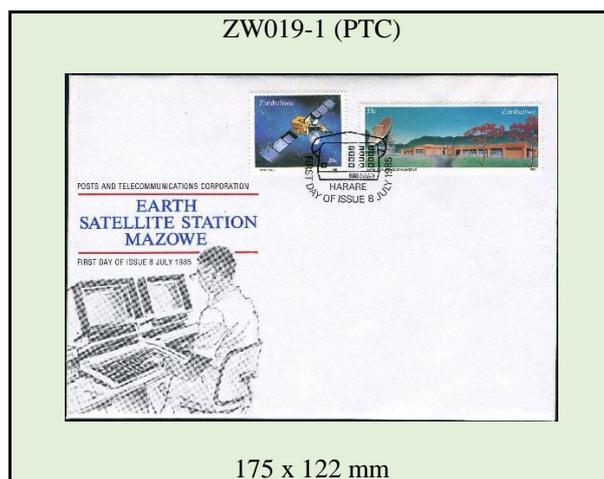
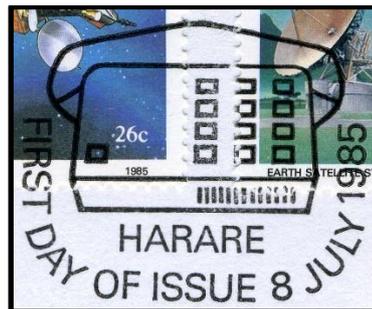
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some dots and specks shown below are a bit more distinctive, some may be constant.

 <p>26c: Reddish spots below and to right of 'E' of Zimbabwe.</p>	 <p>57c: Strange marks in sky over buildings. Almost looks like a fingerprint</p>	 <p>57c: Dust cloud on horizon left of satellite dish. (Note: black dot above horizon appears on most stamps)</p>
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## First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



### Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 1985.