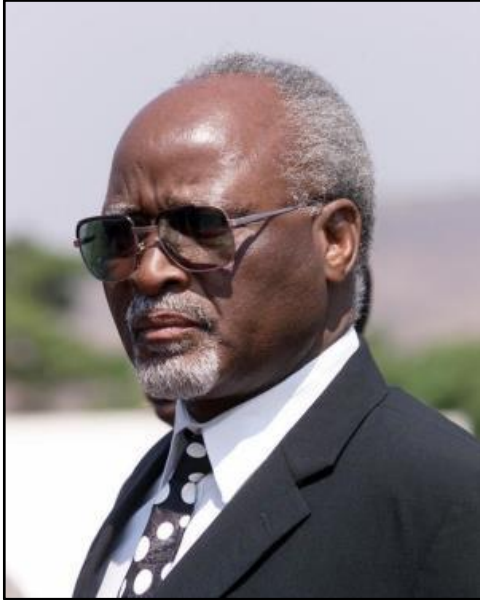


Commemoration of the Life of LANDA JOHN NKOMO Co-Vice President

Issued 30th July 2013

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2013)²



Born: 22 August, 1934 in Gwaii Reserve, Matabeleland North.

Died: 17 January, 2013 at St Anne's Hospital, Harare.

Buried: At Heroes Acre, 21 January, 2013.

Dr. Landa John Nkomo was the first son in a family of nine children (four girls and five boys). His great-great grandfather, Nduna Mbowane, was custodian of the first Matabele King, Mzilikazi.

Schools he attended were Manqe Infants, St Ninian's, and Solusi Mission School. He only continued his education after 1953, when he was employed as a stores assistant in a Bulawayo clothing factory, where he got his Junior Certificate in 1955. After that, he trained as a teacher in Lower Gwelo (now Gweru) which exposed the unfair, discriminatory systems perpetrated in Southern Rhodesia.

He qualified in 1958, and joined the Southern Rhodesia African National Congress; he also noted the deliberate and systematic eviction of all black Zimbabweans from the fertile, cultivated fields around Nyamandlovu to accommodate new white immigrants to an arid, hostile environment around Tjolutjo (now Tsholotsho), with the resultant loss of both bovine and human life because of a noxious weed, umkhawuzane, which contained cyanide precursors. They only survived, as a family, as a result of his father, Lufele, gaining intelligence from the local Khoi San community, who had previously been removed from Mangwe to accommodate large scale cattle ranches around Plumtree, the southern border town of Rhodesia, created by Rhodes' British Central Africa Chartered Company.

In 1961 Landa married Georgina Ngwenya, with whom he had six children, and who actively supported him in the Liberation struggle. He never sought easy options or self-promotion, so as a committed freedom fighter became a leading torchbearer in the total independence from England. He turned the adversity of his imprisonment at Khami, Connemara, and subsequent detention in remote Gonakudzingwa to advantage by obtaining both "O" and "A" level Cambridge certificates whilst in detention for two and a half years.



John Nkomo served in ZAPU, the successor to the banned ANC, as Secretary for Administration in Lusaka, Zambia from 1975 till Independence, in 1980, continuing in Zimbabwe, then back in Lusaka till 1985. In 1977, he was next to J. Z. Moyo when the Vice President was killed by a parcel bomb. This affected him physically and emotionally for the rest of his life.

On the diplomatic front, he argued cogently with the British, at Geneva and Malta, the UN Committee of 24, the UN De-colonisation Subcommittee, the OAU, the non-aligned movement of 77 nations and the Front-line States to resolve areas of disagreement and misunderstanding. He twice was a main player, and the voice of calm, intellectual agreement between the more vocal and less approachable members of the other side - in the formation of the Patriotic Front, before Independence and the Unity Accord, in 1987. As National Chairman he was again responsible for instilling discipline and moderation into the more fiery cadres of the Unity Government, from 1987 till the end of his life.

At Independence, he became Deputy Minister of Industry and Energy in 1981 after being elected an MP for Matabeleland North. From 1982 to 1984 he served as Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. He then, in 1988 became Minister of Labour, Manpower Planning and Social Welfare, inaugurating and supporting major changes in the relationships between workers and employers, greatly modernizing many archaic laws and regulations from the colonial past. His integrity and humility always shone through everything - emulating Winston Churchill's comment "Jaw-jaw is always better than War-war".

The creation of NSSA (National Social Security Authority) was, for many people considered his crowning achievement, and he did a lot with the International Labour Organization, being elected President to 80th International Labour Conference which is a worldwide Board held every year in Geneva. He did a lot of work as well on the social dimensions of globalisation.



Between 1995 and 1997 Cde. Landa Nkomo served as Minister of Local Government Rural and Urban Development. That was in large to encompass national housing until 1999 during which time he empowered Local Government for Urban and Rural to take a more responsible attitude towards people that they governed, thereby demystifying the process local people could be governed and empowering traditional leaders as well. This resulted in active participation of chiefs and other traditional leaders in Local Government decisions.

From June 2000 until August 2002 Dr. Landa Nkomo was Minister of Home Affairs and in September 2002 he became Minister of Special Affairs in the Office of the President and Cabinet, being responsible for lands, Land Reform and Resettlement.

In April 2005 he was elected speaker of the House of Assembly, until the harmonized election in March 2008. He was appointed non constituency senator in August 2008 and in February 2009 he was appointed Minister of State responsible for the Organ for National Healing Reconciliation and Integration. In particular, he promoted the concept he had always held dear, the over-arching importance of Peace, a principle which he had always held on to, even during the darkest days of our struggle for National Independence, and thereafter.

Following the death of VP Joseph W. Msika in August 2009, he was appointed Vice President and Second Secretary for ZANU PF and sworn into office and the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe in 2009. One of his major initial achievements was the collection of more than two million signatures of ordinary Zimbabwe people to ask for the unconditional removal of illegal sanctions by the EU and other countries, as it severely inhibited the growth of our economy and access to international credit, so necessary for any developing country.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1354	757	30c	John Nkomo as a young man
1355	758	75c	John Nkomo as an older man
1356	759	85c	John Nkomo as a young man
1357	760	\$1	John Nkomo as an older man

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps:	30 x 35 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
Artist:	Lucia Marisamhuka	
Paper:	ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark	
Print colours:	Dark blue, magenta, yellow & black	
Perforations:	SG 14 x 14½; ZSC 14 x 14¼ Left margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate	
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe	

Printer's Imprint: Bottom Margin, below Row 5 Columns 5 & 6. Imprint printed in black

Cylinder numbers: Bottom margin above R5/1. Colours from left – dark blue, magenta, yellow, black

Colour register: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R5/1. Colours reading down – dark blue, magenta, yellow, black

Sheet Value: Top margin, below R5/10, printed in black

Sheet Number: Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10 reading down

Print numbers:	30c	10,000	75c	10,000
	85c	10,000	\$1	10,000

Issue date: 30th July 2013

Print Colours

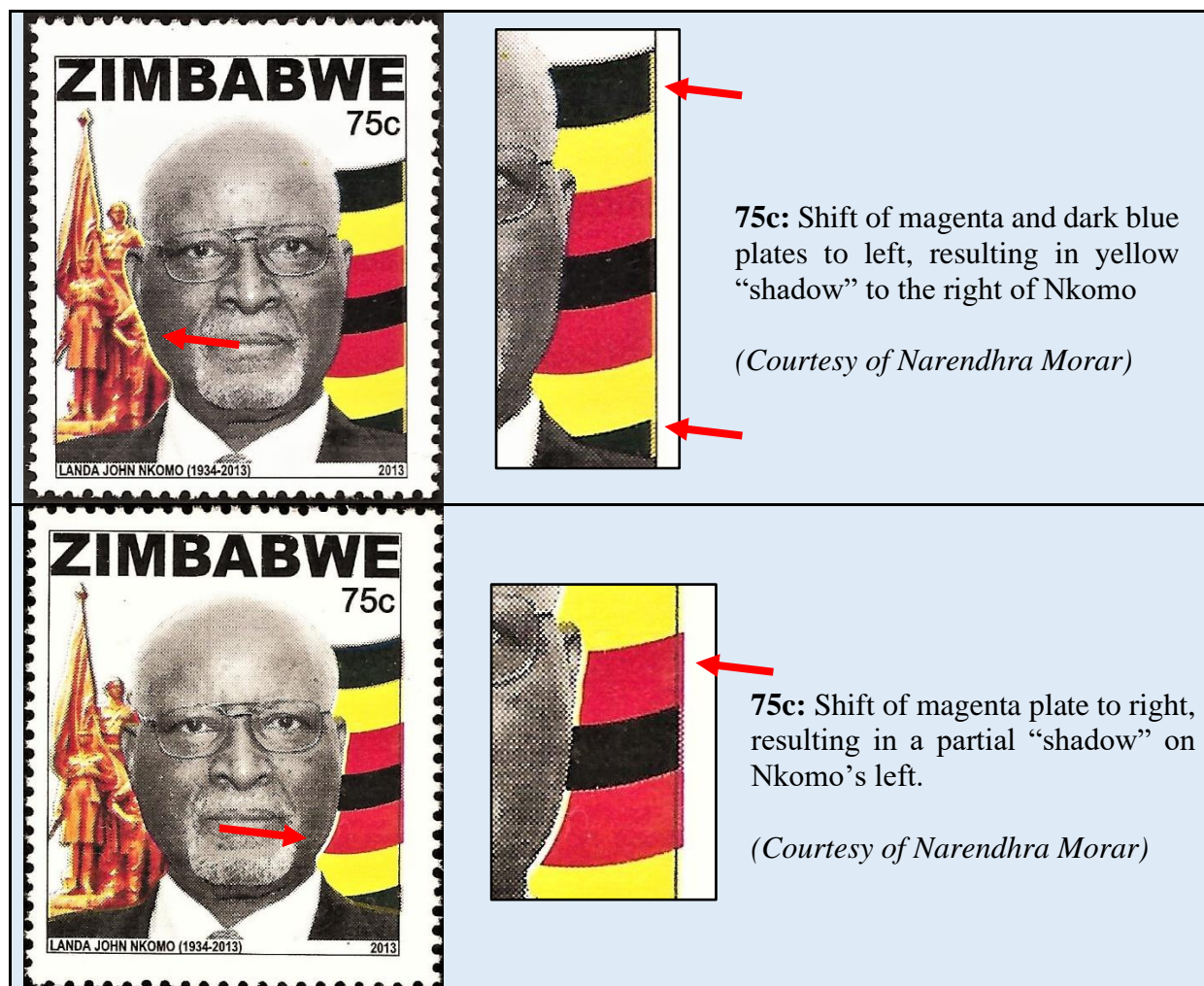
The use of a dark blue ink, instead of cyan, makes the green bands on the national flag appear very dark, almost black in some cases.

Listed Varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

Numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps were noted in the examination of the sheets with missing black printing. There are slight shifts of the printing plates, giving the flag behind variations in its appearance. The shifts also create a “shadow” to the portrait, some examples are shown below. Otherwise, no significant varieties have been reported.



First Day Cover

No first day covers were made available by the Philatelic Bureau, covers can, however be found with the Harare First Day of Issue canceller on plain covers and Bureau manila stationery.

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, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2013