

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SALLY FRANCESCA MUGABE

Issued 6th August 2002

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2002)²



SALLY FRANCESCA MUGABE (nee HAYFRON) : 1931-1992

Popularly known as "Amai", a Shona equivalent of "Mother", Sally Francesca Mugabe (nee Hayfron), died on 27 January, 1992. She was 61. Sally was buried at the National Heroes Acre on 1 February 1992.

Born in Ghana in 1931, Sally and her twin sister, Esther, were raised in an achieving and highly political family, which was part of the growing nationalist politics in colonial Ghana. A teacher by profession, the young Sally's political career grew with this wave of rising Ghanaian nationalism shaped and led by Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah, the man who fought British colonial rule and led his people to Independence in 1957. Under Nkrumah, Ghana became the capital of Pan African politics whose principal goal was a complete decolonisation and integration of the African continent. It was this broad, Pan African thrust which shaped and guided the late Sally's outlook and activism, motivating her to connect with the struggle for the independence of Zimbabwe, a country she would adopt as a home.

Sally received her primary school education in Accra and Sekondi and her secondary education at Achimota School. She trained as a schoolteacher at the Holy Child College, where she converted to Catholicism. She took up a teaching post at Takoradi Teacher Training College where she met a young teacher from the then colonial Southern Rhodesia, Robert Gabriel Mugabe, who, as fate would have it, would turn out to be her life-long husband and a comrade-in-arms in Zimbabwe's bitter and protracted struggle for Independence. The two married in April 1961 in Zimbabwe, and sooner rather than later, the young bride was sucked into the vortex of a cruel struggle for Zimbabwe's Independence.

Her first recorded active engagement in Zimbabwean politics came in the same year when she participated in an all-women demonstration against the unacceptable 1961 Constitution for Southern Rhodesia. She was charged with sedition and sentenced to a five-year sentence, part of which was suspended.

In 1967, she went into exile in London where she would spend the next eight years, agitating and campaigning for the release of political detainees in Zimbabwe, including her husband who had been arrested in 1964 and was to remain incarcerated for eleven years. Their only son, Nhamodzenyika, was born during this period of detention and imprisonment, would succumb to a severe attack of malaria and die in Ghana. Bitter but unbowed, Mugabe was prevented from attending the burial of his son, with Sally left to singly bear the physical and emotional burden of the loss.

With the eventual release of Mugabe from prison in 1975 and his subsequent escape to Mozambique to lead the national armed liberation struggle, Sally was again able to rejoin her husband in Maputo, but for an even more turbulent yet fulfilling life of struggle.



There, she found herself challenged to a new role of a mother figure to thousands of Zimbabwean refugees and cadres who had escaped settler oppression to join the struggle. She discharged the new and onerous role with remarkable success, earning herself the title "Amai". In 1978 she was elected ZANU (PF) Deputy Secretary for the Women's League. At Independence in 1980, she had to make another quick re-adjustment to a new and national role of wife to Zimbabwe's first black Prime Minister.

In 1988, with the assistance of UNICEF, the late Sally organised the Child Survival and Development Foundation, an organisation dedicated to identifying and providing assistance to needy children. In addition, she was patron of children's homes that included Emerald Hill School for the Deaf, Matthew Rusike Children's Home and Jairos Jiri. She was also co-patron of the 21st February Movement.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1087	513	\$20	Sally Mugabe in green outfit
1088	514	\$50	Sally Mugabe in blue outfit
1089	515	\$70	Sally Mugabe in green outfit
1090	516	\$90	Sally Mugabe in blue outfit

Technical details

Stamp size:	All values	30 x 35 mm		
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet			
Artist:	Cedric Herbert			
Paper:	ZSC paper type H - another HS8 type paper. The paper is off-white and non-fluorescent front and back, PVA creamish gum. The shade intensity of the gummed side may vary occasionally under UV.			
Print colours:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black			
Perforations:	SG 14 x 14½, ZSC 14 x 14¼ Right margin: Perforated through. Other margins: Imperforate			
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe			
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin, below Row 3 Columns 5 & 6. Imprint printed in black			
Cylinder numbers:	Bottom margin below R5/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black			
Colour register:	Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R5/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black			
Sheet Value:	Bottom 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:	\$20	3,460,000	\$50	430,000
	\$70	390,000	\$90	330,000
Issue date:	6 th August, 2002			

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted.

Unlisted Varieties

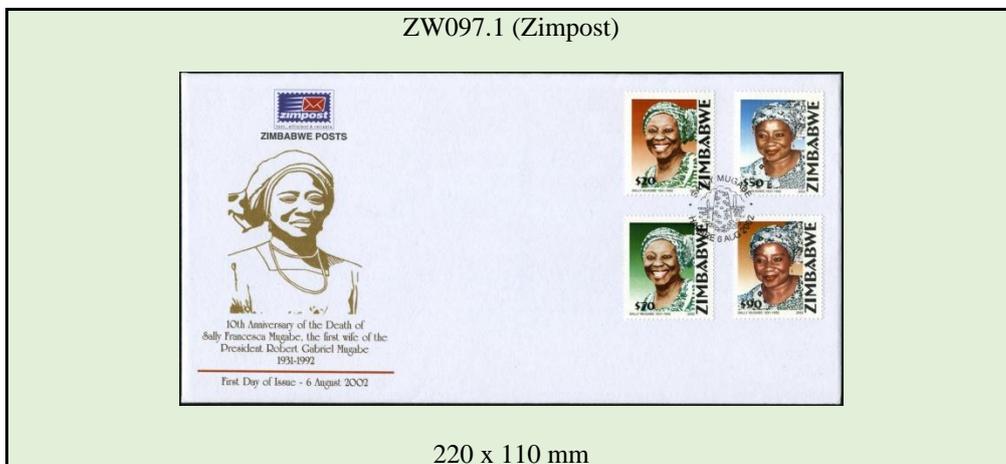
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds.



First Day Cover

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.

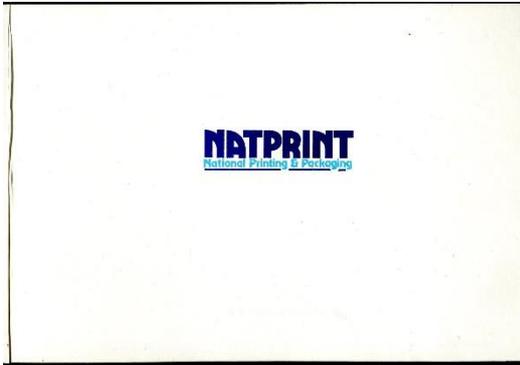


Related Material

Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

Presentation cards produced by Natprint with imperforate proofs of three of the stamps to be issued. The presentation cards were forwarded to the PTC for approval of the final product.

(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Front cover



Inside front cover



\$20 stamp



\$50 stamp



\$90 stamp

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. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2002

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
12/2021	\$20 proof