

NATIONAL HEROES (2nd Series)

Issued 25th July, 2006

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2006)²

\$60,000: Leopold Tapfumaneyi Takawira

Born 6th June 1916. Died 15th June 1970. Reburied at Heroes Acre, 11th August 1982. Known as "The Lion of Chirumanzu", the First Vice President of ZANU, was born to humble parents at Athens Mine, and initially buried by his faithful followers at Holy Cross in Chilimanzi (now Chirumanzu), after dying from an easily diagnosable and preventable complication of diabetes, whilst incarcerated at the then Salisbury Main Prison.

Educated at Kutama, he later continued his studies for a teaching qualification at the Roma University in Basutoland (now Lesotho). He then became a schoolteacher at Chipembere Primary School, in Highfield, where he joined the resistance movement, rapidly rising in the National Democratic Party to become its leader and chief spokesman.

He became external representative of the Nationalist Movement in London, and denounced the 1961 constitution (of Southern Rhodesia) which produced a racially segregated parliament of only 15 Africans in a parliament of 65. As a result, the NDP was banned, and ZAPU was formed, with Cde. Takawira as Secretary for External Affairs. Later, when ZAPU was in turn banned, Cde. Takawira was one of the founding members of ZANU, becoming its vice president by popular vote at its first congress in 1963.

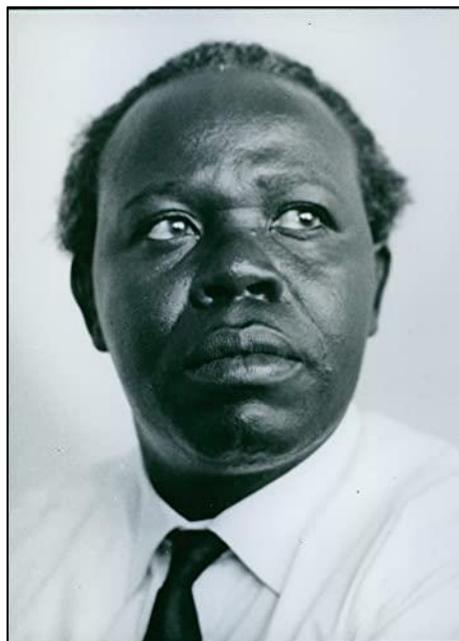
He worked tirelessly to popularise and expand membership of ZANU, and when it, too was banned he was thrown into prison, initially at WhaWha, then Sikombela and finally, in 1965, Salisbury, where he died due to medical negligence, confirmed by Ian Smith's own court.

\$350,000: Simon Charles Mazorodze

Born 19th November 1933. Died 5th November 1981. Buried at Heroes Acre, 8th November 1981. Born of a humble peasant father and a devout Methodist mother in Mhondoro, he had his basic education in Marshall Hartley Infants school, then proceeding, by scholarship, to Goromonzi where his talent as an intellectual and studious leader became recognised.

He was enrolled at the University of Natal Medical School, returning to do a year's housemanship at Harari (now Harare) Hospital, At that time (1963) it was a new and progressive hospital with a bright future, with the nascent Godfrey Huggins Medical School taking in its first clinical students, leading to a Medical degree by arrangement with the University of Birmingham (England).

Simon Mazorodze worked indefatigably to make childbirth easier and more successful for black women, many of whom would otherwise have had Caesarean sections (and sterilisation) rather than natural childbirth assisted by his expert Swedish suction.



In 1967, he was transferred to a small, Rhodesian, rural hospital at Ndanga, 55 miles south-west of Fort Victoria (now Masvingo).

Perhaps his greatest achievement was the supply of medical needs for the freedom fighters, and concealing recruits in places where Special Branch could not find them - a dangerous but consistent action as the war intensified after independence for Mozambique in 1975. His wife, by this time a sister at Ndanga, recalls how they secretly made up small packages, which was easy at that time because the Rhodesian authorities wanted to show how kind they were to sick people.

At Independence he became Deputy Minister of Health, succeeding to the post of Cabinet Minister less than a month before his death of a heart attack, in 1981.

(No photograph found)

\$500,000: Herbert Musiyiwa Ushewokunze

Born 6th June 1933. Died 10th December 1995. Buried at Heroes Acre, 12th December 1995. The last child of a Wesleyan Methodist family, his father died before his birth in Marandellas district, and many thought his flamboyant and witty behaviour was due to his early upbringing as an adopted, but disadvantaged child.

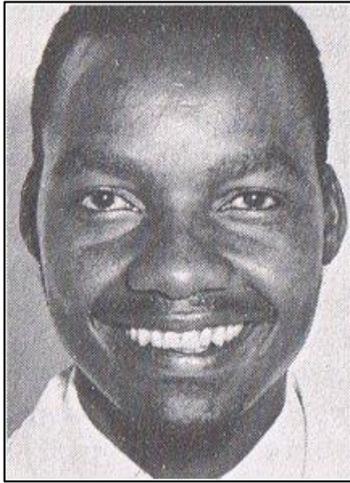
He qualified as a doctor of medicine at Natal University, where he became president of the Black Medical Students' Union and a member of PAC, the South African total liberation movement. He was employed as a doctor in Bulawayo by Rhodesia Railways, and shortly after that he ran a private clinic there and subsequently in Gweru and Kwekwe, called the Marondera Clinics, often not charging patients for his services. The late Dr. S. Mundawarara used to recall how he used to take his children on his knee, and the children called him "Uncle", not doctor.



He became vice chairman of the African National Council, and in that capacity influenced the youth to reject the Pearce Commission of 1971. After the failed Geneva Conference of 1976, he became Secretary for Health in Mozambique, establishing clinics in guerrilla camps and refugee settlements, and training paramedical staff in modern and traditional medicine.

At Independence in 1980 he won a seat in Bulawayo for ZANU (PF) and became independent Zimbabwe's first Minister of Health. In that capacity he led the country to the first, in Africa, Traditional Medical Practitioners Act, and always maintained that there were indigenous remedies for many common diseases, a position which is now gaining world - wide acceptance, even amongst practitioners steeped in Western, orthodox medicine.

He subsequently held several Cabinet Minister appointments, including the Ministry of Home Affairs; reorganising the enlarged Ministry of Transport (1984 -1988), as well as Political Affairs (with several other Ministers) in 1988, ending his career in Government as Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Development to concentrate on party politics, ending up as ZANU (PF) chairman for Harare Province.



\$650,000: Tichafa Samuel Parirenyatwa

Born 17th July 1927. Killed 14th August 1962. Buried Heroes Acre 8th August 2004. Cde. T. S. Parirenyatwa was born in Makoni to a family which served in the household of a Southern Rhodesian Governor. The father, David Deme, improved himself through night school and became a teacher and lay preacher.

In 1930, the family became small-scale "Purchase Area" farmers in Mrewa (now Murehwa). Education was at Mrewa Primary African School, Howard Mission and later at Adams College, Natal. He then proceeded to Fort Hare University, graduating with a B.Sc degree, and at this institution became an organiser of the ANC Youth League.

He became a medical doctor after a course at Witwatersrand Medical School, graduating in 1957. Returning with his wife, who was a Johannesburg nurse, he took up a post at Salisbury Central Hospital as a house officer, later on being appointed as medical officer in Antelope Mine hospital, in Kesi (Kezi), where he again had to compete with white prejudice and hostility. Like Socrates, he forebore taking them to court, but rather proved his competence and superiority as a doctor, to such an extent that his white patients opposed his transfer to the Harari (now Harare) hospital in 1960.

He then entered private (exclusively black, in those days of hardening, reactionary attitudes) practice in Salisbury's busy business district (Amato Building, in Kingsway - now Julius Nyerere Way) and in Highfield. This enabled him to devote more time to his political activities, and he became Deputy President of ZAPU at its launch in December, 1961.

He foresaw the armed struggle as not only necessary but inevitable, while maintaining that the transfer of power should be through constitutional, but not white settler, means. With those views forcefully expressed, for example, at the Southern Rhodesia National Affairs meeting on 14 April, 1962, it is little wonder that the white government had to eliminate him. By fabricating a rail "accident" at Heany Junction level crossing on 14th August 1962, whilst on his way to Bulawayo for ZAPU, Zimbabwe lost a youth activist and trade unionist.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1192	613	\$60,000	Leopold Takawira
1193	614	\$350,000	Simon Mazorodze
1194	615	\$500,000	Herbert Ushewokunze
1195	616	\$650,000	T Samuel Parirenyatwa

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 30 x 35 mm								
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet								
Artist:	Gideon “Saint” Mahaka								
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:	Cyan, 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 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:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>\$60,000</td> <td>235,000</td> <td>\$350,000.</td> <td>30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$500,000.</td> <td>30,000</td> <td>\$650,000</td> <td>28,000</td> </tr> </table>	\$60,000	235,000	\$350,000.	30,000	\$500,000.	30,000	\$650,000	28,000
\$60,000	235,000	\$350,000.	30,000						
\$500,000.	30,000	\$650,000	28,000						
Issue date:	25 th July, 2006								

Postal Rates

None of the values of this issue reflected the postal rates effective from 1st April 2006. Which were: Local up to 20 grams \$30,000; and air mail rates for external destinations of \$225,000 for Africa; \$275,000 Europe; and \$450,000 for the rest of the world.

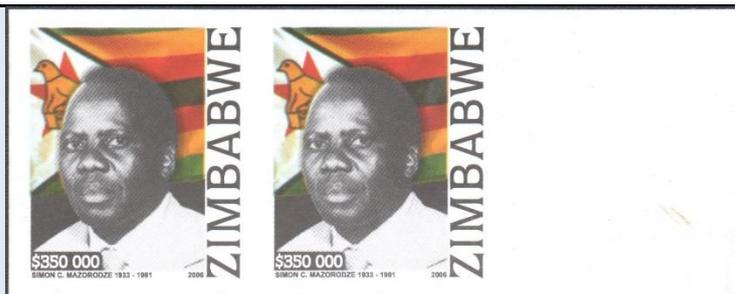
The Bulletin showed postal rates that were possibly intended to have been in place at the time of this issues release. A week later, the Zimbabwe currency was “revalued” by moving the decimal point to the left by three digits. Therefore \$1,000 became \$1.00, \$50,000 became \$50.00 and so on. However, the postal rates were not changed by Zimpost until 9th October, 2006. It is unknown whether the sale of this issue’s stamp reflected this with the values changing to \$60, \$300, \$400 and \$600 respectively

Listed varieties

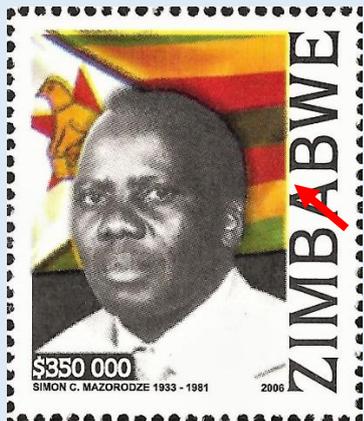
No listed varieties have been noted.

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some colour variations have been noted for this issue, this is considered normal.



\$350,000: Imperforate proof
(*Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson*)



\$350,000: Movement of yellow plate to right
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



\$650,000: Movement of yellow plate to right.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



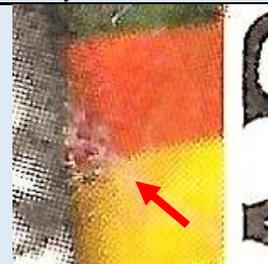
\$650,000: Movement of yellow plate to right, and cyan to left.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



\$650,000: Scratch through to left part of stamp.
Cyl 1A R4/1
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



\$650,000: Line from top left, curling through to top right.
Cyl 1A R5/1
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



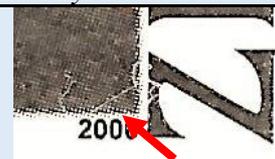
\$650,000: Disrupted printing to side of head.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



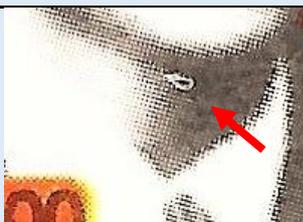
\$650,000: Smudged value and shift of yellow plate down.
Cyl 1A R2/1
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



\$650,000: Line through value, and shift of yellow plate right.
Cyl 1B R4/10
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



£650,000: White wormlike squiggle above issue date.
Cyl 1A R5/8
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)

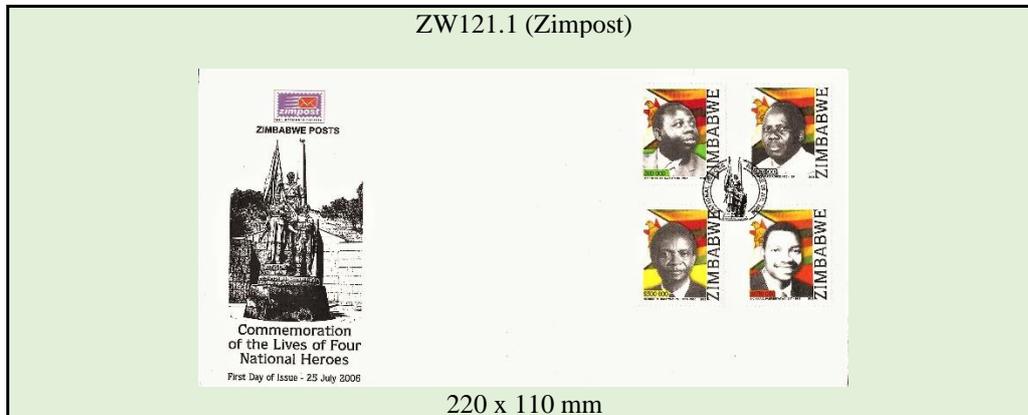


\$650,000: White mark under chin
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)

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.

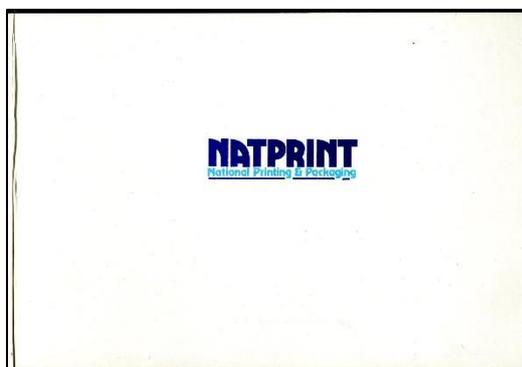


Related Material

Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

Presentation cards produced by Natprint with imperforate proofs of the stamps to be issued. The presentation cards were forwarded to the PTC for approval of the final product. The proof stamps reflect the postal rates effective from 1st April 2006. The final stamps reflect the postal rates as at time of issue.

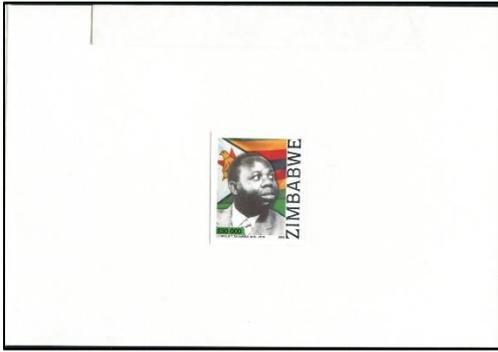
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



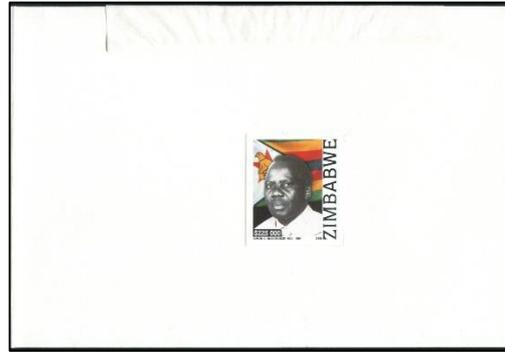
Front cover



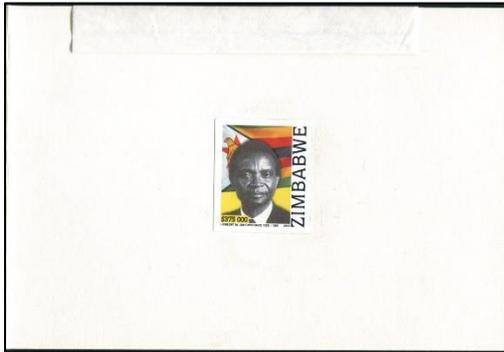
Inside front cover



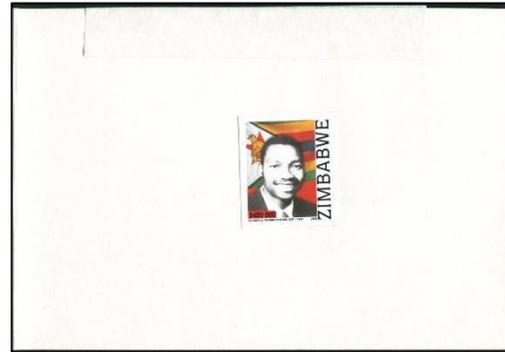
\$30,000 stamp (changed to \$60,000)



\$225,000 stamp (changed to \$350,000)



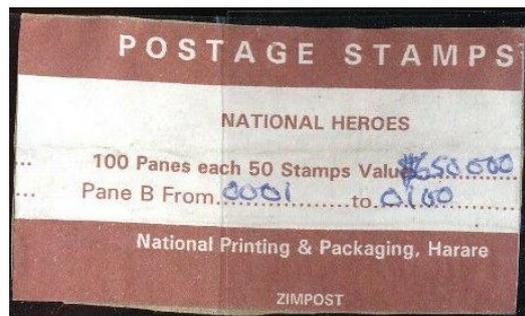
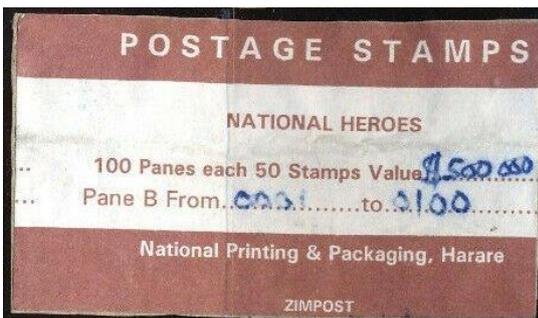
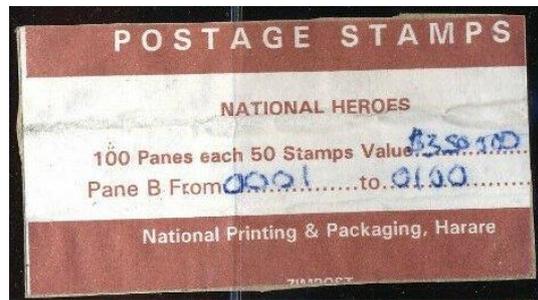
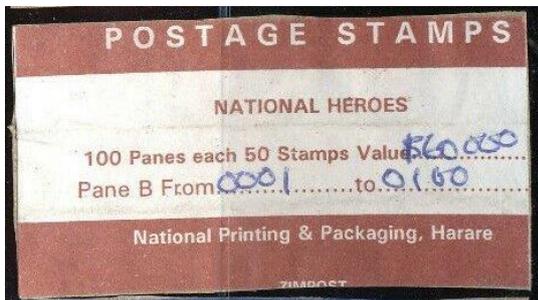
\$375,000 stamp (changed to \$500,000)



\$450,000 stamp (changed to \$650,000)

Delivery Labels

Delivery Labels from packaging containing sheets of 100 stamps. All values are represented below with the Cylinder 1B brown labels only. All labels are for sheet numbers 0001 to 0100. (Source EBay)



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 2006

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
3-2022	\$350,000 imperforate proof