

NATIONAL HEROES (5th Series)

Issued 4th August, 2008

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2009*)²

Zb: Vitalis Musungwa Gava Zvinavashe

Born: 27 September 1943: Died: 10 March 2009 Buried: at Heroes' Acre 14 March 2009

Vitalis Zvinavashe was born at Zinatha Kraal in Gutu District, Victoria (Masvingo) Province, and attended for just 4 years primary school at Masema Mission, transferring to Jersey Tea Estate Primary School in Chipinga (Chipinge) getting his Standard 6 certificate in 1959. He had training in the fishing industry, becoming a small-scale fish trader between Southern Rhodesia and Zambia at the breakup of the Federation.



He thus joined ZANU, and in 1968 was given guerrilla warfare training at Chunya in Tanzania under Cde. Ndangana, where he was made Political Commissar of the camp. Back in Zambia, in 1970 he became a member of ZANLA Military Council and Commander of the BBZ (Zambia/Botswana border) and in 1972 was elected member of the High Command and Provincial Secretary for the Mozambique/Malawi/Zambia Front in 1972. The liberation struggle was broken by the detente initiative in 1974. As he said, in 2004, "We are one, with the objective to fight for the country (Zimbabwe) as one person. That is the orientation that we got in our training".

He was detained by the Zambian authorities between 1975 and 1976, who implicated him in the assassination of Cde. Hebert Chitepo. His Chimurenga name was "Sheba Gava", and he became recognised for his loyalty to the struggle and the party. After a brief spell in the Prime Minister's Office he participated in the Joint High Command supervising the integration of the three armed forces - ZANLA, ZIPRA and Rhodesian forces -into the single national army, the ZNA (Zimbabwe National Army). He distinguished himself and his peace-keeping force in Mozambique, in charge militarily of Zimbabwe life-line, the Beira Corridor.

Following the retirement, in 1992, of General Solomon Mujuru. he took over leadership of the army in the rank of Lieutenant General. In 1994, following the amendment of the Defence Act which created a unified command for both the Army and the Air Force, he became the first Commander of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces. He retired in 2003.

Zs: Garikayi Hlomayi Settled Magadzire

Bom: 16 August 1937 Died: 22 October 1996. Buried: at Heroes' Acre 26 .October 1996

Garikayi Magasdzire was born at Tivugari Village in Shurugwi, one of twenty of his peasant farmer father's children. As his parents' older son he was expected to help in the village, as well as on the farm, so his education, which had to be paid for by the family from the sale of farm harvests, suffered periodic enforced breaks, as the proceeds from communal had to be shared by 8 sons, and were frequently not enough to pay for school fees. For his early education he only, eventually, reached Standard 5 at Pakame Mission.

Sponsored by a friend, he spent a year at Tsolo College of Agriculture in South Africa, only to be expelled for trespassing into a Whites only residential area. Back home, he went to Umzingwane College, in Essexvale (Esigodini), graduating as a demonstrator in the Native Agriculture discipline. His political interest was aroused by a teacher at that college - Cde. Joshua Nkomo -.and in due time Gary, as he had become known, joined the NDP (National Democratic Party), As an agricultural extension officer based in Fort Victoria (Masvingo), as well a being team leader of the Land Planning and Land Allocation Commission, set up during the white liberal times in our country, and a prominent member of the growing Seventh Day Adventist Church, he was able to avoid suspicion, by the then security forces, of his true affiliation and political aspirations. He continued his secret activities, supporting freedom

fighters staying at the late George Tawengwa's farm, by organising donations from Salisbury businessmen, after joining Windmill Fertilisers in 1967.

Realising that peasant farmers needed to be able to read and understand English if they were to take advantage of modern advances in agriculture (and, indeed, to defend their farming methods in order to promote sustainable processes), he worked with two teachers to establish the Adult Literacy Organisation of Zimbabwe in 1968. He was also involved in what is now called the micro-lending scheme, enabling small clubs and savings schemes to be established, calling on institutions such as the national Freedom From Hunger Committee (FAO) and the University Women's Movement to assist, and successfully develop, the access to inputs previously denied to small-scale farmers. At the Lancaster House talks which led to independence for our country he led the representatives of smallholder and communal farmers, being elected by the African Farmers' Union, of which he became vice-president in 1976.

After Independence, he, with the late Joseph Gapare and Silas Hungwe, formed the leadership of the Zimbabwe National Farmers' Union, striving for unity for all farmers in the new nation. When that ambition was repeatedly spurned by the then dominant Commercial Farmers' Union, because the latter's special recognition in the legislation did not require such a response, he became President of the combined ZNFU and the National Farmers' Association in 1991, the post that he held until his death. As a result of his wide knowledge and experience, he was member of at least six other boards, and became vice president of the International Federation of Agricultural Procedures, chairman of the ACP standing committee, and a member of the International Research Board.

(No photo available)

A: George Bodzo Nyandoro

Born: 26 July 1926 Died: 24 June 1994 Buried: at Heroes' Acre 29 June 1994

George Nyandoro, one of the most dynamic and able founders of the liberation movement was born at St. Mary's Mission in Mhondoro and attended school there up to Standard 6 (Grade 7 in modern parlance). He worked for the Rhodesia Herald before going to City Stores as a bookkeeper studying law and accountancy through correspondence. This, coupled with his sharp sense of humour fitted him to become an effective organiser and a very able speaker in the English language. This enabled him to join two associations established in Salisbury in the 1940's by white liberals, but he was soon disaffected by their inability to anything practical about real black advancement.



He advanced in his commercial enterprise, and by the time of his death had become CEO and eventually the first black chairman of the company, later known as Art Corporation, which had first employed him at the lowest level of book-keeper, building such ambitious hotels as the Kadoma Ranch which today hosts many Government meetings and international conferences.

In August, 1955 he, together with three other black nationalists - James Chikerema, Edson Sithole, and Danduza Chisiza - formed the City Youth league, later to become the African National Youth league. This was the initial step in creating the full-scale Nationalist Movements in Southern Rhodesia. It recruited many young urban workers in order to fight the unjust powers of the Native Commissioners enhanced by the Land Husbandry Act, 1951, by overriding the traditional Chiefs. In 1957, he was one of those who formed the African National Congress, becoming its Secretary-General under the late Cde. Joshua Nkomo, and in December 1958, he attended the first All-Africa Peoples' Conference in the newly independent Ghana.

He was jailed at Khambi Prison in February 1959, to be released for treatment of spinal TB in England in 1963. There he continued his active national duty, lobbying Commonwealth Prime Ministers at their London conference in July 1964. He relocated to newly-independent Zambia that year, being Secretary-

General of ZAPU, a post he retained until his return to Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, where he became Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development in 1979.

E: Border 'Madzibaba' Gezi

Born: 17 December 1964 Died: 28 April 2001. Buried: at Heroes'Acre 2 May 2001

Border Gezi was born in Sipolilo (now Guruve) District, in Mudindo into a rural peasant farming family, the elder of two siblings in the Chibarara family. He attended Muzika Primary and Holy Rosary Secondary Schools, there challenged by the harsh realities of the liberation struggle. As a result, when he was only 14, he made contact with the ZANLA forces in the Umvukwes (now Mvurwi) area, joining the mujibhas in the Nehanda sector of Tete province. By 1978, Border was promoted to political commissar, and he served the Alpha assembly point at Hoya when the ZANLA forces were held there, pending the independence elections in March, 1980.



He became an active member of the Johane Masowe Apostolic faith in his childhood, and he remained devoted to that faith throughout his lifetime - hence the nickname 'Madzibaba'. He became the youngest member of the then white farmer dominated Umvukwes Rural Council, whilst in the Mazoe (Mazowe) District he became Youth Secretary, later elevating to the Mashonaland Central Province until 1987. He was employed by ZESA, and was energetic in dealing with faults and new installations, getting a good reputation in that area for reliability and effectiveness.

He became the member of parliament for Centenary in 1990, while in 1993 he became ZANU-PF Provincial Chairman (Mashonaland Central). In 1996 he succeeded the present Vice President, J.T.R. Mujuru, as Governor of the Province, working with her to restore unity in the expanding population of the Zambezi valley, the territory he knew and loved. In the February 2000 referendum the province returned a resounding Yes vote. It therefore was no surprise when he won the Bindura constituency in the 2000 elections by a vast majority. He was appointed Cabinet Minister in 2000, and his energy and revolutionary commitment to the advancement of young people through economic empowerment became a major factor at a time when the opposition MDC gained a large representation in Parliament. Border Gezi was appointed the Minister of Youth, Gender, and Employment Creation, a position essential for the revival and national restructuring of Zimbabwe through the initiative of the President, R.C. Mugabe.

R: Seugeant Masotsha Ndlovu

Born: 1890 in the Bulilima-Mangwe area; Died: 1 July 1982 Buried: at Heroes' Acre 2 July 1982

Seugeant Masotsha Ndlovu is largely remembered for his activism and development of the modern Trade Union Movement in Southern Rhodesia in the late 1920's and 1930s. Like most working men in his home area, he had to take several lowly paying jobs with no security in apartheid South Africa (or, as he used to call it 'Zuid Afrika').

Largely as a result of the unjustified deportation of his friend and colleague, Robert Sambo, of Angola from Rhodesia on account of his supposed links with international communism, he was tasked to set up a branch of the Industrial & Commercial Workers Union. He successfully achieved his mission, and got official recognition of the movement in June 1928. This was at a time when the then Governor, Sir Robert did everything possible to deny the ICU recognition, and signed into law the hated Native Affairs Act 1927, which laid the foundations of overt racial discrimination and oppression of the black majority for the next fifty years.

At that time, a court case of a prominent Rhodesian, who was accused of "causing the death of a native by negligent driving" in Bulawayo was being held. The defence held that the "native" should not have been on the carriageway (the road) but Ndlovu pointed out that, in Bulawayo at that time, a byelaw

prohibited a native from using the pavement. So the victim needed to use the road in order to get to his lawful place of work! The result of that case was the conviction of the arrogant motorist for "manslaughter as a result of negligent driving of a motorized car" and the repeal of that clearly racial by-law, so that everyone could use the pavement

He became secretary of the country's ICU in 1929, vigorously campaigning in the rural areas against all forms of racial discrimination especially flogging of boys "of tender years" and the arbitrary powers given to employers on setting of wage rates and summary dismissal by the Native Affairs Act of 1927. In one communication to the Premier of Southern Rhodesia he pointed out that "improvement was not merely necessary, but imperative, to all lovers of justice." To show his humility, he never sought his own benefit, and obtaining a suitable photograph for this stamp was not easy

As a result of his activities, he was detained and released several times during the 1960's and 70's, but his record of support for the nationalist cause, spanning 50 years makes him a true fighter for freedom, no matter what the personal cost.

(No photo available)

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1284	694	Zb	Vitalis Zvinavashe
a.	a.		'Z' of 'Zb omitted – Cyls 1A & 1B Column 8
b.	b.		Additional 'Z' – Cyls 1A & 1B Column 6
1285	695	Zs	Garikayi Magadzire
1286	696	A	George Nyandoro
1287	697	E	Border Gezi
1288	698	R	Seugeant Ndlovu

Technical details

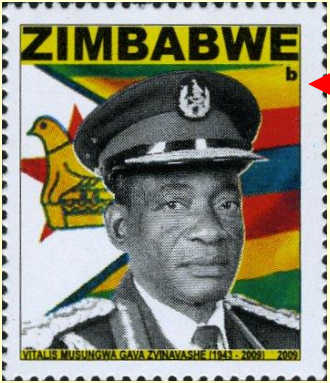
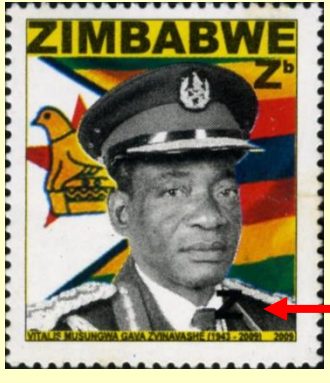
Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 30 x 35 mm												
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet												
Artist:	Lucia Marisamhuka – Terrie Lue Graphics												
Paper:	ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This 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><tr><td>Zb</td><td>20,000</td><td>Zs</td><td>20,000</td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>15,000</td><td>E</td><td>15,000</td></tr><tr><td>R</td><td>10,000</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Zb	20,000	Zs	20,000	A	15,000	E	15,000	R	10,000		
Zb	20,000	Zs	20,000										
A	15,000	E	15,000										
R	10,000												
Issue date:	4 th August, 2009												

Postal Rates

The postal rates applicable at the date of issue were those effective from 18th February 2009, which are quoted in United States dollars, as follows:

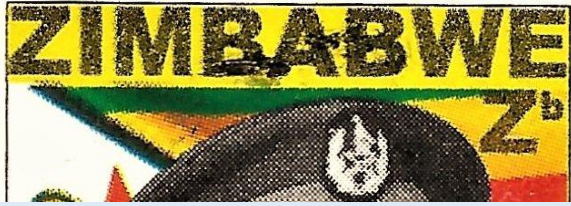
Zb	US\$0.20	Zs	US\$0.25	E	A	US\$0.50
E	US\$0.75	R	US\$1.00			

Listed varieties

<p>Zb value</p> <p>Missing 'Z' from 'Zb' Cylinders 1A and 1B Column 8 SG1284a, RSC 694a (Five stamps per sheet)</p>	
<p>Zb value</p> <p>Additional 'Z' Cylinders 1A & 1B Column 6 SG1284b, RSC 694b (Five stamps per sheet)</p>	

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds which are more noticeable with the solid colours.



Zb value: Smudged 'BAB' of Zimbabwe.
(*Courtesy of Narendhra Morar*)



E value: Movement of cyan left, resulting in cyan shading above left ear, and yellow line to right of green stripe of flag. Also, magenta marks to left shoulder.
(*Courtesy of Narendhra Morar*)

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
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2009