

# 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the death of JOSEPH WILFRED MSIKA

Issued 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010

*(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 2010)<sup>2</sup>*

**BORN: 6 December, 1923, at Nyariri, Chiweshe: DIED: 5 August 2009: Buried at Heroes Acre 10 August, 2009**

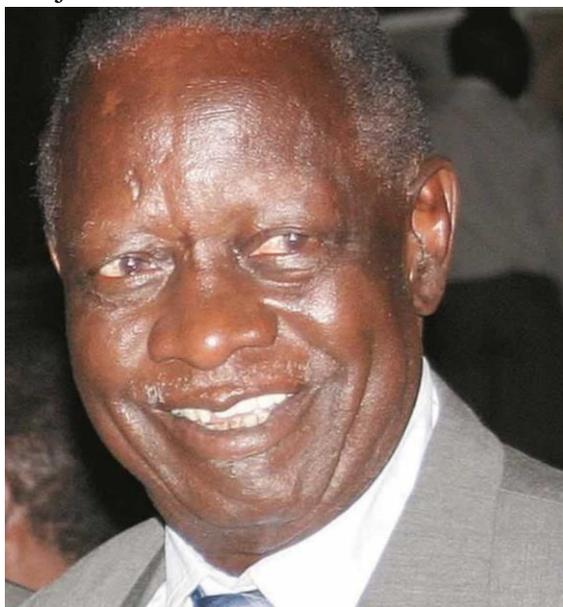
"Bruno" Jo Msika, as he was known to many, was born Joseph Wilfred Musikavanhu to his father's second wife in rural Mashonaland, (Central as it is now). He was the first son in his family, and his father sent him to Howard Mission for his primary education. His ambition from a very early age was to qualify as a teacher, and so at Mount Selinda School in Chipinga (now Chipinge) he trained as a teacher of carpentry and got his J.C.E by correspondence.

He was an accomplished footballer, and was eventually selected for the National Football Team, after having excelled with Zimbabwe Saints (then known as Mashonaland United) and the Matabeleland Regional Select team, at that time called the "Red Army."



He was working with a transport firm in Bulawayo, when he obtained his certificate as a woodwork teacher at Usher Institute, from 1944 to 1949. From 1950, he joined companies in Bulawayo, eventually ended up as Administrative Officer for Consolidated Textiles (now National Blankets).

He was exposed to trade union politics as leader of the Textile and Allied Workers' Union in 1954 and met like-minded persons in that movement, such as Sarjant Masotsha Ndlovu, Benjamin Burombo and Joshua M.N. Nkomo.



Joseph Msika used his experience to help in the formation of the original African National Congress (ANC) with Joshua Nkomo, first in Bulawayo, then in Harari Township (Mbare, Mai Musodzi Hall), becoming elected treasurer.

Banned in 1959, the ANC leadership was detained at Khami prison where he came to know many other detained Nationalists, such as Orton Chirwa from Nyasaland and Daudi Yamba from Northern Rhodesia. He was later transferred to Selukwe (Shurugwi) and Marandellas (Marondera). It was during this period that he met a young African Zimbabwean teacher who had left his secure position in Ghana to pursue the total liberation of the black masses in Southern Rhodesia.

He was very surprised to be greeted by name at their first meeting by Robert G. Mugabe. Such was the lack of intelligence of the Rhodesian authorities in the Federation, that, by their action of detaining prominent leaders of the freedom movement and putting them together, they reinforced the power and determination of otherwise separated leaders.

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On his release in 1961, he was elected Councillor for the National Democratic Party (NDP), a party that had been formed whilst he was incarcerated. That party was likewise banned by the Rhodesian authorities, resulting in the formation of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) on 19 December, 1951, Joseph Msika was elected Secretary for Youth Affairs, at that time the most forward looking division of the Nationalist effort. This was at a time when state of emergency laws prohibited 356 Africans - i.e. black people - from entering "African Reserves" including their own homes, so he had to meet members of his own family, including his Bechuanaland-born wife and their children at places, and at times, determined by the junior white commissioner!

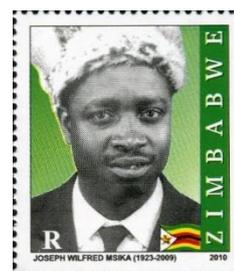
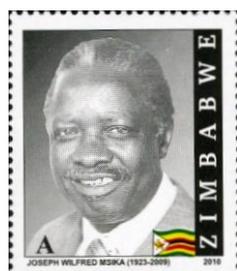


He remained committed to ZAPU despite the numerous setbacks the party had, both from the Rhodesian authorities and the other parties in the liberation struggle.

He had held many important positions in Government - at one time being Senior Minister of Local Government and Resettlement with 9 Ministers responsible directly to him. He suffered through the illness and ultimate death of this son of Zimbabwe. He devoted his life to the betterment of all its people, and remained principled and Godfearing right to the end.

He was second Vice-president as the former ZAPU representative from December 1999 until his death in August 2009.

## The Stamps



## Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC <sup>1</sup>	Value	Description
1309	716	Z	Joseph Msika as a older man, yellow background
1310	717	A	Joseph Msika as an older man, grey background
1311	718	E	Joseph Msika as a younger man, red background
1312	719	R	Joseph Msika as a younger man, green background

## Technical details

<b>Stamp size:</b>	Sheet stamps: 30 x 35 mm
<b>Sheet Size:</b>	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
<b>Artist:</b>	Lucia Marisamhuka
<b>Paper:</b>	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
<b>Print colours:</b>	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black
<b>Perforations:</b>	SG 14 x 14½, ZSC 14 x 14¼ Left margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate
<b>Printer:</b>	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
<b>Printer’s Imprint:</b>	Bottom Margin, below Row 5 Columns 5 & 6. Imprint printed in black
<b>Cylinder numbers:</b>	Bottom margin below R5/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
<b>Colour register:</b>	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:**

Z	10,000	A	10,000
E	10,000	R	10,000

**Issue date:** 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010

### Postal Rates

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

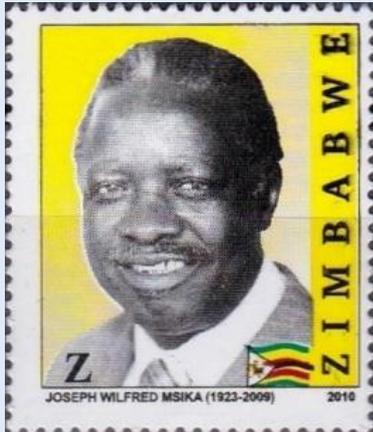
Z US\$0.25                      A US\$0.50                      E US\$0.75                      R US\$1.00

### Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

### 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

 <p><b>Z value:</b> Black over-inked and smudged. (Courtesy of Malte Luebker)</p>	 <p>Z value: shift of cyan plate upwards moving the flag's green strips up. This is the only part of the stamp to receive cyan ink. (Courtesy Narendhra Morar)</p>	 <p><b>A value:</b> White mark through left leg of 'M' of Zimbabwe (Courtesy of Malte Luebker)</p>
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**A value:** White mark to top left of 'W' of Zimbabwe.  
(Courtesy of Malte Luebker)



**A value:** movement of black plate to right resulting in flag looking like the other plates have move. This is the only part of the stamp to receive all the colours.  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



**A value:** Screening flaw below Msika's left eye.  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



**A Value:** White mark above 'Z' of Zimbabwe, some plate movements in flag.  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



**E value:** magenta plate shift to right, given yellow shadow to right of Msika  
(Courtesy of Malte Luebker)



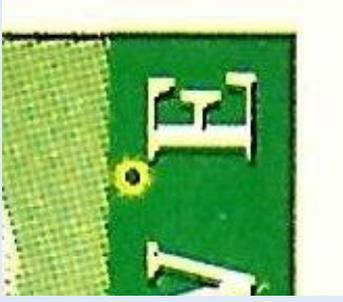
**E value:** Movement of cyan plate upwards. This is the only part of the stamp where cyan is used.  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



**E value:** Movement of black plate to right, and cyan plate slightly up.  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



**E value:** This stamp was received from the Philatelic Bureau. Possible explanation of the 'dirtiness' is that the black printing plate was not fully cleaned, leaving a dirty layer for printing.  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)

 <p><b>R value:</b> Shift of black plate to right giving white shadow to left of Msika (<i>Courtesy of Malte Luebker</i>)</p>	 <p><b>R value:</b> small ink clot between 'WE' of Zimbabwe. (<i>Courtesy Narendhra Morar</i>)</p>	 <p><b>R value:</b> scratches to background of 'BWE' of Zimbabwe. (<i>Courtesy Narendhra Morar</i>)</p>
 <p><b>R value:</b> movement of black and yellow plates to right. (<i>Courtesy Narendhra Morar</i>)</p>		

## 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 3 of 2010