

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION

Issued: 28th December 2010

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2010)²

PAPU celebrated its 30th Anniversary on 18 January 2010. During the celebrations, international high level presentations on pertinent issues of development of postal services were made covering subjects such as the national addressing system, harmonization of postal policies, regulations and strategies for sustainable postal development, development of financial and E-services, provision of universal postal services and the role of postal services national development.

Background

The Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), a specialized agency of the African Union (AU) was born in 1980 following the decision of the Plenipotentiary Conference of 35 Organisation of African Union member countries during a meeting held on 8th to 18th January 1980 in Arusha, Tanzania. The purpose of forming the Union was to spearhead the development of postal services in Africa.

While it is true that the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is handling development of postal services worldwide, every region in the world has its own specificity making it necessary to provide Africa with a continental postal organization that is capable of spearheading and safeguarding the region's interests at the global arena.

With its headquarters in Arusha, PAPU currently has a membership of 43 countries. The supreme policy making body of the Union is the Plenipotentiary Conference composed of ministers responsible for Communications and Information Technology of member countries.

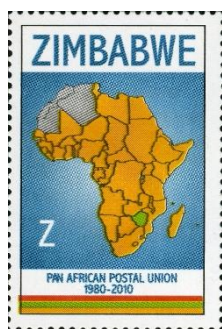
The Administrative Council which reports to the Conference, runs the affairs of the Union between Conferences. It meets annually. The Council's work is beefed up by Technical Committees that address a wide range of aspects of postal services as follows:

- Development of ICTs and modernization of postal services and financial services
- Improvement of quality of service, mail circulation and security of the postal network
- Key UPU content issues and how the African continent can safeguard its interests on the global arena
- Postal development, international cooperation and development of human resources
- Development and promotion of philately in Africa
- Strategy issues



The Union recently adopted a new vision, mission and strategic objectives that are geared towards transforming postal services in Africa to be in tune with customer needs and expectations, as well enhanced viability of the post in the highly competitive communications environment.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1313	720 a.	Z	Map of Africa showing PAFU members Shift of black plate right

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 30 x 42 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
Artist:	Joan Soriano
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 14½, ZSC 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

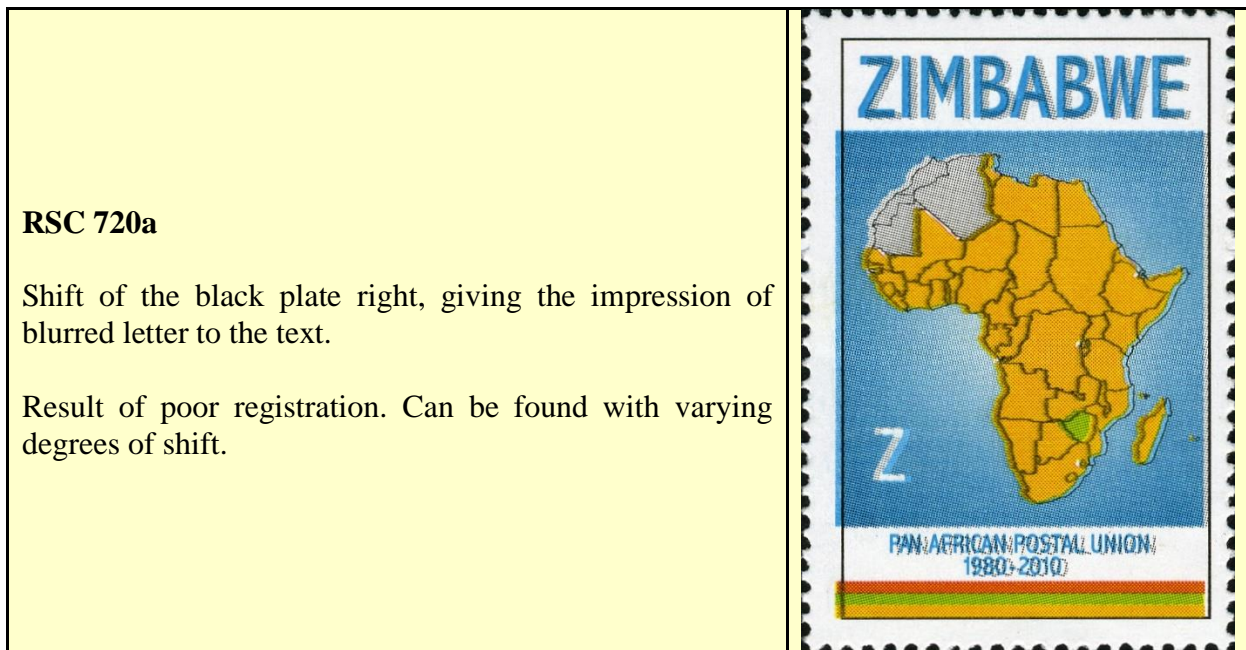
Print numbers: Z 100,000

Issue date: 28th December, 2010

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: Z = US\$0.25

Listed varieties



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

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 4 of 2010