

# RAILWAY STATIONS OF ZIMBABWE

Issued 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2011*)<sup>2</sup>

The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) is an organisation wholly owned by the state, which is mandated to operate efficient and affordable freight and passenger services. The official inauguration of the Railways in Zimbabwe was on 4 November 1897, when the first passenger train steamed into Bulawayo.

Line construction began from Fontensville, 56km inland from Beira to Umtali (Mutare) in September 1892 and from Vryburg in the Cape province to Bulawayo in May 1893. The company has greatly developed since 1889 to 1980.



Salisbury (Harare) Station  
Postcard by Shephard's Stationery

The organisation advanced in many sections especially on the construction, expansion and development of the railway. Some of the historic milestones reached were:

- 19 October 1887 - Francistown to Bulawayo section was completed.
- 23 May 1899 - Railway from Beira reached Salisbury
- 1 December 1902 - Bulawayo to Gwelo (Gweru) section was opened.



Kadoma station

- 20 June 1904 - Bulawayo to Victoria Falls section was opened.
- 12 September 1905 - Victoria Falls Bridge opened.
- 1 June 1979 - Rhodesia Railways changed to Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Railways
- 1 May 1980 - Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Railways changed to NRZ.
- 22 October 1983 - Dabuka to Harare electrified section commissioned.



Bulawayo Station  
SAPSCO Postcard



Mutare station

After the construction of all these lines, the back-bone of the railway system was now in place. Building the railway line at that time when they faced such difficulties and challenges was a formidable achievement. With the progressive development of the branch lines' system, the railway proved that it was the most powerful driving force of all in the opening up and development of the region in Africa was an outstanding promise. It helped to lay the foundations of Modern Zimbabwe.

In 1983, a 305km section between Dabuka and Harare was electrified. The faster electric trains which were acquired in the early 80's and began operating, are at the present moment out of service due to theft and vandalism of electric cables along Dabuka-Harare railway line.

### Note on this issue

Although Zimbabwe's principal currency from March 2009 was the United States Dollar, Zimpost was hesitant in depicting American currency on its stamps. In the event the values are in fact shown in dollars and cents but with no reference to the fact that it is denominated in American currency. This was the first issue since the 2008 Rats & Mice issue to show a value (as opposed to a No Value Indicator) and the first since the 2000 Aviation issue to indicate cents.

## The Stamps



### Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC <sup>1</sup>	Value	Description
1314	721	20c	Harare Railway Station
1315	722	30c	Kadoma Railway Station
1316	723	85c	Bulawayo Railway Station
1317	724	\$1	Mutare Railway Station

### Technical details

**Stamp size:** Sheet stamps: 35 x 30 mm

**Sheet Size:** 50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet

**Artist:** Fredy Tembo

**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 x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14  
 Top margin: Perforated through  
 Other margins: Imperforate

**Printer:** NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe

**Printer’s Imprint:** Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black

**Cylinder numbers:** Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

**Colour register:** Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

**Sheet Value:** Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black

**Sheet Number:** Type SN 7 with printed ‘ZIMPOST’ prefix, right margin opposite R1/5, reading down

**Print numbers:**

25c	600,000	30c	600,000
85c	20,000	\$1	20,000

**Issue date:** 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011

## Postal Rates

The postal rates applicable at the date of issue were those effective from 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009, and quoted in United States dollars. Whilst the 25c (local), 75c (Europe) and \$1 (Rest of the World) are the usual rates, the postage rate for African destinations at the date of issue of 50c was not provided.

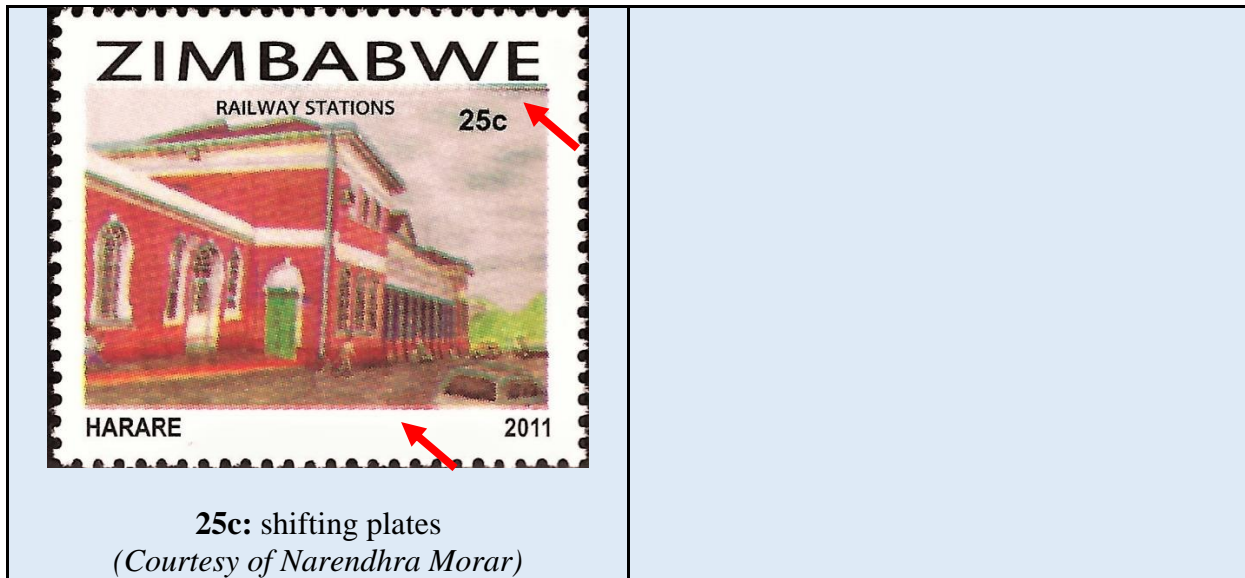
The postage rates were to increase from 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011, with local postage rates for box (25c) and street (30c) delivery. This would explain why 600,000 stamps for both these values were released.

## 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.



## 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 1 of 2011