

NATIONAL HEROES (7th Series)

Issued 24th July, 2012

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2012)²



30c: Solomon Tapfumaneyi Ruzambo Mujuru

Born: May 5, 1945 at Mabukwa Village, Charter District TTL (now Chikomba) Died: August 16, 2011 Alamein Farm, Beatrice. Buried: August 20, 2011 at Heroes Acre.

Rex Nhongo, as he was affectionately known, served his country throughout his life. He started political activism at Zimuto Secondary School where, at Form Three he was expelled because of his activity as organizing secretary for the banned ZAPU. Thereafter, from 1962 he went to Munali Secondary School in Lusaka (Zambia) and was again expelled for political activism less than three months after his enrollment there. He returned to the then Southern Rhodesia and became District Youth Chairman for Mpopoma, Bulawayo, where he worked at Dunlop Tyres as a salesman. In 1966, he was imprisoned at Khami, a jail near Bulawayo, and after his release went to Francistown, in the newly independent Botswana. From there, he was enrolled at Inkomo camp, in Livingstone, and sent to Moscow, USSR for a six-month training course in Radio communication, administration and Intelligence. By 1969 he had met many of the similarly impassioned freedom fighters, so in 1969 he went to Bulgaria and Egypt to have active artillery and military training, and thereafter go to Moscow again.

Robson Manyika, along with six other comrades, including Cde. Mujuru, found that there was a serious lack of purpose in the top hierarchy of ZAPU. He once derisively termed them "chicken-in-a-basket" leaders, because of their fondness of staying in the best hotels in Lusaka, leaving the main purpose of liberating our country to whoever happened to be around at the time, regardless of their skill or practical experience in the field. Robson Manyika, introducing Cde. Mujuru as a full member of ZANLA fighters on parade, said "I have brought you a war machine ..." Rex himself was fond of saying "I've come over not because I hate where I came from, but because [of wanting to be] in the active side of the war". He could solve problems without breaking bones, driven by the philosophy that things should always remain under control.

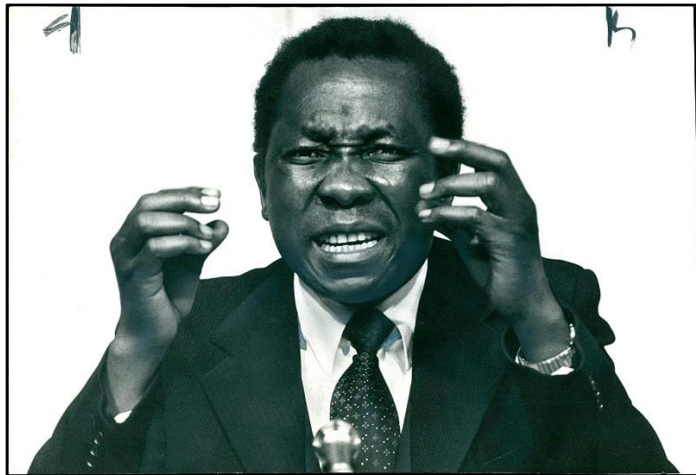
Thus, he was then famously quoted as maintaining that it was "the Party that controlled the gun, not the gun controlling the party", which is the principle of the Defence Forces.

At independence, Lieutenant General Mujuru was attested into the integrated Zimbabwe National Army, and achieved the reconciliation which few people thought possible, reflecting the political stance of the then Prime Minister, Cde. R.G. Mugabe, who in his inaugural speech quoted from the Bible - "We shall beat our swords into ploughshares" In 1995, he was sworn in as MP for Chikomba, a seat he relinquished in 2000, and was involved in the development of the land reform policy. He was also a very successful businessman, developing, among other areas, the suburb called Ryelands on Borrowdale Road.

He was awarded six national medals. The highest was that of Grand Commander of the Zimbabwe Order of Merit, for his involvement in military and political issues, and it is very clear that, all his life, which was terminated so cruelly and prematurely by an "accidental" fire at his farm, he had the vision of creating a unity in the country, which we need in order to develop our God-given land, independent in every aspect.

In tribute to him, the President and Commander of the Defence Forces, Cde. Robert Gabriel Mugabe, said: "He was a courageous fighter and commander who led from the front, moulding thousands of young men and women... into a formidable and disciplined guerrilla army. We recall with admiration how he successfully steered the delicate post-independence integration exercise which brought together three warring armies... into one, solid and disciplined National Defence Force, which he commanded until his retirement in 1992".

In 1975 he married the young, active freedom fighter, Joyce "Teurai Ropa" Mugari, and at his death his wife, who, following the death of Simon Muzenda became Vice President in 2003.



75c • Eddison Jonas Mudadirwa Zvobgo

Born: October 2, 1935 Chatikoba Tribal Trust Lands, Victoria Province **Died:** August 22, 2004 at St. Annes Hospital, Harare **Buried:** August 25, 2004 at Heroes Acre

The first of a family of 15, whose father was a Dutch Reformed Church pastor, Eddison was only able to start his primary education - at Chibize Mission - when he was 13 years old, because of the apartheid policies of the South African based Church, which were endorsed by the government of Godfrey Huggins (later Lord Malvern). The black African, from Tribal origins was not considered intelligent enough to benefit from a formal education. Through his initial persistence, and with the special encouragement of his mother - and the fact that his father was a loyal church pastor - he overcame that wrongful racial prejudice with his subsequent rise to become one of the most gifted, able legal and constitutional experts in the world.

Eventually, in 1959, he was awarded the Percy Ibbotson Memorial Scholarship and as a result obtained the degree of BA History, Political science and Shona at Roma University in Basutoland (now

Lesotho). By 1970, he received his LLB degree from the University of London whilst in Salisbury Central Prison. Finally, he capped his academic achievements with a PhD from Tufts University (USA), after getting two Master's degrees - from Fletcher and Harvard Law School.

In 1972, he was admitted as an Advocate on the High Court of Rhodesia on his ability, rather than the patronage that then existed in the Ministry of Law and Order, whose minister was that extreme racist, Desmond Lardner-Burke.

In 1975, Eddison Zvogbo was made Professor at Lewis University in the United States, while remaining, all the time loyal and active in the Nationalist movement, becoming the Chief Representative of ZANU in the US, a culmination of his political activities and effective leadership from the appointment as Executive Secretary for information and publicity. From 1964 till November 1977 he was ZANU's Deputy Secretary-General.

He joined Robert Mugabe in the failed Geneva conference and subsequently at the Lancaster House Conference in 1979 became chief spokesman of the Patriotic Front and legal advisor to ZANU(PF), bemusing and outsmarting many an international journalist.

During the struggle Dr. Zvogbo served a total of almost 10 years in jail, or detention as a political prisoner. His wife, Julia, whom he married in 1961, saw him on very infrequent occasions during that time till full independence came, at last, on 18 April, 1980. which, if not handled sensitively, and Politburo solving the inequality which had developed during the war in which an estimated 30 000 people had lost their lives.

Thereafter, he became the party's Chief Legal Advisor, in government holding the posts of Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary affairs (1983-7), Minister of State (National Affairs) (1987-9), Minister of the Public Service (1990-2), Minister of Mines (1993-6) and Minister Without Portfolio, (1996-2000). Subsequently, until his death in 2004, he was an influential member of the Parliamentary Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, having also been an active member of three Cabinet committees, including that on Legislation during the 1990s.



85c: Welshman Mabhina

Born: June 26, 1924 at Ziyangeni, Nkayi Tribal Trust Land, Matabeleland North. Died : October 5, 2010 at home in Bulawayo Buried: October 9, 2010 at Lady Stanley Cemetery, Bulawayo.

Welshman Mabhena's education started at the local Primary School (Zinyageni), progressing to Inyathi mission secondary, where his mentor, the late Bowen Reese was head missionary. Bowen Reese had been very close to Queen Lozikayi. Because during her lifetime -she died during the influenza epidemic in 1919 - he had regularly held Christian (Welsh Presbyterian) services at her Royal kraal,

and being the Primary Wife of King Lobengula she was able to inform him of all the injustices and lies the Imperial colonists had perpetrated on innocent victims, who were the indigenous Ndebele.

Welshman subsequently went to Tiger Kloof Secondary School in the Cape and came back to Inyathi to teach. By this time, he had been fired up to oppose white domination and joined the National Democratic party, and after it was banned by the Whitehead government, ZAPU at its inception. In 1962 he was arrested for holding arms of war which were destined to be delivered to ZIPRA forces at the border. He, along with two others (Mbambo and Sibanda) received a prison sentence of 5 years, and was incarcerated in the notorious Salisbury Central Prison, where he was addressed in Chizezuru, which was a foreign language to him. He, however, turned adversity into opportunity, and quickly became fluent in many languages, as well as furthering his education, attaining A-level. Certified Bookkeeping, and Bachelor of Commerce (UNISA) whilst in prison for a total of 17 years, intermittently working for ZAPU on hazardous missions in the west of our country.

Owing to his political prowess he became known as the Lion of Nkayi, and he never ignored the needs of his people in Nkayi. In fact, he is still referred to as "Grandfather" by a lot of people there.

After independence, in 1980, he represented Matabeleland North Constituency for ZAPU, and in December 1987 he was elected Deputy Speaker of Parliament with the late hero Nolan Makombe as Speaker in the Unity Accord National independence, in 1980, he represented Matabeleland North Constituency for ZAPU, and in December 1987 he was elected Deputy Speaker of Parliament with the late hero Nolan Makombe as Speaker in the Unity Accord Parliament, having contributed in the negotiations leading up to that historic event, which was signed by R G Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo on December 22, 1987.

He became the first Governor of Matabeleland North in 1992, continuing to work for the development of that relatively neglected Province until his retirement in 2000. He then became a businessman in Bulawayo, where he bought a house in the Four Winds suburb. Disillusioned by the factionalism which developed in the ruling party, he himself joined a dissident faction; that explains why he is not buried at Heroes' Acre in Harare. Nevertheless, because of his consistent and persistent vocal opposition to recolonisation and his achievements in developing indigenous progress since independence, he was unanimously declared a national hero.

At his death, he was survived by his wife, three children (one of whom, Albert, continues to run the business in Bulawayo) 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

\$1.00: • ROBSON DAYFORD MANYIKA

Born: April 12, 1936 at Goromonzi, Died: June 24, 1985 Buried: June 27, 1985 at Heroes Acre

Robson Manyika committed life-long devotion to cause of uplifting the Zimbabwean people. As a result, he was one of the initial strategists in the armed struggle. He started his revolutionary activities at primary school, in the Globe and Phoenix Mine school, where his father was employed by the Chartered Company (of Cecil John Rhodes origin) as a miner with hazardous and arduous conditions, on a ridiculously low salary. He was moved to Chivishe school, to complete his primary education, and could not secure admission to any secondary school, so obtained that by correspondence.

His national political career started with the Youth League in 1957, later (1959) becoming a committee member of the Southern Rhodesia ANC. After that organization had been banned, the National Democratic Party was created in November, 1960, and he became its publicity and organising secretary in 1961, subsequently being arrested when the NDP was banned.

At the formation of ZAPU he was again made organising secretary, and similarly incarcerated at Hartley (now Chegutu) until 1963. On release from prison he went for military training in the Soviet Union, and on his return was entrusted with the task of building up and organising the ZIPRA guerilla army, as a result gaining experience in the practical use of weaponry both in the USSR and Cuba. With the withdrawal of Soviet Union support for Cuba, who, by that time was involved in Angola helping the MPLA in their civil war, he joined ZANU in 1970, and was made Chief Military Commissar in charge of training cadres in the newly established ZANLA, covering all the ZANLA camps. He was

Field Commander assisting Josiah Tongogara in the 1971-2 north-eastern offensive,

He was responsible both for the placement of suitable Zimbabweans in overseas tertiary education centres, as well as examining workers' grievances in the territory.

He attended all the international conferences as a defence expert, and at Lancaster House, in 1979 he was a military advisor to ZANU.

His commitment to the new nation of Zimbabwe was total, and at the time of his death from cardiac arrest he was Deputy Minister of Labour, Manpower Planning and Social Welfare and campaigning in the Kariba Constituency for the forthcoming 1985 General Election.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1337	741	30c	Solomon Mujuru
1338	742	75c	Eddison Zvobgo
1339	743	85c	Welshman Mabhena
1340	744	\$1	Robson Manyika

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

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 and 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:

30c	10,000	75c	10,000
85c	10,000	\$1	10,000

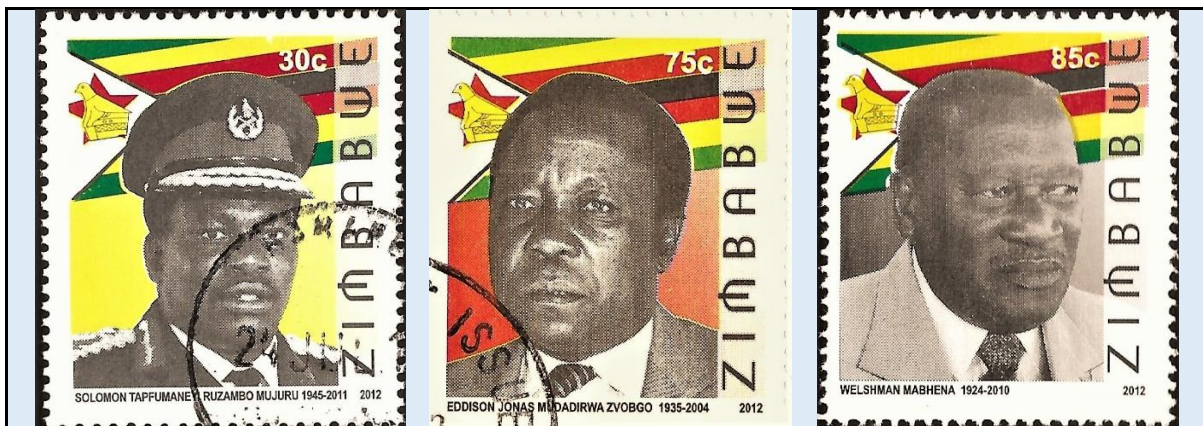
Issue date: 24th July 2012

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



All values: Various shifts in the printing plates, resulting in the right edge of the flag not being vertically straight and giving shaws to the portraits.
(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, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2012

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
12-2021	85c – double black with shifted perfs