

# MACRO, SMALL TO MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMWs) IN ZIMBABWE

Issued 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015

*(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 2015)<sup>2</sup>*

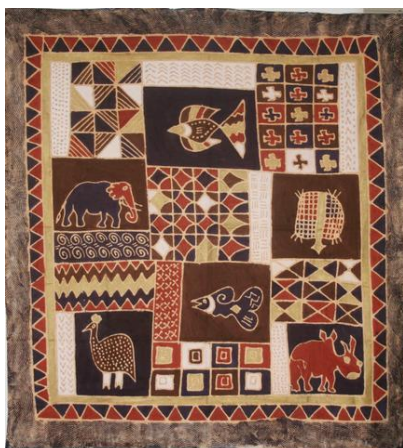
According to UNDP in 2010, the Macro, Small to Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) refers to a group of business people/individuals who harness a positive impact on economic recovery and growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. However, in Zimbabwean context, the MSMEs largely rests in the visual Arts and Crafts Industry. Hope for further growth of the category was concretized when the government of Zimbabwe introduced policies such as The Blue Print on Indigenisation among others. On the other hand, the MSME Association of Zimbabwe is working towards addressing the challenges of labour laws, inflexibility with regards to downsizing, power, transport and other infrastructure-related inefficiencies.



## 40c: Basketry

Woven baskets are skillfully crafted baskets produced by the Ba Tonga tribe of Zimbabwe. These visual artisans are largely populated along the Kariba banks, downstream the Zambezi river. The Lake Kariba dam wall was constructed in the late 1950's. It houses the world's largest man made inland fresh water body. This water body became a conducive growth site for the palms and reeds which are used as raw material for basket production.

The Basketry group of MSMEs operates like a chain of service providers. The weavers or artisan crafters do the weaving or production mostly in their rural homesteads. These producers then sell the woven artifacts to registered sellers, who will in turn sell the crafts at designated sites mostly to tourists and other local communities who are passionate about visual arts. Basket wares come in different shades, shapes and sizes depending on the nature of use. Some of the titles given to these woven baskets include: Tonga Deep bowl, Ilala Picnic basket, Nambiya Bread basket, tswana (Cereal basket) among others.



## 75c: Batik Fabrics

Batik Fabrics are produced by producer artisan groups dotted all over Zimbabwe. This type or form of visual artwork is hand printed on the fabric by means of free-hand or duplicated motifs to create patterns or give emphasis to the subject matter. This type of textile/fabric design was referred to as 'Sadza technique', in the ancient days, because the designers used porridge made from mealie meal.

Other techniques were and are still being used such as flour resist, candle wax resist and tie and dyes. Batik Fabrics are largely produced by female crafters who make use of locally produced cotton fabrics and dyes. These activities have significantly improved and have empowered the

majority of local communities. The fabrics are common at tourist resort towns and areas. These Textile Designers play a very pivotal role in contributing to the Gross Domestic Product.

**85c: Pottery**



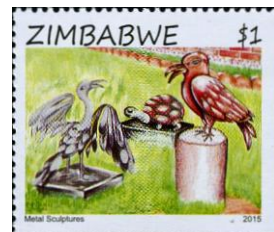
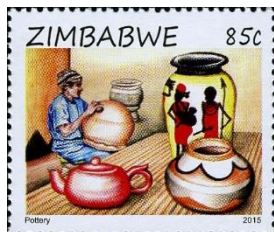
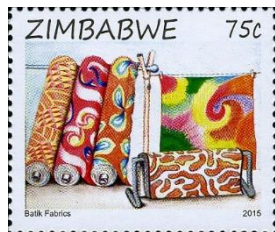
It is intrinsically elating noting that the historical background of pottery in Zimbabwe dates back to several thousand year. In pottery perspective, life is mainly concerned with morals and culture, as portrayed in the design illustrations on one of the clay pots in the postage stamp above. As such, in modern day analysis, it is understood that the potter's main attention rests on vessel shape, decoration and functionality. The MSMEs in this category are mostly in the middle to old aged women, who operate in rural home villages. Due to the positive effects of modernisation, technological advancements and globalization, it is evident that most potters now make use of electric and manual potter's wheels. The indigenous potters need economic empowerment to boost revenue generation.

**\$1: Metal Sculptures**



The MSMEs in this category have the ability to create high quality and unique metal sculptures from tiny creatures to goliath crown crested cranes. Metal sculpture designs can be used to complement almost any garden theme. Metal Sculptures are intelligently crafted from recycled metal materials which are easily accessible. The medallists really do support the government's effort of supporting local communities by providing stable long-term employment. By recycling used metal, these MSMEs contribute significantly to the protection of our precious environment.

**The Stamps**



## Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC <sup>1</sup>	Value	Description
1407	805	40c	Basketry
1408	806	75c	Batik Fabrics
1409	807	85c	Pottery
1410	808	\$1	Metal Sculptures

## Technical details

<b>Stamp size:</b>	Sheet stamps:	35 x 30 mm
<b>Sheet Size:</b>	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 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 14½ x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14 Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate	
<b>Printer:</b>	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe	
<b>Printer’s Imprint:</b>	Bottom margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black	
<b>Cylinder numbers:</b>	Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black	
<b>Colour register:</b>	Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black	
<b>Sheet Value:</b>	Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black	
<b>Sheet Number:</b>	Type SN 7 with printed ‘ZIMPOST’ prefix, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down	
<b>Bar codes:</b>	Opposite R9 & 10/5, printed in black, numbers: 40c 2 009113 000349 75c 2 009113 000356 85c 2 009113 000363 \$1 2 009113 000370	

<b>Print numbers:</b>	40c	200,000	75c	10,000
	85c	10,000	\$1	10,000

**Issue date:** 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### **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. No significant varieties reported.

### **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 2015