

NATIONAL HEROES (11th Series)

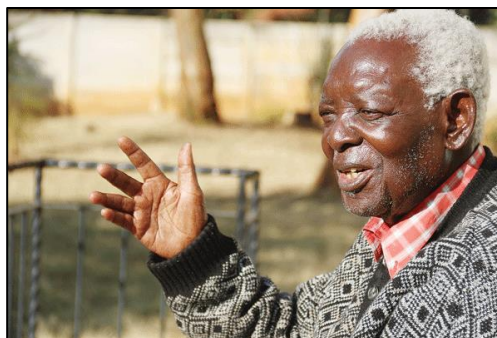
Issued 5th February 2018

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 6 of 2017*)²

40c: Cephas George Msipa (1931-2016)

Cephas Msipa was born the first child of Elijah and Anna Msipa in Sibozza, Shabani District, under Chief Masunda. In total the family consisted of ten, seven boys and three girls. He attended Dadaya Mission where he attained standard 6 in 1947. In 1950 he was trained as a teacher, graduating in 1952.

He got his first teaching post at Msipani Primary School in Shabani in 1953. He studied for the equivalent of Advanced level through correspondence. In 1954 he was transferred to Sibozza Primary School where Africans had to build their own schools from meagre contributions.



In 1955 he sought opportunities to teach urban schools, moving to Que Que, where the head of the school was a Mr Greenfield who emphasised the difference between white people and black people. Mr Greenfield in turn accused Cephas Msipa of sowing disharmony at the school. He met his wife Charlotte Sithabile Matabela, who was also part of the teaching staff.

Later in 1955 booksales men approached the teachers at the school offering a range of text books. Among them there was a confident young man by the name of Joshua Nkomo. Cephas Msipa was impressed by his personality and bought a set of ten Encyclopaedia Britannica from him, unaware that they would be brought together in their Southern Rhodesia African National Congress.

Cde Msipa started work in 1957 for the African National Congress, organising meetings. At the same time, he was an active member of The Rhodesian African Teachers Association. He was elected Secretary only to be removed after questioning discrimination. He was then elected to the Amaveni Advisory Board in Que Que and appointed chairman of that body from 1951 to 1958.

In 1958 Msipa was transferred to teach at Shingirai School in Salisbury, now Harare. He was promoted to head Mhofu Primary School in the suburb of Highfield. This promotion was of great significance to Msipa, which boosted his political resolve and there he met Leopold Takawira who had been headmaster before him who had been incarcerated for confronting the political regime. In 1960 he met Robert Mugabe at 4144 Canaan in Highfield who had just returned from Ghana. They became very close friends. Robert Mugabe's eloquence inspired Msipa to arrange meetings in Highfield. He was part of the decision to persuade Mugabe to take up the post for Information and Publicity in the National Democratic Party.

He and his wife, Charlotte Matabela, exchanged vows of marriage on the 27th April 1960 at St Martin's Church, Que Que. Cde Msipa was then appointed headmaster of Crowborough Number 1 in Mufakose. He was suspended from his post because of his participation in politics but in 1961 he attended the RATA Annual Conference at Fletcher High School in Gweru, where he was elected Vice President. Cde Msipa was arrested and detained at Gonakudzingwa. He escaped in 1966 in remonstrance to Ian Smith's 11th November 1965 Unilateral Declaration of Independence. Thereafter he was branded a terrorist and was included on the list of wanted persons.

He was then employed at Cold Comfort Farm where he worked as a farm worker in the company of other nationalists including Didymus Mutasa and Guy Clutton-Brock. Clutton-Brock was deported to the UK for housing terrorists. Cde Msipa went into hiding for ten weeks. He was later captured and sent to prison for fighting against the Rhodesian Regime. However, he attained a degree in Public Administration with UNISA and completed a three year course of Public Relations at the London Institute. Cde Msipa was released from prison in 1970 working for various companies such as Lobels at which he was fired for visiting Malawi as a guest of Dr Hastings Banda.

When the African National Council was formed in 1971, Msipa was one of the founder members together with Josiah Chinamano. Michael Mawema, Edson Sithole and Edison Zvobgo. In 1975 he was elected ZAPU National Secretary for Education, thus becoming a member of the ZAPU's Central Committee. In that position he was instrumental in facilitating the education of many liberation leaders.

In 1977 Cde Msipa and Herbert Munangatire founded a newspaper called the Zimbabwe Times leading to his detention. He was part of the Nkomo delegation to the Lancaster House talks leading to Independence in April 1980. After Independence, Cde Msipa served as Deputy Minister of Youth, Sports and Recreation and Deputy Minister of Manpower Planning. In 1982 he was appointed Minister of Water Resources and Development.

From the year 1990 to 1994 Cephas Msipa was Governor of the Midlands Province. In 1995 he became Minister for State Enterprises and Indigenisation. He was then re-appointed Governor of Midlands Province where he served until 2008. He played an important role in 1987 Unity Accord, because of his closeness to Dr Joshua Nkomo. He also had several other posts such as AMA, Natural Resources Board, Zim trade, being appointed a non-executive Director of a number of companies including Triangle Sugar Estate, Cairns Holdings. Blue Ribbon, Johnson and Johnson, Kodak, Bikita Minerals and NMB Bank. In recognition for his role of the development of the country he was honoured by the Midlands State University with a Doctorate of Commerce.

Throughout his life he devoted part of his time to serve the less privileged society. Therefore, he became Patron of the Zimbabwe Ex-political prisoners, detainees and restrictees, HelpAge Zimbabwe, Mudavanhu School for the Mentally Challenged and became a life member of Jiros Jiri (Zvishavane branch).

In 2009, Cephas Msipa established the CG Msipa Scholarship Trust to provide various forms of assistance to the underprivileged, intellectual students. In 2015, Cde Msipa published a memoir "In pursuit of freedom and justice". Upon his death people from across the political divide expressed Msipa's role as an open politician who spoke his mind as Cde Mugabe said at his Heroes Acre burial, there was no need for consultations on his hero status, he is a certified national hero who deserves the highest honour.

75c: Brigadier General Felix Ngwarati Muchemwa (1945-2016)



The late Brigadier General Muchemwa was born to Mack Mativi Muchemwa and Mary Mauyanarwo (nee Muchanya). He was the sixth child of seven, comprising four boys and three girls, born in Mondoro 22nd April 1945. He had his primary education at Nehanda and St Michaels Primary schools in Mondoro between 1950 and 1960 before proceeding to Kutama Mission School and then Fletcher High School in Gweru between 1961 and 1966. During his days at Fletcher High School, he organised other students into political discussions. He could not understand why Guinea Fowl High School in the Selukwe area was reserved for white children only.

The Rhodesian Government recognised his intellectual prowess and in 1967 granted him a state scholarship in medicine in Birmingham. Not long after enrolling at the University Muchemwa got into trouble with the authorities for his involvement in student politics. Nevertheless he became elected as President of the Student Representative Council, SRC, in 1969. During his holidays he organised a protest march to disrupt an all white political meeting at Margolis Hall. As a result, the Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Douglas Smith, got him expelled from the University and he could not enter Salisbury City without express permission by the police.

However, the University of Birmingham Medical School ignored this local activity and he qualified in Bachelor of Medicine M.B and B.S in 1973. He proceeded to do further studies in Glasgow where he

became Mater of Science and Anatomy and was then elected Secretary of the ZANU Birmingham branch in 1973. Herbert Chitepo, on a visit to the UK, invited him to join in the Liberation Struggle. In his response Muchemwa advised Cde Chitepo that he was going to join the Liberation Struggle.

He and Dr Simba Makoni, who was the London chairman of ZANU at the time, ensured the collection of various medical items which were awarded to ZANU headquarters in Mozambique by a secret courier system they had established to avoid inspection by the Rhodesian CIO. In response to his promise to Chitepo, Dr Muchemwa, in June 1977, left the comfort and luxuries associated with practicing as a medical doctor and joined the ZANU headquarters in Mozambique. At Chimoio, Dr Muchemwa found Dr Sydney Sekeremayi and Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, who were already working there and added their contribution. The ratio of doctors to patients requiring health care was impossible to complete. While at Chimoio, he was appointed member of the general staff of ZANLA and appointed ZANLA Forces Camp Medical Officer in October 1977. After the Lancaster House talks, it was agreed that the freedom fighters would come back in groups to the country and Dr Muchemwa was one of the second group.

After independence he was attested into the Zimbabwe National Army as a Major and posted to medical company as Senior Medical Officer. He successfully rescued some victims of a bomb blast at 88 Manica Road, the headquarters of ZANU. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel in June 1981. During the Mozambican campaign, Colonel Muchemwa was deployed as part of the command element in the special task force, headquartered at Chimoio, to direct operations. The aim of the expedition was to capture Gorongosa which was the headquarters of the MNR (Mozambican National Resistance). Eventually it was captured in 1986 and due to his hardworking dedication to duty he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in December 1986.

He was appointed Minister of Health in January 1988 holding it until the end of 1989. He also became elected Member of Parliament for Mondoro. He wrote a book in late 2015 providing an in-depth analysis of the land question in Zimbabwe titled "The struggle for land in Zimbabwe 1890 - 2010".

85c: Chief Justice Godfrey Guwa Chidyausiku (1947-2017)

Born on 1st March 1947 in Domboshawa and died 3rd May 2017 in Morningside Clinic in South Africa. He was the seventh born in a family of eight children. Godfrey enrolled at Makumbe Mission from 1957 to 1961, then at Ignatius College in Chishawasha emulating St Georges College in Harare. He showed his leadership qualities by being appointed a prefect.



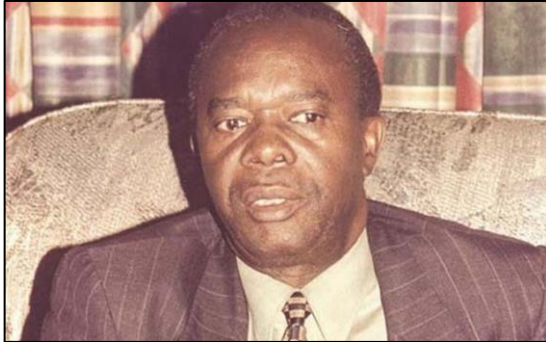
From 1968 to 1972 he studied law at the University of Rhodesia, on graduation he entered private practice. In 1973 he married Mary Matekera and they had six children. The African Bar Association attended to the legal challenges faced by black lawyers.

He was determined to have the oppressed black people represented in Parliament so in 1974 Chidyausiku won the African Roll Constituency Highfield. He actively defended black political activists including Ushewokunze, Marere, Sithole, Tsvarai and Dr Munyaradzi. In 1979 he attended the Lancaster House talks representing ZANU. At Independence in 1980, Cde Chidyausiku was elected Member of Parliament for Mashonaland East leading to his appointment as Deputy of Local Government and later as Deputy Minister of Justice.

During this period, he got married customarily to Sheila Madzima, who was the physiotherapist in charge at the Ministry of Health. He was then appointed to the post of Attorney General at the age of 35, in 1982.

Godfrey Chidyausiku's commitment to black advancement as well as his legal acumen and determination to dismantle white supremacy in the legal field, saw him earmarked for the position of Judge. In 1998 he became Judge President of the High Court and three years later on 13th March 2001 he was appointed Chief Justice in succession to Gubbay. He was not ashamed to defend the Land Reform Programme which the SADC ruling said was illegal. He held together several contentious decisions such as the War Victims Compensation Fund.

\$1: Dr Charles Munhamu Botsio Utete (1938 - 2016)



Born in Chivhu on 30th October 1938 to Benjamin and Bemadette Mary Utete (nee Machirori). He died on 14th July 2016 in Harare.

He was the second born and only boy in a family of six. He attended Primary School at Gwenda Mission and then went to Tegwani High School Ordinary level studies. He completed Advanced level at Goromonzi High School in 1960. He then attended University of Rhodesia graduating in 1963 with BSc. Honours in Economics. He then left the country to arrive in Boston, Massachusetts where he studied BA in Economics then proceeded to obtain an MA and PhD in International Relations and Public Administration in Ottawa, Canada.

Dr Utete took a teaching post at State College, New Jersey then, in 1979, rejoined University of Rhodesia as a senior lecturer in Political Science. Later serving as Dean of the Faculty of Social Affairs. Dr Mischek Sibanda who succeeded him became Secretary for Publicity and Dr Utele was Treasurer in the ZANU PF in Salisbury.

In February 1981 Dr Utete was appointed by the Prime Minister Robert Mugabe to the post of Secretary. Two years later in April 1983 Dr Utete was appointed Chief Secretary for the President and Cabinet holding this post for twenty years. It was a very delicate time working with mostly Smith regime officers.

In December 1987 Dr Utete was responsible for shaping the Unity Accord between ZANU PF and PF ZAPU. Zimbabwe experienced problems due to the intermittent blockade of the Beira Corridor by Renamo, forcing Zimbabwe to depend on the South African route.

Dr Utete was a great observer and facilitator of the political activities at the time, replacing, cautiously, Smith's selection with President Mugabe's choice. At that time, he was elected too, as Chairman of the University of Zimbabwe council.

In 1991 Dr Utete also served as a Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Harare. He facilitated as Chairman of the Personal Representative of Heads of State at the World Solar Commission in 2002.

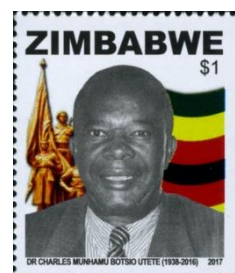
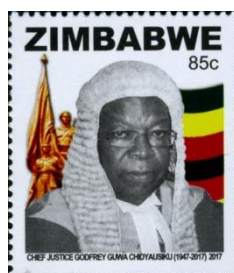
In 1999 Dr Utete was also appointed to a ten member anti-corruption task force and he is on record as saying, "Combating corruption would be a pipe dream as long as any member of the public form part and parcel of the corruption process".

Dr Utete was also appointed Chairman of the Lands Review Committee lasting from 2000 to 2002 writing the first report giving guidelines on how the execution of the Fast Track Land Reform Programme which sought to correct the colonial land tenure system. Noting numerous obstacles impinging on the implementation process including resource constraints and other related difficulties. It established that beneficiaries of the Programme were generally happy with its outcome which transformed their lives, sometimes dramatically.

Dr Utete chaired Cairns as well as the boards of the industrial development cooperation Seedco Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe newspapers. He became patron of Chivhu District Hospital and later Chairman of Astra Industries. He retired on 1st April 2003 and at the farewell event President RG Mugabe said that Dr Utete had been a central figure in the government's system.

In a condolence message to the Utete family President RG Mugabe paid tribute to the way he ran his department getting all the Smith regime civil servants gradually replaced by indigenous occupants and he was willing to educate the new civil servants.

The Stamps



Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1439	835	40c	Cephias Msika
1440	836	75c	Brigadier General Felix Muchemwa
1441	837	85c	Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku
1442	838	\$1	Dr Charles Utete

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
Origination:	Terrie Lue Graphics
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

Bar codes: Opposite R1/10, printed in black, numbers:
 40c 2 009113 000653
 75c 2 009113 000660
 85c 2 009113 000677
 \$1 2 009113 000684

Print numbers:

40c	25,000	75c	7,500
85c	7,500	\$1	7,500

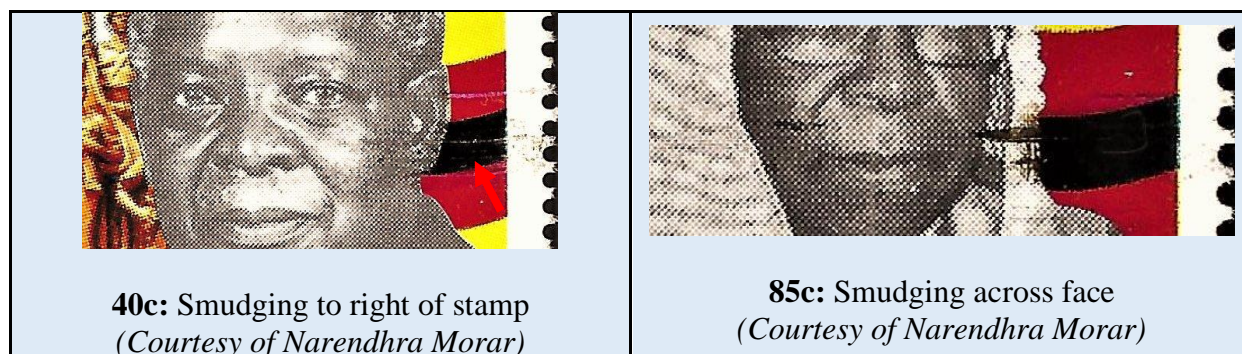
Issue date: 5th February, 2018

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

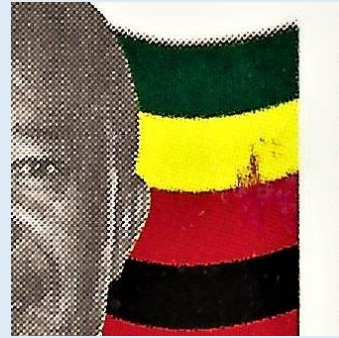
Unlisted Varieties

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.





85c: Horizontal smudging across stamps.
Cyl 1B R3/7-8
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



\$1: Smudging of magenta.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)

First Day Cover

ZimPost produced a First Day Cover, which was postmarked by the Philatelic Bureau with a postmark reading “First Day of Issue/Harare”.



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 5 of 2017 (Note there are no bulletins 2 to 4 of 2017) (this bulletin is dated for 2017, although the stamps were issued in 2018)