FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF DR. JOSHUA NKOMO

Issued 27th June, 2000

(Extracted from first day cover stiffener)[2]

Joshua's father, Thomas Nyongolo Letswansto Nkomo and his mother Mlingo, nee Hadebe, had a total of eight children. Joshua's parents worked for the London Missionary Society and brought up their family in a Christian manner, which included bible reading, hymn singing and prayers in the evenings.

From Standard One until Standard Six Joshua Nkomo was a prize winning student who nearly always came out top of his class. After completing Standard Six he took a carpentry course at the Tsholotsho Government Industrial School. He studied there for a year before becoming a driver. He later tried animal husbandry before becoming a schoolteacher specialising in carpentry at Manyame School in Kezi. In 1942, aged 25 and during his occupation as a teacher, he decided that he should go to South Africa to further his education and do carpentry and qualify to a higher level.

When he returned to Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1947 he rose to the leadership of the Railway Workers Union and then to the leadership of the African National Congress in 1952. In 1960 he became President of the National Democratic Party. He married his wife Johanna Mafuyana on 1 October 1949.



After the NDP was banned by the Rhodesian government, he formed ZAPU (Zimbabwe African Peoples Union). After ZAPU was also banned he went into exile in Tanzania. On his return to Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) he was arrested by the government and then restricted to Kezi his birthplace near Bulawayo for three months. His later activity as leader of the Peoples Caretaker Council led to his long restriction at Gonakudzingwa for 10 years near the Mozambique border. In 1974 he was moved to Buffalo Range Prison where he stayed until his release five months later.

During the detente exercise he became involved in various attempts at constitutional agreement with the British and Rhodesian Front governments and in the organisation of the liberation war from Zambia where ZAPU had established its military base.

In May 1979 he was conferred an Honorary Degree of Law by More House in Atlanta, Georgia USA.

After ZAPU's defeat in the 1980 Independence Elections, Joshua Nkomo became a member of the cabinet and until 1982 held several portfolios, including that of Home Affairs. In 1982 the Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, as a result of the discovery of ZAPU arms caches dismissed him and other members of his party. Joshua Nkomo retained his seat as a Member of Parliament which led to discussions aimed at National Unity. In 1984 Joshua Nkomo went into exile once again and only returned in 1985 for the 1985 elections when he was elected MP for Magwegwe. He continued to work for unity despite these setbacks.



On 22 December 1987 he was instrumental in uniting the different factions of the Patriotic Front and signed the Unity Accord with President Robert Mugabe, a move which saw the restoration of peace in Zimbabwe. Joshua Nkomo was appointed Senior Minister in the President's Office in 1987 and became the State Co-Vice-President with Simon Muzenda, in 1990.

In 1998 Joshua Nkomo was conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Commerce by Zimbabwe's National University of Science and Technology (NUST). In 2000 he was conferred posthumously with an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Zimbabwe.

Throughout his life, he had dedicated himself to the liberation of all Zimbabweans and had fought racism, and unjust privilege. He was declared a National Hero in 1999 and is buried at the National Heroes Acre.

Dr Joshua Mqabuko Nyongolo Nkomo, affectionately known as Father Zimbabwe, Umdala Wethu or Chibwechitedza (the slippery rock), died on Thursday, 1 July, 1999 at Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare after a very long battle with cancer. He was aged 83.

Joshua Nkomo was a politician and nationalist leader. His experiences in South Africa while attending Adams College in Natal and the Jan Hofmeyr School of Social Sciences in Johannesburg had a very strong influence on his political career. He trained as a social worker at Jan Hofmeyr School which later culminated in his being awarded a B.A. Degree in Social Science in 1952.

Dr Joshua Nkomo is survived by his wife Mafuyana, three children and several grandchildren.

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1028	456	$2.00	Nkomo as an old man
1029	457	$9.10	Nkomo as a young man
1030	458	$12.00	Nkomo as an old man
1031	459	$16.00	Nkomo as a young man

Technical details

Stamp size: All values 30 x 35 mm

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

Artist: Bill Place

Paper: ZSC paper type F - Although still officially described as HS8, the paper properties changed in 1996. This is fluorescent front but non-fluorescent back and the gum is whitish PVA.

Print colours: Cyan, magenta, yellow & black

Perforations: SG 14 x 14½, ZSC 14 x 14¼
Right 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 4a with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down

Print numbers:

$2.00	1,800,000	$9.10	150,000
$12.00	150,000	$16.00	150,000

Issue date: 27th June, 2000

Withdrawal from sale:

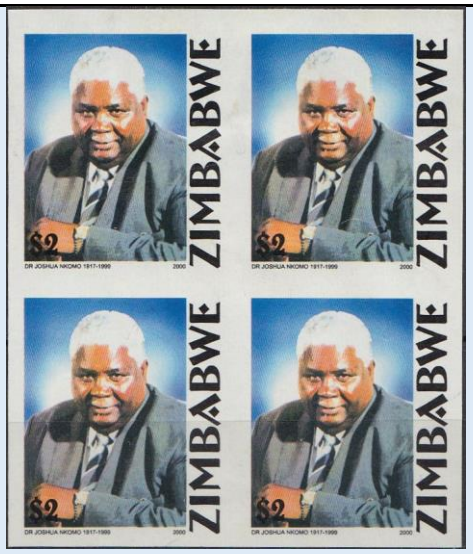
Demonetarisation:

Listed varieties

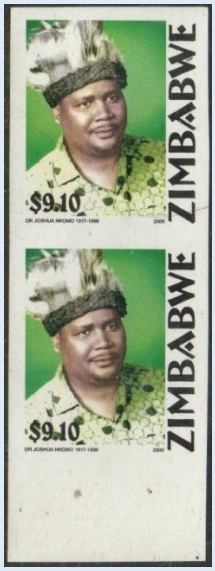
No listed varieties have been noted

Unlisted Varieties

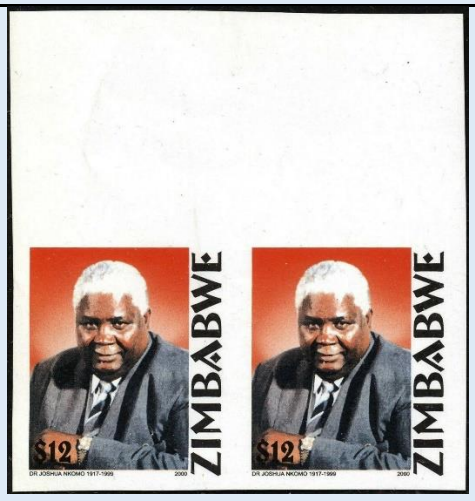
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds.



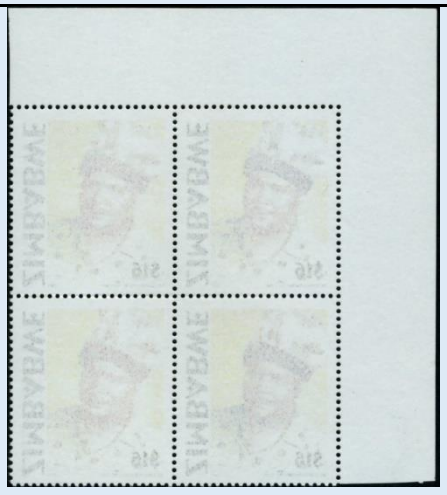
$2.00: Imperforate block of 4, probable proof material
(Source eBay February 2022)



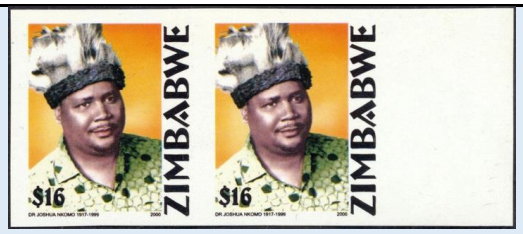
$9.10: Imperforate proof pair
(Source: Delcampe October 2023)



$12.00: Imperforate proof
(Source eBay November 2021)



$16.00: Offset of black and yellow



$16.00: Imperforate proof
(Source eBay June 2025)

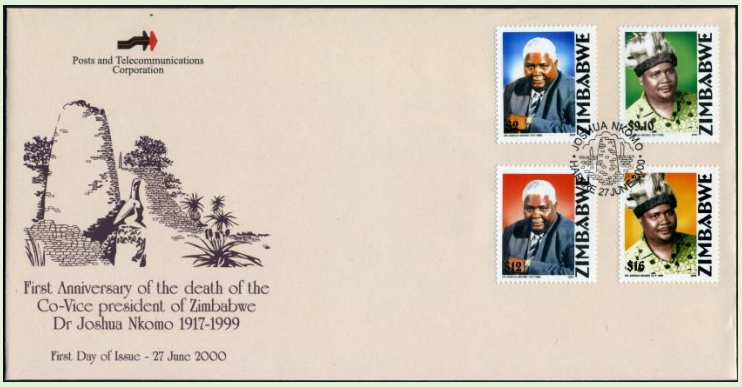
First Day Cover

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



ZW085.1 (PTC)



220 x 110 mm

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
2. Stiffener within First Day Cover.

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
3-2022	$12 imperforate proof
	$2 imperforate block of 4 proof
12-2023	$9.10 imperforate proof pair
8-2025	$16 proof pair