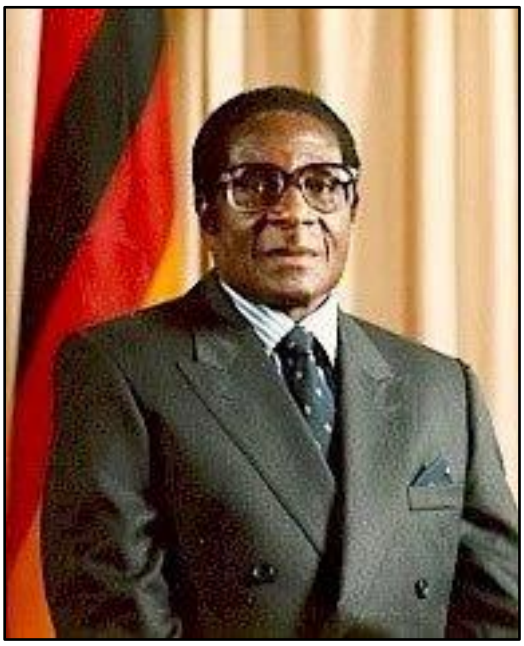
Commemoration of the life of
ROBERT GABRIEL MUGABE
President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Issued 14th August 2023

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2023)[2]

The biography below has been extracted from the Bulletin in its entirety



Official portrait in all Government buildings

Born: 21st February 1924, Kutama Mission

Died: 6th September 2019, Singapore

Buried: Kutama, Zvimba District

Born the third in a family of six to Mr Gabriel Matibiri Mugabe and Bona Mugabe (nee Shonhiwa). Cde Mugabe received his early education at Kutama Mission. After completing 6 years of elementary education, he was offered a place for teacher training in 1941 at Kutama. Mbuya Bona could not afford the fees which were paid in part by Father 0' Hea, a Catholic priest who was his mentor during his youthful days.

After graduating, he taught at a number of local schools between 1942 and 1949, before enrolling at Fort Hare University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1951. While at Fort Hare, he came into contact with the politics of decolonisation as espoused by South Africa's African National Congress and other politically conscious students from other countries in the region and beyond.

In 1955 to 1958, he taught at Chalimbana Teachers' Training College in Zambia and later proceeded to Ghana where he taught at Apowa Secondary School, between 1958 to 1960. Later he did a local certification course at Achimota School where he met Sarah Francesca Hayfron whom he would later marry. His stay in Ghana further heightened his political consciousness.

In September 1957, the Southern Rhodesia National Congress was formed under the leadership of Joshua Nkomo; it was banned by the colonial government in 1959 and it was replaced by UNDP in January 1960. Cde Mugabe, who was in the country for a short visit, was urged to stay on by his colleague Cde Leopold Takawira. His political consciousness had been further heightened by his stay in Ghana.

In July 1960, Cde Mugabe joined a demonstration of 7,000 people marching from Highfield to Salisbury which was thwarted by the colonial regime. Undeterred, the following day the numbers swelled to 40,000, and Cde Mugabe addressed the crowd and this event sowed seeds of his political metamorphoses from consciousness to activism, and he resigned from teaching in Ghana.

Under Cde Chitepo's mentorship, he chaired the first UNDP congress in October 1960, where he was elected the party's Publicity Secretary and immediately formed the UNDP Youth wing. The party was banned by the Smith regime in December 1961. *(This is incorrect as Smith didn't become Prime Minister until 1964, Sir Edgar Whitehead was in the position in 1961).* Cde Mugabe joined ZAPU and was appointed Party's Publicity and General Secretary before ultimately being involved in the formation of ZANU in 1963. Both parties were banned in August 1964. Most leaders of the two political outfits were detained at various centres, ZANU leadership confined being at Sikombela and Salisbury Maximum Prisons.

Cde Mugabe was charged with making subversive statements in a public speech, at the same time he met colleagues at his Highfield home where he argued that it was time for resistance since demonstrations had been banned and the regime was refusing to yield it, and it was time for armed resistance. He and Cde Sally skipped bail and attended a ZAPU meeting in Tanganyika (Tanzania). In 1964 the couple were blessed with a son whom they named Nhamodzenyika. Cde Sally took their child to her parents in Ghana and Cde Mugabe was arrested upon his return. Between August 1964 to December 1974, he was confined to Salisbury maximum prison before being moved to WhaWha and Sikombela.

Through correspondence he earned more Degrees and also encouraged his colleagues to also read.

Cde Mugabe was refused permission to attend his son's burial after he succumbed to cerebral malaria in 1966, leaving the wife to bear the pain alone.

Upon his release from prison, he together with Cde Edgar Tekere was helped by Chief Rekayi Tangwena to escape to Mozambique in March 1975; he led the armed wing following the assassination of Cde Herbert Chitepo. In 1977 he was elected party President. He successfully led a delegation to the abortive independence talks in Geneva and Malta. He escalated the struggle that left the Smith regime with no option but to negotiate, and he led the delegation to the Lancaster House Conference, ending the 15 years of armed struggle paving way for a cease fire.

In 1980, ZANU(PF) won 57 out of 80 seats with Cde Mugabe becoming the first Prime Minister for Zimbabwe, forming a government of national unity that drew members from major political parties that had participated in the 15 year conflict. In 1981, Cde Mugabe declared education a basic human right. Between 1982 and 1986 great strides were made in education, health care, infrastructure, agriculture and other social services alleviating lives for formally marginalised Africans.

On 22 December 1987, Cde Mugabe signed the Unity Accord with PF ZAPU leader Dr Joshua Nkomo; which resulted in the united ZANU(PF); and he became the Executive President of Zimbabwe with Cdes Joshua Nkomo and Simon Muzenda as his Vice Presidents. In 1988, he won the World Freedom against Hunger Award. In 1991, Zimbabwe hosted Commonwealth Heads of State meeting.



Cde Mugabe's first wife Cde Sally, died in 1992. That same year, he assumed chairmanship of the World Frontline States. In August 1996, he wedded Grace Mugabe (nee Marufu). The couple was blessed with three children, Bona, Robert Jr and Chatunga Bellermine.

In 2000 Cde Mugabe rolled out the land reform programme to address the land question. His championing of an equitable Land Reform Programme is a major pillar of his legacy. Western countries imposed illegal sanctions that have stifled economic development in the past two decades.

Between 2008 and 2013, Cde Mugabe led the Government of National Unity that was brokered by South African President Thabo Mbeki.



In 2014, he was elected SADC Chairperson, and, during his tenure, he advocated for Africa to find its own solutions to its problems. Cde Mugabe successfully attained several academic achievements, honorary awards and assortment of local, regional and international accolades.

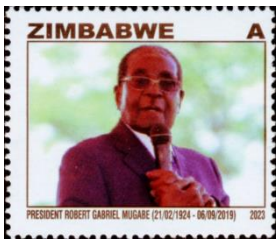
Cde Mugabe resigned as President of Zimbabwe on 21 November 2017 after a long and distinguished political career. He died on 6 September 2019 and was laid to rest at his Kutama village homestead in Zvimba District. At the time of his death he survived by wife Grace, three children and two grandchildren.

Commentary

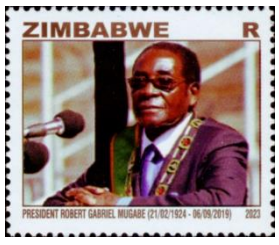
Whilst acknowledging that under Robert Mugabe's Government did do a significant amount for the country in the early years in bringing forward education, health and the economy after the years of the bush war. His legacy, however, when he was deposed in 2019, country was had been devastated by economic mismanagement, which the country has struggled to overturn ever since. It is noted that previous Vice-Presidents were commemorated with a stamp issue within a year of their passing, it took almost four years for this issue to be released.

The Stamps









Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1482	873	Z	Robert Mugabe fist pumping
Not listed	874	A	Robert Mugabe with microphone
1484	875	E	Robert Mugabe portrait
	a.		"Mugabe's Ghost"
1485	876	R	Robert Mugabe with Presidential chain and sash

Note All stamps are inscribed "President Robert Gabriel Mugabe (21-02-1924 – 06.09.2019)"

Technical details

Stamp size: Sheet stamps: 35 x 30 mm

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

Photographs: Archives of The Herald newspaper, Harare

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 *(check E value)*

Perforations: SG 14½ x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14
Top margin: Perforated through
Other margins: Imperforate

Printer: NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe

Printer's Imprint: Sheet stamps only - Bottom margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black

Cylinder numbers: Left 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, in red ink, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down

Bar codes: Sheet stamps only - Opposite R10/5, printed in black, numbers:

Z	2 009113 000387
A	2 009113 000394
E	2 009113 000400
R	2 009113 000417

Print numbers:

Z	10,000	A	10,000
E	10,000	R	10,000

Issue date: 14th August, 2023

Postal Rates

Postal rates are difficult to determine at this time, no schedule of rates is available to view. However, Bulletin 1 of 2023[2] for this issue provided a schedule of rates at the time of issue

Postal rates applicable as at date of issue –

Z =	US$1.60	A =	US$4.20
E =	US$5.20	R =	US$6.20

Statement in the bulletin – "ZWL rates charged at prevailing bank rate of that day". The bank rate in the latter half of August 2023 was circa ZW$4,460: US$1. Note the largest denomination of local bank note was ZW$100, thus requiring 714 bank notes to pay the local postage rate.

Listed varieties

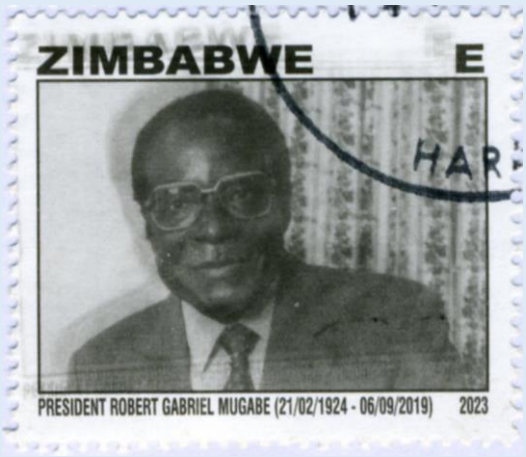
No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

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



Z value – Movement of perforations to the right.



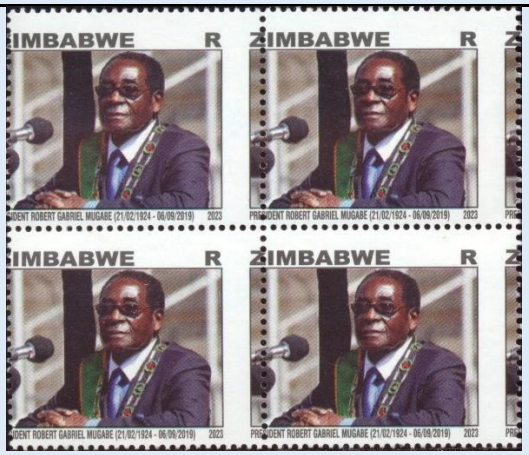
ZSC 875a: "Mugabe's Ghost"
E Value:

Double print of the black plate giving a ghostly image across and behind the portrait. This variety was found on a first day cover, so it is likely there will be more covers with this.



A value – Movement of perfs to left

(Source eBay November 2024)



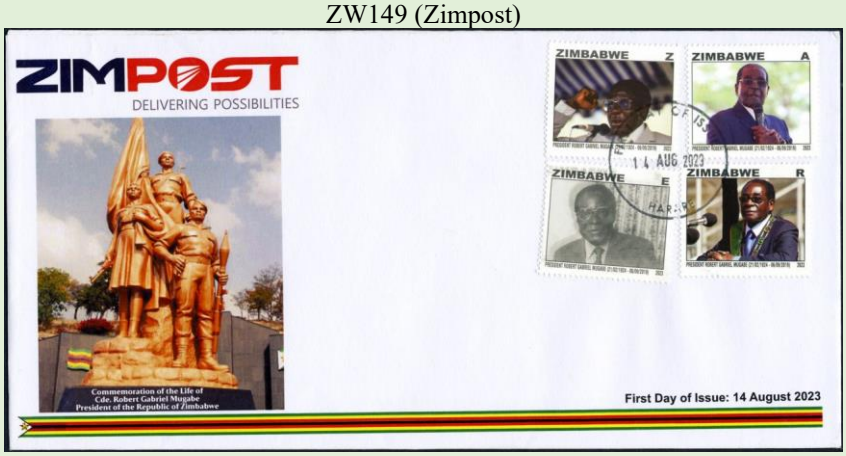
R value – Movement of perfs to right

(Source eBay November 2024)

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”.

ZW149 (Zimpost)

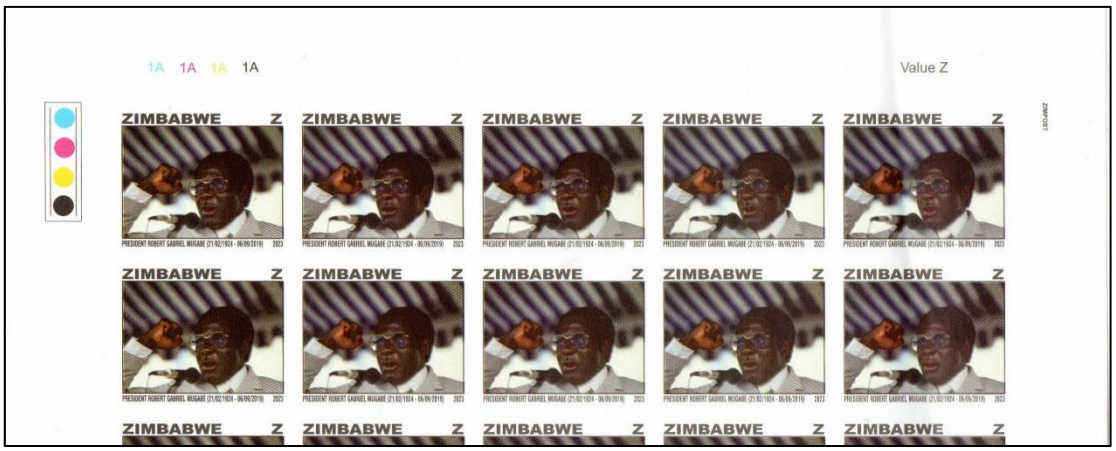


220 x 110 mm

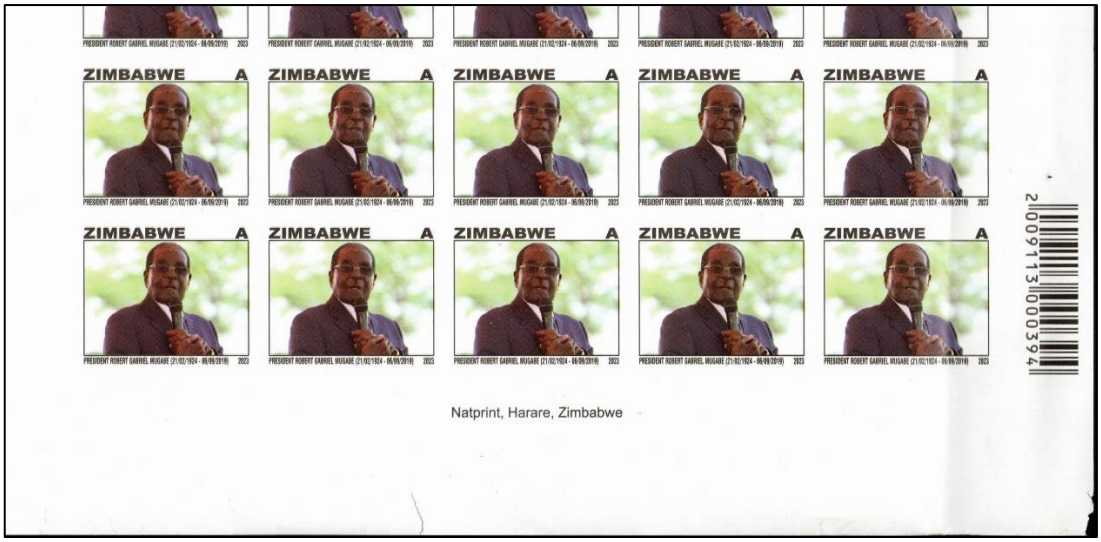
Printer’s proofs/waste

The following scans have been provided by Jefferson Ritson, of both imperforated proofs and perforated printer’s waste. All material part of complete sheets of proofs/printer’s waste.

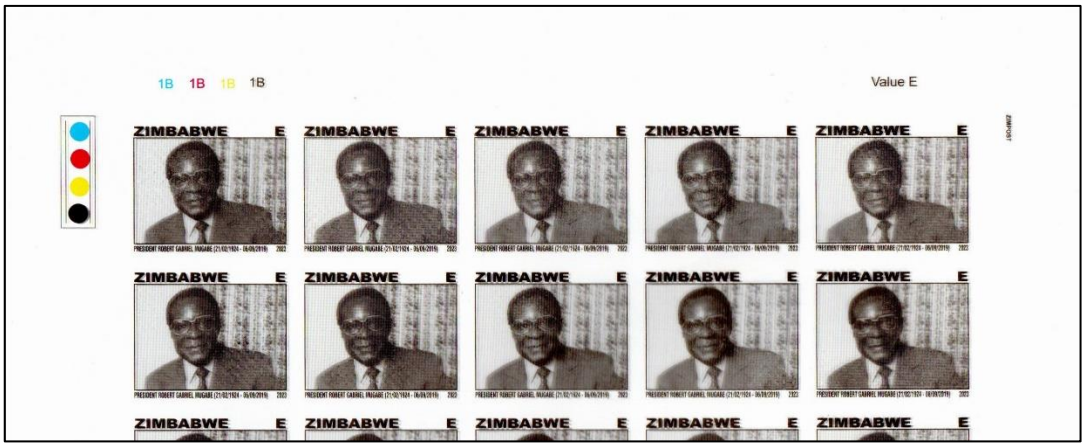
Imperforate duties



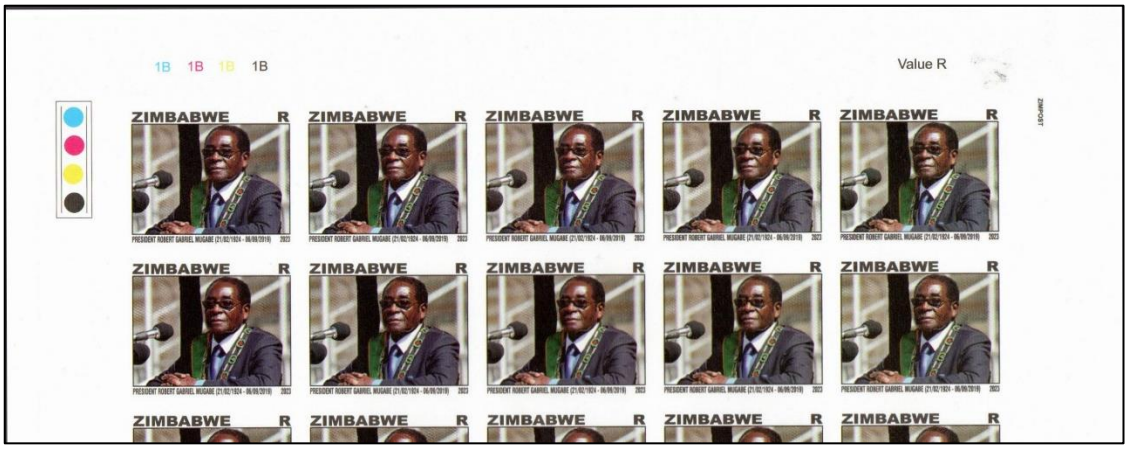
Z value – imperforate cylinder 1A (also 1B sheet)



A value - imperforate imprint

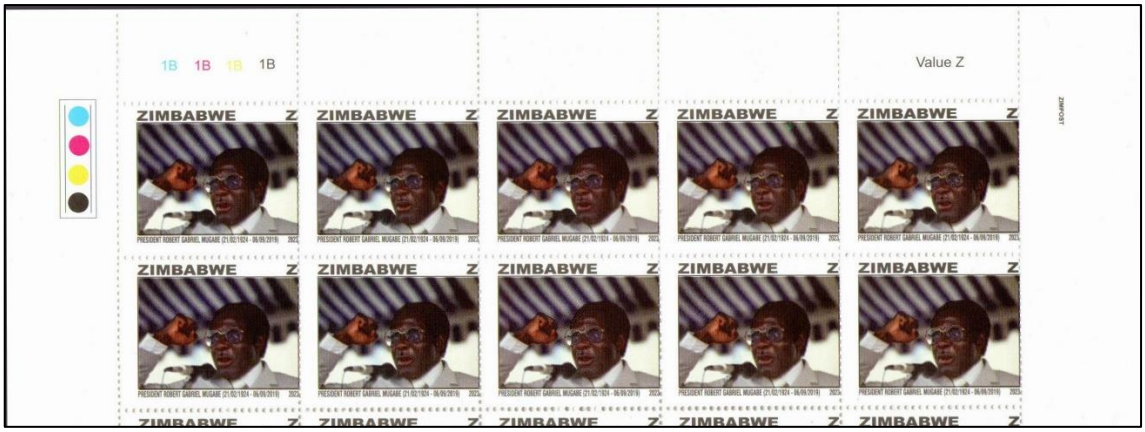


E value – imperforate cylinber 1B

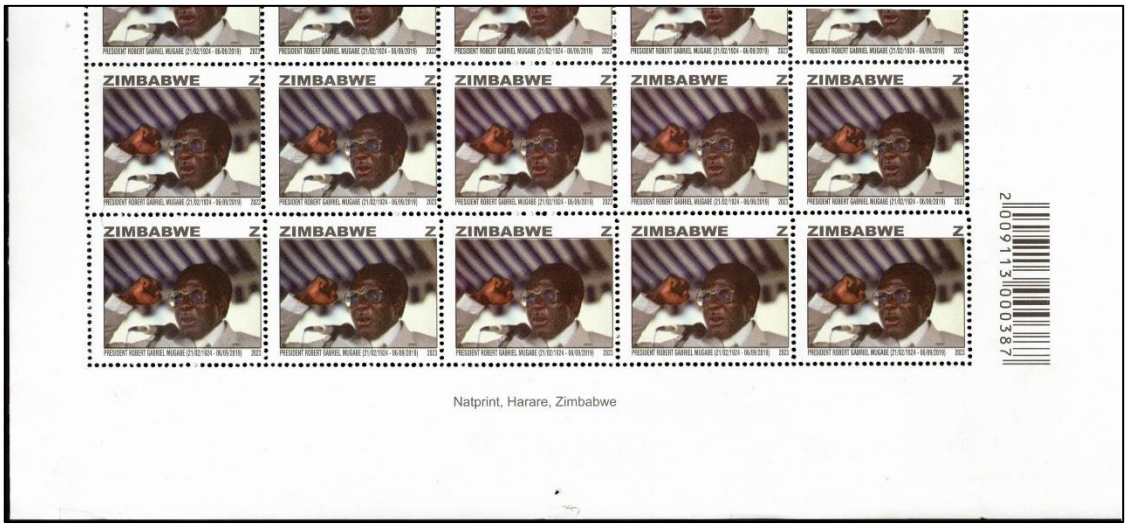


R value – imperforate cylinder 1B (also in cylinder 1A)

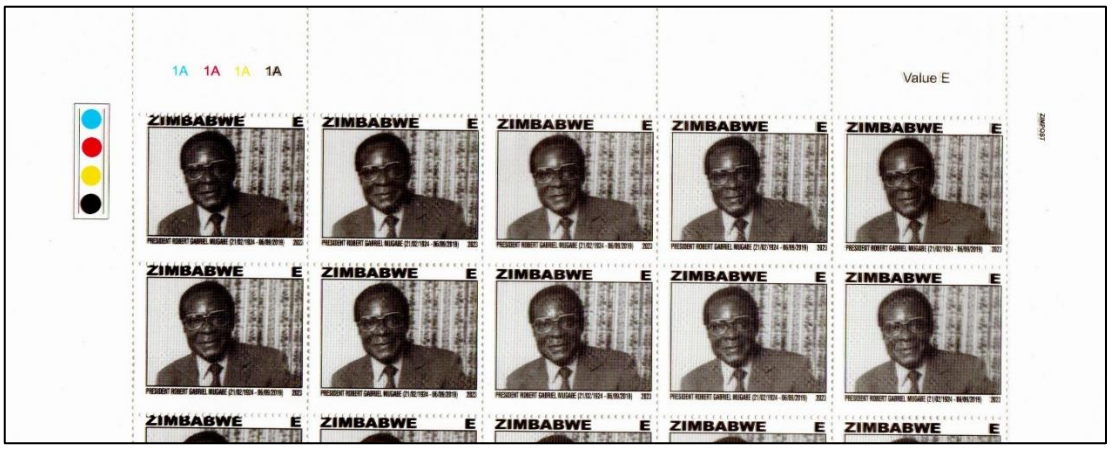
Perforated duties



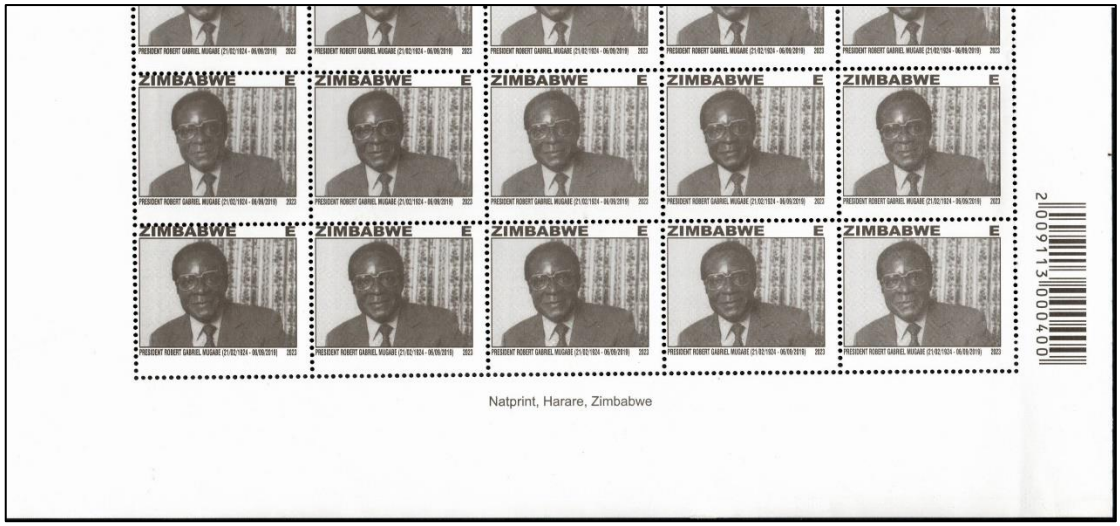
Z value - perforated cylinder 1A (also 1B)



Z value - imprint



E value - perforated cylinder 1A



E value - imprint block



A value – complete proof sheet cylinder 14A

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 2023

Additions/Changes since December 2023	
4-2024	Z – value with perforation movement
8-2024	Bar codes added
	Printer's proofs/waste
	Corrections to positions of marginal notations
12-2024	A & Z value perf movement