

**STATE SECURITY  
MUST STOP ABUSING  
COMMUTERS: PAZ >pg2**

**AMID CRIPPLING  
POWER CUTS,  
ZIMBABWE TURNS TO  
SOLAR ENERGY >pg3**

<b>COVID-19 WATCH</b>	<b>5308</b> cases	<b>3848</b> recoveries	<b>135</b> deaths
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## Gweru residents radio interface with local authorities



*Gweru Local Advocacy Champions with Councillor Cleopas Shiri at Central Radio*

**C**entral Radio, a community radio station in Gweru has provided critical space for engagement between residents and the City Council.

Residents this Tuesday had the opportunity to engage with the Gweru City Council on service delivery, Covid-19 and how it has affected the community, especially women.

The engagement meeting was a continuation of the radio programs that was done on Central Radio last week. The Zimbabwe Christian Alliance Local Advocacy Champions (LACs) were in the studio

with the Gweru Deputy Mayor, Councillor Cleopas Shiri.

“These times call for people to be innovative and these are some of the methods that we can adopt to engage with the people. I believe radio is one of the most effective ways of engaging with the community, people from different parts of Gweru who were listening to the radio had access to information on service delivery issues,” Deputy Mayor said

Speaking during the radio programme, Cllr Shiri revealed that the local authority has managed to procure high lifting pumps to make sure that most

of the villages in Gweru have water continuously. He said once the debt is cleared then they would be able to provide water to the communities.

“So far we have spent USD120 000 out of a total of USD175 000 for the water pumps. Our aim is to make sure that residents have access to water every day without any disturbances,” he said.

Council has also engaged other partners to help them in the drilling of boreholes in various areas in the city. He said these areas will then be serviced with the boreholes which will be powered by solar power.

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# Gweru residents radio interface with local authorities

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“It has not been a good year for the country as a whole and the water shortages have affected almost all parts of the country. Water in the dams is reducing yet we also have to leave water for aqua life. We hope that the partnerships that we have established will go a long way in alleviating the water problems,” Cllr Shiri said.

The Gweru ZCA coordinator, Pastor Tavengwa Makore questioned the Deputy Mayor on the developments at Gwenoro Dam as the community was not aware of what the council was doing to

rectify the situation at the dam.

However, Cllr Shiri said that the dam belongs to the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) which is in the process of scooping sand to ensure good catchment before the rain season.

Speaking on behalf of the youths, Juliet Mucharozwa said women and young girls were the most affected when it comes to water shortages and there were no proper sanitation measures to make sure that water seekers do not contaminate Covid-19.

“There is need for the council to make sure that

these places that we are frequenting to fetch water are disinfected or sanitised before and after we use the facilities. We are the ones who wake up early in the morning to search for the precious liquid and we are also in danger of being abused along the road,” she said.

Mrs Nyoni also mentioned that there was a need for the council to put a system in place that allows for every household to access water. She said people staying in low lying areas are at an advantage of receiving water compared to those in high lying areas.

# State security must stop abusing commuters: PAZ

**T**HE Passengers Association of Zimbabwe (PAZ) has urged State security forces to stop abusing the commuting public as they try to find transport home after curfew since the sole public transporter, Zimbabwe United Passengers Company (Zupco), was failing to cope with demand.

In a statement, PAZ said they had been inundated with complaints from passengers



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who have experienced abuse at the hands of soldiers and police officers.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa recently announced a 6pm to 6am (is it still 6-6) curfew to curb the spread of coronavirus.

“In Mabvuku, for instance, people who were coming from work were beaten up. Due to the fact that there is a massive transport challenge and Zupco lacks the capacity, they arrived after the curfew had started and they were beaten up together with vendors,” PAZ said.

“On July 30 and 31, there was daylight victimisation and physical beating of people at bus ranks in Harare CBD and other places within the city and other cities.”

PAZ said private vehicle owners also suffered similar abuses at the hands of “law officers

seeking corrupt gains”.

“Zupco must consistently provide buses and they must regularly fumigate their buses, check passengers’ body temperatures and sanitise,” PAZ said.

Contacted for comment, Zimbabwe National Army spokesperson Lieutenant-Colonel Alphios Makotore referred NewsDay to the police

“You can check with the police, look for (national police spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner Paul) Nyathi, he will assist you,” Makotore said.

But Nyathi said: “I am not aware of the issue and when people complain on such issues, they should tell the exact location, but we have not received such complaints.”

**Source:** Newsday



# Amid crippling power cuts, Zimbabwe turns to solar energy

**O**utside Cecilia Ziwane's house sits a neatly stacked wood pile next to a small solar panel — her two major sources of energy.

"We cannot do without them," said the mother of three, who lives in Glen Norah, a working class suburb of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. Like the rest of the country, Ziwane has been coping for more than a year with crippling power cuts lasting up to 19 hours per day.

With no sign of the state utility generating adequate electricity, desperate Zimbabweans are reverting to a combination of old and new sources of energy: firewood for cooking and solar for light.

"I would rather have normal electricity supplies. Solar is better but firewood ... as you can see, it is heavy, it is dirty, but I have no choice," she said.

Zimbabwe is experiencing its worst economic crisis in a decade, with inflation estimated at nearly 500%. The most severe drought in decades has added to the country's woes, increasing shortages of food and water.

Zimbabwe's rich and poor alike are turning to solar energy. Small solar panels are perched atop makeshift shacks made from plastic sheets, cardboard boxes, grass and mud in a squatters' camp on what used to be open land in Borrowdale, one of Harare's affluent suburbs. Larger solar panels are on the roofs of the substantial homes, just a few meters (yards) away.

"They have money but they don't have electricity, just like us squatters," said 78-year-old Chiwenga Mutekede, pointing at the posh houses nearby. "We are in the same boat, solar all the way," he said with a chuckle. He said he bought his 20 watt solar panel for \$15 to power a small radio and his phone.

His wealthy neighbours also praise solar power.



*Man sits next to his solar panel in a squatter camp in Harare*

"I just passed my examinations! It was because of this solar panel," said 12-year-old Rumbidzai Magaya, who said she completed her homework thanks to a light bulb powered by the solar panel.

Some big businesses are using solar power as much as possible. Firms such as telecoms giant, Econet and Schweppes Zimbabwe, which produces and distributes drinks under license from Coca-Cola, have covered their rooftops and carports with solar panels. They say they want their operations to use more electricity from solar than from the national power company.

Nearby, a diesel generator powered a mill grinding maize (corn) into a meal used to make sadza, a thick porridge that is Zimbabwe's staple food. Others displayed firewood for sale on street pavements and outside houses.

Glen Norah resident Ziwane agrees. She said although she would rather have the "normal" electricity supplies more regularly, solar "is not that bad."

"I am getting used to it, but it is still for the rich. I can't power my fridge, stove and everything with solar," said Ziwane. "I don't have the money to cover my roof with solar

panels like the rich people do."

Meanwhile erratic power supply has resurfaced in the country with some suburbs in both Harare and Bulawayo now experiencing more than 24 hours of blackout.

"We have a power cut in Borrowdale It's "SODAPRESSING", tweeted one Kelvin Motsi from Harare.

"So if Chasi (former Energy Minister) was fired deliberately, when they knew that we are going back to power cuts. Aren't they trying to create a Saint out of him and we are falling straight in their trap?", tweeted Joshua Samson

"Bulawayo five minutes ago abaya (ZESA gone)," tweeted John Musinga from Bulawayo. Areas in Bulawayo like Magwegwe, Entumbane and Emakhandeni are some of the worst affected.

The power cuts came barely two days after President Emerson Mnanganwa fired Advocate Fortune Chasi on allegations of discharging duties contrary to the expectations of the President.

**Source: Techmag**

## Cities and Towns Updates

**CHEGUTU:** The whole town did not have water. Most of the boreholes were packed with people who were trying to get this precious commodity. Council gave notice that there won't be water for two days. Engen and total garages had petrol which was sold at ZWL\$ 96 per litre and Puma was selling in USD. Soldiers and police officers are still moving in groups of at least 10

and apprehending people who are not wearing face masks up to the nose

**BEITBRIDGE:** Today was the second day without electricity, power is switched on at night, and people have been immensely affected by this. There is no water since pumps depend on electricity to pump, which brings another controversy during this Covid-19 where

washing of hands is encouraged.

**HWANGE:** Today Hwange Pastors concluded the 10-day Covid-19 awareness campaign. Areas that were covered include Makwika, Madumabisa, Lusumbami, Lwendulu, Nguminja, Cinderella and Empumalanga. People were so excited to hear the campaign being done in their local languages.