

1 City of Harare resumes refuse collection in some areas

The City Council managed to purchase 20 refuse trucks and has since started to collect garbage in areas like Mabvuku, Waterfalls, Glen Norah, Budiriro and Highfields. However, there is a need for the City Council to make a public announcement so as to notify residents of their collection schedule. During the past week refuse trucks were seen moving around but people were not aware and not much refuse was collected as a result. Residents have pointed out that the City Council should start by clearing up the dumpsites that had sprouted all over the City.

However, suburbs like Mabelreign, Sentosa and Avondale are yet to have their refuse bins collected. There is a pile of refuse at the Zambezi Flats in Sentosa which has become a health time bomb due to the pungent smell that comes from the rotten refuse as well as the mosquitoes that are being bred there. Residents fear that they might contract malaria as the flats are now infested with swarms of mosquitoes.

Below is a bird's eye view of the state of service delivery in the suburbs of Harare.

CHRA is the Secretariat of the National Residents Associations Consultative Forum (NRACF). The Association is committed to advocating for good and transparent local governance as well as lobbying for quality and affordable municipal services on a non partisan basis.

Kuwadzana

The City Harare has been covering some potholes in the roads in Kuwadzana 1, 2, 3 and 4. The process has been going on for about a month now.

Refuse collection was last conducted three weeks ago. The water situation in some parts of Kuwadzana remains a challenge as residents sometimes go for three days without water. The affected residents usually rely on the unprotected wells in Crowborough.

The CHRA Committee for Kuwadzana Ward 37 conducted a meeting with the City of Harare and there were indications that the Council intends to resuscitate street lighting in the area.

Residents in Kuwadzana have also raised an outcry on the consultation fees that are being charged at Kuwadzana 4 clinic. It has been revealed that children pay as much as \$5 as consultation fees and yet the clinic is lacking in medicinal drugs. Patients have had to buy medication from pharmacies in the city centre. Residents have said that they do not see the need to pay consultation fees when they are referred to pharmacies. Moreover, the City of Harare policy states that the consultation fees should be inclusive of medication.

Mabvuku

Residents have been getting constant water supplies for the past four weeks. Residents however, are still skeptical to drink water from their taps as they still use their wells for drinking water.

Residents of Mabvuku-Tafara are not amused by the Council's move to combine water bills and bills for other service charges like refuse collection. This move has seen bills skyrocketing to as much as \$600. Residents have pointed out that this is a ploy by the City of Harare to revive the invalid water bills that were sent to residents during the time when Mabvuku-Tafara had no water supplies.

Norton Youths engage Councilors on issues of service delivery

2 The youths in Norton conducted a dialogue meeting with their councillors to discuss the service delivery challenges that are being faced in the area. The meeting, which was conducted on the 22nd of April 2010, was organized with the assistance of CHRA. Below are some of the issues that were raised;

Water supplies

Residents in the Johannesburg area indicated that they had gone for more than 7 years without water supplies yet they are getting bill statements every month. The water bills range from US \$10 to \$15 per month. There are 2 boreholes in this area but they are not enough to cater for the population of the suburb.

Electricity

Electricity black outs occur on a daily basis in suburbs like Gadzema and Katanga. Gadzema experiences power cuts from 5am to 5pm on a daily basis. The Katanga area experiences power cuts from 6 am to 1pm in the afternoon then 4pm to 11pm at night. The electricity bills are ranging from \$20 to \$40 in high density suburbs.

The youths also raised concern at the Council's failure to construct recreational centres in the town. Residents had been using Mbuya Bona Primary School to do recreational activities but the area is no longer user friendly because most of the toilets at the school have been closed due to water shortages.

Gweru

GURA in action...

The Gweru United Residents Association (GURA) is conducting clean up campaigns after every two weeks. The programme has been prompted by Council's failure to collect refuse in Gweru. The Association has since cleared dumping sites in Senga and Nehosho Suburbs as well as Mkoba 13.

The GURA Chairperson, Mr. Munetsi said that the dumpsites had become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and bacteria; a situation that exposed residents to cholera and malaria.

GURA, with the assistance of CHRA, also organized a public meeting on the 17th of April 2010. The meeting focused on the constitution making process as well the local governance challenges that are being faced in the city. The contentious issue that was raised at the meeting was the issue of land. Residents demanded that the new constitution should make a provision for an extensive and thorough land audit to be conducted in Zimbabwe. They said that some political bigwigs had empowered themselves by acquiring vast tracts of land that have never been utilized. They said there is a need for land re-distribution so as to correct the gross irregularities in land acquisition.

Gweru Residents fume at Mayor's new car

The residents of Gweru have raised an outcry at the insensitivity and lack of prioritisation that has been displayed by the City Council in purchasing a top of the range Toyota Prado for use by the Mayor. Residents have said that the Gweru City Council had been crying foul about its bankruptcy and yet they have managed to buy an expensive car while service delivery suffers. Gweru has been hit by acute water shortages and during the few days that residents get water, the water is usually not clean. Council has attributed the poor water quality to lack of money to buy water treatment chemicals. The roads in the city have become a nightmare and death traps to motorists as they are infested with deep potholes.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

***Government is too big and too important to be left to the politicians
(Bob Wells)***