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MINISTER NCUBE TOURS THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZIMBABWE



Flashback.....President Mugabe congratulates newly-appointed Rural Development and Preservation of National Cultural Heritage Minister Abednico Ncube soon after the swearing in ceremony at State House in Harare on the 14th of September 2015

The National Archives of Zimbabwe's critical role of preserving the country's cultural heritage must be cherished and respected by all progressive citizens.

This emerged when the Minister of Rural Development and Preservation of National Cultural Heritage Cde Abednico Ncube toured the national archives to have an appreciation of how the department operates.

Minister Ncube says the importance of the National Archives and its various activities are an aspect of preserving cultural heritage and must be respected.

The director of the National Archives Mr Ivan Murambiwa says visit by the Minister puts him in the picture and perspective of the goings on at the department which was born out of a realisation that cultural heritage is an important asset that must be preserved.

The National Archives provide for the storage and preservation of public archives and public records and for the declaration and preservation of protected historical records.

The audio-visual unit was established in 1988 and it symbolises the cultural significance and distinct character of sound and image.

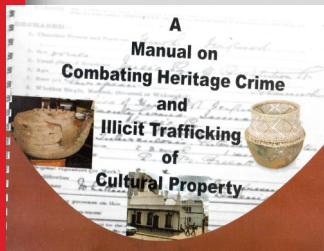
The National Archives of Zimbabwe is a government department responsible for the collection, storage, regulation, management and publication of written and documented information.

The place was established through an act of parliament in 1935 and is now administered by the new ministry .

SOURCE: ZBC NEWS ONLINE WEDNESDAY, 11
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Inside this issue:

- Manual Launch **2**
- Staff News **2**
- Retrievers at NAZ **2**
- Grooming by L. **3**
- 2015 in Retrospect **4**



Cover of the manual

Portfolios and institutions with culture responsibilities

MANUAL ON COMBATING HERITAGE CRIME AND ILICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY LAUNCHED

A reception was held at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe on 2 December to officially launch the manual on Combating Heritage Crime and the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property.

National workshops on combating heritage crime and the illicit trafficking of cultural property headed by the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, National Gallery of Zimbabwe and National Archives of Zimbabwe culminated in the production of the manual.

In a speech read on his behalf by Secretary for Rural Development, Promotion and

Preservation of National Culture and Heritage, Dr Chitepo, Minister Ncube stated that Zimbabweans should value and safeguard their culture and heritage. To that extent, the three heritage bodies organized a national workshop to fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

The manual is cross cutting and has a multi-sectoral approach which is important for the maintenance of zero tolerance on cultural crime. It is interesting to note that the manual is a first of its kind in Africa which is highly commendable and unique in itself

Minister Ncube went on to

thank the directors of the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, National Gallery of Zimbabwe and National Archives of Zimbabwe who made the realization of the project possible and UNESCO for funding.

Afterwards, guests interacted and were served a variety of food and beverages whilst perusing through the manual.

The manual will be available at the heritage bodies as well as key stakeholders for easy access and referencing.

ED

STAFF NEWS

RECENTLY PASSED

We wish to convey our deepest sympathy to the following staff members who lost their beloved ones, Mrs Mukundwa, Mr Marima, Mr Ruwo and the family of Mr Chikwaka who passed on. May the departed rest in eternal peace.

CRUCIAL NEWS

This is not new news but to some of us who might not care

to be informed or bother with finding out what is happening around us, the National Archives of Zimbabwe is now under the new ministry of Rural Development, Preservation and Promotion of National Culture and Heritage. The Minister is Cde Abednico Ncube and the Secretary is Dr Thokozile Chitepo.

Sister departments are the National Museums and Monu-

ments of Zimbabwe, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, National Arts Council, Censorship Board, National Library and Documentation Services and the National Handicrafts Centre coming under one "roof" as portfolios and institutions with culture responsibilities.

On a lighter note the Editor is not sure about accommodating the ministry's name on regalia. Food for thought. ED

Retrievers at the National Archives of Zimbabwe

BY LAWRENCE MUKUSHA

There is a certain section of individuals who are seldom mentioned in the operations of the National Archives of Zimbabwe (NAZ). The Research Section of NAZ will be of little relevance had it not been for the crucial activities which these individuals perform. These people are referred to as the "retrievers".

Provision of access to historical documents is one of the main duties of the Research Section of the National Archives of Zimbabwe. Upon request of a file at the control desk, it is the duty of the retriever to physically go and retrieve the file from the repositories (and Library). Thus the duty of the archivist, which is providing access of historical records to researchers, comes to completion only with

the aid of a retriever.

As a result of much experience on the part of some of them in dealing with archival records and their locations and reference systems, it should be of no surprise that they have become a source of knowledge to newly recruited archivist who find themselves at the control desk with no prior hands on experience of the system. To page 3 .

Retrievers at the National Archives of Zimbabwe. Continued from page 2

On a number of cases where files can hardly be accessed as a result of mistaken reference indexes sometimes require the involvement of an experienced retriever. Retrievers can also help in tracing lost or misfiled files.

It is from the scarce, if any, mention of retrievers in archival literature that this short article has derived motivation. However, their importance at the National Archives of Zimbabwe cannot be underestimated. *Right: The Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS) claims to allow readers access to their desired materials within minutes. The future?*



DRESS LIKE A PROFESSIONAL WOMAN

BY LOVENESS MAKUWAZA

Sex appeal is a prominent theme in women's fashion today, as people are gravitating towards increasingly provocative and skimpy clothing. The ratio of fabric to skin has shrunk dramatically as some women now wear revealing clothes which show off their bodies sometimes to the point that they are nearly nude. The styles and fashions point to a near total abandonment of modesty, as modesty, which is a virtue, is seen as being out of date. Women are enjoying wearing daring clothes that turn heads and create lasting impressions to society. Skimpy clothing is slowly creeping into the corporate world like a plague. There is competition on who is wearing the shortest and tightest clothing within an organisation.

In business, it really is true that you never (or seldom) get a second chance to make a good first impression. To be taken seriously by your employer, it's important to dress appropriately to the workplace. Not only is wearing inappropriate clothing distracting, it can also give off an inaccurate impression to fellow employees, the employer and clients.

One might say we live in a free world and should dress the way she feels comfortable. It's true it's a free world and people have rights but we should also not forget that we live in society and put others into consideration namely our male counterparts especially where dressing is concerned as female species. Scantly-clad women drive helpless men to distraction — or worse. In general, men get sexually aroused by the visual stimulation provided by the woman in revealing clothing. It is sexual harassment to men within the organisation as their minds would be bombarded with the visual images of scantily dressed women walking up and down the corridors and some showing up in their offices. This also affects the productivity of the organisation. Be comfortable with who you are and be confident in your own skin. True beauty comes from within, be polite, courteous, smile and approachable. To the single sisters who might be eyeing that good looking guy who happens to be a colleague as well, he will approach you and make his intentions known, cover up and be patient. To the married women it is essential to dress appropriately like a mother, wife and a professional.

Imagine a police officer in a cleavage-displaying mini-dress and teetering high heels

The year 2015 in pictures.

The Editor and contributors of this issue would like to wish NAZ staff a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We leave you with a few photographs of what the year was.

