

## GMB SHINES AT ZITF



From left Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr Sekai Nzenza, Dr Henry Mushonga, King Mswati (centre), Mr Joseph Katete and Mr Clemence Guta pose for a photo soon after receiving their award

THE Grain Marketing Board (GMB) shone like a beacon during the recently held Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) by bagging home a Gold Medal in one of the competitions.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> edition of the annual business and trade showcase was held between 25 and 29 April 2023 under the theme, "Continuous Innovation, Global Competitiveness".

The GMB jointly participated with Silo Foods Industries (SFI) under the theme "GMB and SFI for continuous innovation towards agricultural growth".

The GMB stand was a hive of activity as both local and foreign visitors trooped to see some of the innovations to be introduced by the parastatal such as the Smart Silos. The Government through a partnership with Belarus have agreed to construct four Smart Silos at different GMB depots.

The first Smart Silos are scheduled to be constructed at GMB Kwekwe before the end of the year. Other depots earmarked for Smart Silos are Timbermills, Mhangura and Magunje.

Unlike the current silos which are highly manual and labour intensive, the Smart Silos are highly automated and technology driven making working smarter and easier.

A miniature model of the Smart Silos that was exhibited at the GMB stand was the major talking point during the trade showcase.

The young and the old, the rich and the poor, the local and the international (foreign) visitors all had a question or two about this latest innovation coming to GMB.

It was therefore befitting that the GMB walked to the winners podium to receive a trophy, Gold Medal and a Certificate after it was adjudged the Best Exhibitor under the Food Group category of the competitions.

GMB's Acting Chief Executive, Mr Clemence Guta was on cloud nine saying the award was a Vote of Confidence by different stakeholders of GMB's potential to be a significant player in achieving the nation's vision 2030.

"I am very excited to have come here in Bulawayo for ZITF and obviously winning. I hope we will continue winning and that will make us proud as an organisation," said Mr Guta.

GMB's board vice chairperson, Dr Henry Mushonga was also a happy man as he joined the exhibitors in celebrations and in some cases explaining to visitors.

"This award comes at a time that we have been working so hard with my colleagues to have come all the way to receive this prestigious award by beating some of the most competitive institutions in the food sector category," said Dr Mushonga.

He attributed the success at this year's ZITF to teamwork.

Meanwhile, King Mswati III of Eswatini officially opened this year's edition of the country's biggest annual trade and business showcase.

**GMB leadership changes**



Former GMB CEO Mr Rockie Mutenha

The Grain Marketing Board (GMB) is now under new leadership following the retirement of its former Chief Executive Officer Mr. Rockie Mutenha on 31 March 2023.

Meanwhile, Mr Clemence Guta was elevated to the position of Acting Chief Executive effective 1 April 2023. Mr Clemence Guta is the substantive Finance Director for the parastatal which he joined in 2016.

Mutenha joined the parastatal on the 1st of May 2017 on a five-year contract which was extended by another year. He oversaw the rebranding of the GMB for the first time since its establishment in 1931.

Speaking during a farewell dinner hosted by the board in honour of Mr Mutenha, GMB board chairperson Ms Joylyn Ndoro said she was impressed by Mr Mutenha’s work ethic.

“As we bid farewell to Mr Mutenha today, I would like to express gratitude to him for staying true to his words. He managed to steer the GMB ship up to the time of his retirement and for that we are truly grateful,” said Ms Ndoro in a speech read on her behalf by fellow board member Mr Mukahlera.

Mr Guta also spoke glowingly of his former immediate boss and confessed that he learnt a lot from him.

“Running or managing a public institution requires uprightness and doing things according to the book. From Mr Mutenha I learnt that I have to adhere to laid down procedures. His signature would not come easily. He needed to be satisfied first and mostly on where it was written that the resolution was above board. During the first days I will get frustrated thinking he was delaying different processes but I now fully appreciate the need to do that,” said Mr Guta.

In his parting shots to Head Office staff during another function, Mr Mutenha urged management and staff to work in unity regardless of one’s position in the parastatal.

"Anyone can bring change in the organization therefore other employees opinions are important. United we stand, divided we fall," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Emmanuel Nyika was appointed the substantive Business Development Manager again effective 1 April 2023.

**PRESIDENT LEADING FROM THE FRONT**



His Excellence President Emmerson Mnangagwa (centre) flanked by Vice President Constantino Chiwenga and Dr John Basera at his Pricabe farm in Kwekwe

The Head of State and Government President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa told invited guests at his Pricabe Farm in Kwekwe recently to be like him and deliver their excess grain to the Grain Marketing Board(GMB).

President Mnangagwa said he knows that he has a role to play in ensuring national food security hence he always delivers to the GMB.

“For the last two years, we have grown maize, that we sell to GMB. GMB sells to the millers and by doing so we will never again be food insecure,” he said.

He also mentioned the Pfumvudza/Intwasa program which he described as “a revolutionary farming practice targeting food security for households.

“The government introduced the Pfumvudza/Intwasa programme, a conservation farming method that aim at improving production for households of small scale farmers”, said the President.

He added that Pfumvudza/Intwasa programme must be embraced as it was scientifically proven that it carries more advantages than disadvantages in furthering Production, Productivity and Profitability in the agriculture sector.

The President said the country had never produced wheat which is enough to serve the whole country but the government is now putting extra effort to ensure that this is made possible.

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Dr John Basera, revealed that the Governments of Zimbabwe and Belarus have agreed to partner in the construction of Smart Silos at four GMB depots.

The first Smart Silos are earmarked for construction at GMB Kwekwe depot this year.



## GMB PROCUREMENT CLERK TIES THE KNOT

The Grain Marketing Board's (GMB) Procurement Clerk Tinashe Musamba recently tied the knot with her husband Simbarashe Chitungo in front of their family and friends at Goshen Gardens in Harare recently.



Tinashe poses for a photo with her husband

Tinashe confessed to this publication that, the wedding itself seemed like a fairytale to her. Everything was so beautiful that even the bride cried. The true beauty of this wedding cannot be explained by mere words as the wedding photographs captured the memories more poignantly.

Some of GMB employees were happy to note that the guidance that they gave was not in vain as it led to a beautiful wedding.

"I am very happy Tinashe did not disappoint us. She joined the parastatal as a student on attachment and was later recruited as a permanent employee after her studies," said Corporate Communications Officer, Mr Joseph Katete.

The parastatal bought a king size bed and an electric fan as a wedding gift to the recently wedded couple. GMB embraces family values as it supports its employees in happy and sad moments.

"We are very excited that our big sister has paved a good path for us to follow. what an exemplary move," said Ruvimbo Chigogo and Evidence Masendeke in unison.

Meanwhile, GMB is a place where young ladies are groomed for marriage and equipped with various skills for life. Mitchell Gadzika and Beverly Chinoda weddings recently bear testimony to that fact.

"We do not want to see our members being involved in immoral relationships, and I urge all other young ladies to follow this good gesture," said Miss Nyaradzo Makoni Human Resources and Administration Manager recently.

**Tinaishe's Wedding  
In pictures**



ZITF EXHIBITION IN PICTURES



Acting Chief Executive Mr Clemence Guta (right) discussing about smart silos with Dr John Basera (centre) and Dr Henry Mushonga (left)



GMB Board Vice Chairman Dr Henry Mushonga receiving a trophy from King Mswati at ZITF



From left Acting Chief Executive Mr Clemence Guta, Board Vice Chairman Dr Henry Mushonga (centre) and SFI Managing Director Mr Daniel Maregedze holding hands at GMB ZITF stand in Bulawayo



From left Mr Trevor Mangudi, Mrs Podiso Mafa, Mr Clemence Guta (centre), Mr Nixon Kanyemba and Slindokuhle Mhlanga at the recently ended ZITF in Bulawayo



GMB stand at ZITF