



The Citizens' Daily Bulletin

June 6 2023

Welcome To The Future



The Citizens' Daily Bulletin:

Stay In Touch. Stay Connected.

Publishing Only The Truth

All Editorial Inquiries: Contact:
(+263) 77 475 1446 / (+263) 77 883 1972

The Citizens' Daily Bulletin

SA Bank Absa Suspends Employees Implicated In Gold Mafia: Zimbabwe Yet To Take Action

South Africa Suspends Absa employees over "Gold Mafia Documentary" while Zimbabwe is yet to take action

Following investigations into allegations by Al Jazeera Media Network that financial services Absa, Standard Bank and Sasfin helped launder millions of dollars of dirty cash in exchange for regular bribes, Absa has suspended two employees for allegations of illicit tobacco money laundering, involving Gold Leaf Tobacco.

Sasfin was said to have been cooperating with the authorities, while Standard Bank confirmed that it had a zero-tolerance stance relating to fraud and criminality of any kind. Whilst South Africa has taken action, the same cannot be said for Zimbabwe.

Tax Justice SA Founder Yusuf Abramjee was concerned that the country will be greylisted, thereby ousting it from international investment.

This comes after Al Jazeera Media Network made allegations in a four-part investigative programme that Absa, Standard Bank and Sasfin helped criminals launder millions of dollars of dirty cash in exchange for regular bribes.

According to the network, one of the key money launderers had well-placed employees in Absa, Standard



Bank and Sasfin Bank on his payroll to facilitate his activities. It said part of his activities included bribing Sasfin staff members to collude with Gold Leaf Tobacco to facilitate financial misconduct.

The report said employees helped Gold Leaf Tobacco launder around R3 billion in illicit cigarette cash and obscure the transactions to stay off the South African Reserve Bank and revenue service's radar.

Absa said it had noted reporting by Al Jazeera Media Network in relation to illicit tobacco and gold-based money-laundering activities. "Absa has robust anti-financial crime risk management processes in place, through

which it detected alleged illicit tobacco and gold-based money-laundering activities in early 2020.

"Subsequent investigations uncovered a broad network, which linked the illicit tobacco trade and gold-based money laundering activities," the group said.

Absa said it has been working with multiple law enforcement agencies on this matter and had fully discharged its regulatory reporting obligations.

Absa continuously assessed the risk of maintaining certain customer accounts and had terminated a significant number of relationships in this regard, it said.

"Absa takes the allegations made in Al Jazeera reports published to date very seriously and does not tolerate any untoward conduct on the part of its employees. To this end, Absa has, to date, suspended two employees," it said.

Standard Bank, said in response to Business Report questions, that it had a zero-tolerance stance relating to fraud and criminality of any kind and would report and assist in any lawful investigation.

"These allegations are viewed in a serious light, and Standard Bank confirms that due process is being followed internally with regard to this

matter," the group said.

Sasfin was unavailable for comment, but on Wednesday told IOL that it had "identified suspicious transactions regarding Gold Leaf Tobacco and proactively closed the accounts and shared the relevant information with the authorities".

Meanwhile, Tax Justice SA founder Yusuf Abramjee said: "Such damning evidence of industrial-scale money laundering demands that authorities take immediate action against Simon Rudland and his criminal enterprises in South Africa. Banks and financial authorities must also act urgently against their officials who are implicated.

"These crooks are leeching our economy, corrupting our institutions, and destroying our honest, hard-working businesses."

He said South Africa would be greylisted forever, denied international investment, and impoverished if no action was taken immediately against the criminals identified here.

Greylisting is when a country is under increased monitoring by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) due to certain deficiencies in its anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) and proliferation financing (CPF) framework. - IOL



The Citizens' Daily Bulletin

June 6
2023



CCC Sextet Released On Z\$300k Bail

By Citizens' Daily Bulletin
Correspondent

A group of six members of the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) were granted \$50,000 bail each by a Gweru magistrate on Monday.

The six, including an aspiring CCC candidate for Chirumanzi South, Patrick Cheza (50), were arrested last week in Chirumanzu on fabricated charges while peacefully questioning the presence of shadowy and notorious group known as Forever Associates of Zimbabwe (FAZ) touts

during a recent voters' roll inspection.

The other five arrested members are Christopher Mutoboni (33), Tinashe Moyo (47), Elias Madhuviko (26), Tanyaradzwa Calisto Marimbe (23), and Alex Gamuchirai (37) who will also appear before the Gweru Magistrates' Court.

FAZ touts, who are linked to ZANU PF, have been accused of meddling in the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's (ZEC) previous electoral processes, including the recently ended

voters' roll inspection exercise in which they wrote down the names of citizens who came to physically inspect the roll.

This was viewed as an act of intimidation or a rigging strategy. FAZ has also been accused of rigging ZANU PF primary elections in the past.

The CCC members reportedly questioned the presence of touts at the polling stations or centers as they believed it was interfering with the electoral process.

They spent more than 48 hours in prison and were

released on \$50,000 bail each on Monday.

The group was charged with breaking a phone cover and a counter book worth \$4, a fabricated charge intended to silence the opposition.

Despite this setback, dozens of the party's supporters, including the party's Organizing champion, Amos Chibaya thronged the Gweru courthouse in solidarity with the six members as they also demanded their immediate release.

The situation in Zimbabwe has been fraught with political unrest and allegations of election malpractices.

With the ongoing tensions surrounding the country's election, it is more important than ever to ensure that electoral processes are transparent and fair.

The arrest of the CCC sextet highlights the continuing struggle for democracy in Zimbabwe and the need for more efforts to protect the rights of citizens and ensure a free and fair electoral process.

The Citizens' Daily Bulletin:

Stay In Touch. Stay Connected. Publishing Only The Truth

All Editorial Inquiries: Contact:
(+263) 77 475 1446 / (+263) 77 883 1972

The Citizens' Daily Bulletin



The Citizens' Daily Bulletin

June 6
2023

Our Citizen Hero of The Week: Ephraem Murundu

The Citizens' Daily Bulletin Heroes of the Week

The first-ever Citizens' Daily Bulletin Hero of the Week features Ephraem Murundu, a 63-year-old CCC member from Gutu West, who was arrested after standing up to Forever Associates of Zimbabwe (FAZ) members illegally interfering with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's processes during the voter roll inspection program. Murundu was detained for 48 hours before being released without being charged.

In addition to Murundu, six CCC members from Chiru-

manzu South were arrested under fabricated charges of challenging FAZ members who were carrying out illegal activities during the same voter roll inspection exercise.

Patrick Cheza (50), Christopher Mutoboni (33), Tinashe Moyo (47), Elias Madhuviko (26), Tanyaradzwa Calisto Marimbe (23), and Alex Gamuchirai (37) will appear before the Gweru Magistrates' Court on Monday.

These brave citizens were accused of trivial offences such as tearing a counter book belonging to FAZ and Zanu PF member Mr Julius Kunodzi-



ya, which was valued at only \$1, as per court papers.

They were also accused of damaging an Itel phone cover, which belongs to another Zanu PF and FAZ member.

The alleged offenses took place on May 31, 2023, in Chirumanzu South. These

individuals stood up against FAZ's illegal activities, which are meant to manipulate the electoral processes ahead of the upcoming watershed elections on August 23, 2023.

As a voice of the people, The Citizens' Daily Bulletin encourages all citizens to resist any attempts to undermine

the will of the people and to stand up for what is right. These brave individuals serve as a reminder that no amount of intimidation will deter citizens from defending their democratic rights and freedoms.

We salute them as our Heroes of the Week.



The Citizens' Daily Bulletin

June 5 2023



**A New Zimbabwe Is
Possible: Vote For
Change: Choose Progress**

The Citizens' Daily Bulletin:

**Stay In Touch. Stay
Connected. Publishing
Only The Truth**

All Editorial Inquiries: Contact:
(+263) 77 475 1446 / (+263) 77 883 1972



The Citizens' Daily Bulletin

June 6
2023

FSP 54961

WHY **GREAT HOPE** LIFE COVER?

Get up to R10 million Life Insurance

- Accidental Cover
- Disability Cover
- Dread Disease Cover
- Retirement Annuity
- Investment Cover
- Education Cover

Requirements:

Valid Passport with Permit, SA ID or
Permanent Residence

Partners



Ts & Cs Apply



To Register 062 052 5889 | www.greathope.co.za

**Introducing: Zimbabwe's
Newest Funeral Services
Provider: Great Hope**



The Citizens' Daily Bulletin

June 6
2023



**Specialist CCTV Camera
Installations,
Security Services,
Drone Supplies,
Household Electronics And So
Much More**

*Call The Experts: Vhonderson Electronics
(27) 078 099 9075*