

HWANGE FOOTBALL CLUB AWARDS NEWS

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TAKE TAKE na BEVE!



SAFEGUARD THE HWANGE BRAND - MD Mr Mhatiwa



Hwange Colliery Company Managing Director Mr Blake Mhatiwa

By Lindani Dube

HCCL Managing Director and Hwange Football Club president Mr Blake Mhatiwa has urged Chipangano to maintain high levels of professionalism to positively carry the organisation's torch as official brand ambassadors.

The boys are expected to embody HCCL's corporate identity through their conduct, performance, ethics and demeanour as they journey into the elite Zimbabwe Premier Soccer League in the coming season after shrugging off stiff competition to conquer the ZIFA Southern Region Division One League.

Speaking during the Hwange FC awards ceremony at the company's lavish Hwange Angling and Boating Club last week Wednesday, Mr Blake Mhatiwa thanked the team for their promotion to the top flight.

"Thank you to the team for making it back to the Premier league, I would also like to appreciate all the supporters for making this feat possible. I would be happy to have this level of support carry on wherever we go.

I also want to emphasize to the boys that you are our ambassadors wherever you go. Your actions both good and otherwise will ultimately reflect on the brand of the company, therefore, I encourage all of us to do good always," said Mr Mhatiwa.

The MD also buttressed that Hwange FC will carry along its stakeholders in the journey towards more historical milestones.

"We cannot leave out our stakeholders whom we work with in the area that we operate. As we win we make the resident Chief (Wange), community, contractors, sponsors and suppliers proud. They are so far happy with our progress," he said.

Mr Mhatiwa pledged company support for the team as part of corporate social responsibility and brand building.

"I am here to give you assurance that we will support you through thick and thin. Be our ambassadors for the HCCL brand and we will finance you until we sail through and hopefully someday win the premier league. That is exactly where I want to take Chipangano in my tenure," said the MD.

CHIPANGANO AWARD WINNERS 2022!



Soccer Star Of The Year — Canaan Nkomo



Most Promising Player — Marceline Mlilo



Players Player Of The Year and Golden boot award — Kelly Shiyandindi



Most Disciplined — Shepard Gadzikwa



Goal Of The Season — Enerst Gwitima



Most consistent Players— Nedrick Madeya and Brian Mlotshwa



Chairman's Award — Felix Chindungwe

CHIPANGANO CLUB VP HAPAZARI CALLS FOR DISCIPLINE



Nomathemba Hapazari

By Artwell Wikirefu

HWANGE FC club vice president and HCCL Estates Manager Mrs Nomathemba Hapazari has urged Chipangano players to remain resolute, disciplined and dedicated if they are to continue on the success path in the world of sport.

Addressing players, supporters and team partners who converged for the awards at the company's Hwange Angling Boat Club on Wednesday last week, Hapazari said players were brand ambassadors for the company, therefore, they have to uphold high discipline.

"There are a lot of sponsors out there who want to associate themselves with the Chipangano brand. It is now our duty as players and the technical team to protect the brand so that sponsors continue to come through and more importantly remain interested in the club and its activities," said Hapazari.



HWANGE FC READY FOR BIG TASK AHEAD – Head Coach

By Tobias Mandoreba

HWANGE FC head coach Try Ncube says the task awaiting Chipangano next year is huge and demanding but they are ready to move mountains in order to ensure that the team keeps its status as a force to reckon with on the country's football landscape.

Ncube was speaking at the awards ceremony held last week Wednesday at Angling Boating and Club.

"We are very happy as the technical team and players for these awards and appreciation from the company. We achieved a huge feat to gain promotion, we are also aware that the task is



huge and demanding but we are Hwange FC.

We are ready for this challenge as we seek to ensure that Chipangano remains a force in Zimbabwe. We are also happy with the promise of financial support from the Club President and company MD Mr Blake Mhatiwa. I would like to assure him and other stakeholders that we will not let them down," said Ncube.

He went to thank assistant coaches Edmore Sibanda and Obert Moyo, who held the fort after the departure of Bongani Mafu and expressed gratitude with the duo for accommodating him in the ranks and files of the club.

"Special tribute goes to Edmore and Obert for keeping the team intact after the former head coach had left. I found the team on fire and winning and it was easy to join a system that was on the upward trend," said Ncube.

The supporters also pledged to continue rallying behind the team - as they continue chanting the slogan "*Tek tek nabeve*" more loudly next year in the Premier league.

Hwange FC veterans and the local business community also attended the colourful ceremony.

PARTNERS PRAISED FOR CHIPANGANO SUPPORT



HCCL MD Mr Blake Mhatiwa, sponsor rep Mr Blessing Chimbwanda and HFC Chairman Dr Nairos Deredzai

By Takondwa Chirwa

HWANGE FC Club chairman Dr Nairos Deredzai has hailed partners and passionate football fans who sponsored the Hwange FC awards ceremony last week as well as for their unwavering support throughout the outgoing season in the Division one league.

"I feel very privileged to be standing in front of you on this momentous occasion where we are paying homage to our Hwange FC players who have put another feather to our cap with the promotion to the country's elite league next year," said Dr Deredzai during his remarks at the ceremony at Hwange Angling and Boating Club.

"We have our partners and football-loving individuals here present who have parted with their resources to make this day a success. I hope our partnership and mutual cooperation will continue as we embark on the Premier League journey," said Dr Deredzai.

He was optimistic that their support would also inspire other establishments in the district to come on board to make Hwange FC even greater.

"We are appreciative of the support that came in from Mr Blessing Chimbwanda, Sportszone, Kamandazi Restaurant; Tumedisio Ndlovu popularly called Drogha and local entities like Velbright, Shemtech Enterprises and Nokonatal Investments among others. It is my hope that other corporates and individuals will also partner Chipangano on its journey to greatness," he added.

HFC AWARDS 2022 IN PICTURES



BRIEF HISTORY AND PROFILE OF CHIPANGANO

By Khumbulani Mbanu
Hwange Football Club Administrator

Hwange Football Club then known as Wankie Football Club was formed in 1940. This is the legal position, which differs with opinion elsewhere where it is stated that Wankie Football Club was formed in 1893 by a man named Albert Giese together with builders of a railway line between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls.

In fact, the Albert Giese theory is a mix up of facts involving two separate but related events, which are firstly, the introduction of the game of football into the mining town of Hwange formally Wankie and the formation of Wankie Football Club.

The formation date of the club is a case of legal technicalities. People did not sit down to come up with a constitution or such other formal processes to form the club. Football was already being played in the Colliery as early as the 1920s.

At that time, the Colliery had a group of miners who used to play football as a way of entertaining themselves and other mineworkers. This social group was then registered to play in the competitive Matabeleland Zonal League in 1940 and in the process; the birth of Wankie Football Club was announced. The year 1940 became the formation year because it is the year the club acquired its legal status by registration to a recognised body, which was the Matabeleland Zonal League.

This league was very competitive and played a big role in the growth the club. At that time, the club represented the Colliery Company in one of the most prestigious competitions in the country—the Chamber of Mines games.



Khumbulani Mbanu



Hwange FC in the 1980s From Left standing Dennis Gumunyu, Melvin Kennedy, Chrispen Nyoni, Dickson Banda, Skeva Phiri, Barton Mwalukuka, Isaac Phiri, Tobias Sibanda, Austin Ncube, and Rodrick Simwanza.

Crouching: Paul Moyo (Coach), David Phiri, Posani Sibanda, Weekly Mwale, Fred Mwatonoka and Ben Soko.

Picture credit –The Chronicle Newspaper

The first mark of recognition and achievement for the Club came in 1969 when Wankie Football Club did the unthinkable for a club in Division 1. Wankie defeated Salisbury Callies, the giants playing in the Rhodesia Super League in the 1969 Castle Cup Final. The football order in the country had been re-arranged. This feat was no small achievement considering the colonial and social order at that time, a Salisbury Callies team composed of only white players being defeated by a team with all black coal miners as players.

It was the beginning of Wankie's Golden Generation, which dominated the scene for the next 6 years. The Cup final of 1969 heralded the arrival of an 18-year-old defence stalwart into the main football stream. Amos Rendo had spent six years travelling with the senior team as a team mascot from the age of twelve. He later rose to become one of the best central defenders in the country. He was chosen as one of the Soccer stars three times from 1974 to 1976. This is the same period when the likes of Tyman Ncube were playing their best football having entered the big scene at the same time as Amos Rendo. Towards the beginning of 1970, coach Sipriano Ngoma was replaced Daisy Roller who himself did not stay long in that position.

The year 1970 saw the Club open the gates of its current home, the Colliery Stadium. It is during

this period that a number of touring clubs from Europe, Scotland to be precise, visited Wankie and played friendly matches. The clubs that visited include Kilmarnock FC, Clyde FC, John Charles FC and Grasshoppers FC. It is also the period where a national representative side from the then Tanganyika, present day Tanzania visited Wankie and played against the Club. This recognition was as a result of many factors, but the two obvious sporting factors that contributed are the attractive and positive football the Golden Generation were playing as well as the condition of the Colliery stadium. The stadium was a state of the art facility during those days.

Jage Merger took over as coach from Daisy Roller in 1971 and the good work continued. The Club lifted the Castle Cup for the second time in its history this time humbling Dynamos via a penalty shootout in 1973.

After that feat disaster struck. The Coach Jage Merger packed his bags for Chibuku Shumba in Salisbury, present day Harare, which at the time was regarded as greener pastures. Merger did not go alone.

He left with the cream of the team in the form of the great Phosani Sibanda, Stephen Tshuma, Tyman Ncube, John Galasa and Kizito Tembo.



Wankie FC Player Jimmy Sibanda [right] in 1973 receiving an award for winning the Castle Cup from then Wankie Colliery Company General Manager George Julian.

Picture credit -The Sunday News

Fortunately, that was not enough to stop the coal machine. The Nyore Nyore Trophy was grabbed in 1974 and the Club reached the finals of the same trophy in 1975. In the same year, Wankie were second in the Rhodesia Super League where the Club lost the coveted prize by goal difference. After losing those players to Chibuku Shumba. The club had strengthened their base by acquiring players like George Phiri, Nyaro Mumba, Skeva Phiri and Austin Ncube from Kamativi and Mhangura Mines. It was very hard to grace the national calendar of soccer stars during those days. Other players apart from Amos Rendo who managed to appear in the Soccer Stars of the Year Calendar during the 1970 to 1977 period are Phosani Sibanda, Stephen Tshuma and Kizito Tembo. Sadly, 1980 marked the end of the golden generation. The defence stalwart Amos Rendo hung his boots in 1980 and most of his mates had done so between 1976 and 1979. The chapter had closed.

The new era that had commenced was a typical dry

season. By 1981, the signs that the Club was sinking had begun to show. Finally, in 1982 the Club was relegated from the Super League for the first time in its history! However, the introduction of State House Tornados saved the day for Hwange as the number of teams in the Super League was increased enabling Hwange to play Eagles of Bulawayo in a promotion playoff in which Hwange won by a good six nil margin. In 1983, the club was back in the Super league but as fate will decide, the team was relegated again. The team was in Division 1 for only a season, and in 1985, it was back into the Super League and won the Heroes Trophy during the same year. In 1987, the team was relegated again and bounced back in 1989 after spending just one season in the wilderness.

Since then the club has been relegated three more times, in 2007, 2017 and recently in 2019. The club once again visited its trophy cabinet in 1992 as Hwange won the ZIFA Cup and represented the country in the 1993-Cup Winners Cup competition

where elimination was the result in the first round by Kenya Breweries of Kenya.

The Club also represented the country in the same competitions in 2012 where elimination came in the second round in the hands of Ahl Ally FC of Sudan. While the golden generation of the 1960s and early 70s produced arguably complete talented squads, the generations of 80s, 90s up to the present also saw a number of very high calibre individual talents. Some of these players include Walter Chuma, Takesure Chinyama, Fabian Zulu, Gilbert Zulu, Carrington Gomba, Method Mwanjali, Aaron Katebe, Evans Rusike, and Obert Moyo who went to play in other leagues in the COSAFA Region and beyond. It must also be noted that the club nearly produced another golden generation after 2001 but the mass exodus of eight players who were the backbone of the team extinguished the dream. The parting players among others included goalkeepers Chenjerai Dube, Witness Munkuli, defender Milos Phiri and midfielder Jabulani Ngwenya.



Chipangano legends from left Isaac Phiri, Weekly Mwale, Amos Rendo and Tyman Ncube at the HFC 2022 Awards

The setbacks as bad as they were, enabled the club to unveil new talent every season.

The club currently has more than 500 former players dotted around the country and beyond its borders, who once donned the famous gold and blue colours of the club back in the day and the current gold, black and red colours.

As many as they are, it will be impossible to forget names such as Chutika Tembo, David Khumalo, Isaac Phiri, Jimmy Sibanda, Chingumbe Maluku, Walter Chuma, David Phiri, Nation Dube, Taboniswa Ncube, Brian Njobvu Mebelo Njekwa, Dick Banda, Takesure Chinyama, Method Mwanjali, Carrington Gomba, Malvern Longwe and the current assistant coach Cobra Obert Moyo among many others.

After national independence in 1980, the club was home to many Zambian players namely Charles Chilufya, Chama Kaila, Joseph Mwansa, Aaron Katebe, Kennedy Katema, and Scott Lombe among many others.

Zambian coaches also came to bark orders

from our touchline. These include Mwape Sakala, the second African coach during the period of the golden generation to be in charge of the team after Sipriano Ngoma, Rodrick Simwanza, Vincent Mandona, Johns Chilengi and recently Tennant Chilumba who was with the club from 2011 to 2013.

From the pool of local coaches who were once in charge of the team, Paul Moyo is outstanding in terms of the influence he had on the team as well as the number of times, three to be precise, when he was in charge of Chipangano.

Moyo remains one of the coaches with very interesting episodes in their employment at Hwange. At one time, he was fired in the morning, and was rehired in the afternoon of the same day!

Other coaches like Nyaro Mumba, Weekly Mwale, Enerst Kamba, David Mwanza, and Tavaka Gumbo took charge of the team at different times but it is Nation Dube who enjoyed the longest stint at the helm of the team running close to fifteen years.

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