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AN AFROCENTRIC VOICE

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Zimbabwe, Africa and the world in focus

Minister Sanyatwe Commissions Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre in Gokwe, Unlocking
Tourism Opportunities

President Mnangagwa Calls for Greater Global Trust and UN Reform

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Lifestyle

Minister Sanyatwe Commissions Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre in Gokwe, Unlocking
Tourism Opportunities

September 25, 2026 . Takasununguka Ziki

Gokwe - The Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre has officially been commissioned in
Gokwe-Nembudziya, marking a significant milestone in Zimbabwe's efforts to preserve
indigenous knowledge, promote cultural identity and harness the economic potential of
the country's diverse heritage.

The centre was officially commissioned by the Minister of Sport, Recreation, Arts and
Culture, Lieutenant-General (Retired) Ambassador Anselem Nhamo Sanyatwe, during
celebrations that brought together traditional leaders, cultural practitioners,
community members and other stakeholders.

The development provides the Shangwe and Tonga communities with the opportunity to preserve, showcase and transmit their cultural heritage to future generations.

Minister Sanyatwe called on the Gokwe community to regard the centre as a hub for cultural preservation, but also as a potential driver of economic growth and community development.

He emphasised the need to transform traditional heritage and crafts into sustainable investment opportunities, positioning arts and culture as key contributors to Zimbabwe's broader development agenda.

The commissioning of the Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre continues to place increasing emphasis on the economic contribution of a

For Minister Sanyatwe, the centre presents an opportunity to demonstrate how cultural resources can contribute to livelihoods while preserving the identity of

The facility has the potential to become a focal point for cultural tourism, offering visitors an opportunity to experience Shangwe-Tonga traditions, including music, dance, traditional practices, craftsmanship and other forms of cultural expression.

Such experiences could create opportunities for local artists, craftspeople, tour operators, accommodation providers, food businesses and other entrepreneurs.

Instead of cultural heritage remaining confined to ceremonial occasions, the centre provides a platform through which heritage becomes part of a vibrant cultural ecosystem.

Zim Global Media has previously explored the relationship between culture and

tourism and creative industries in its article, Inside Zimbabwe's Cultural Hub.

At the heart of the Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre is the preservation of traditional knowledge.

For generations, traditional knowledge has been passed from one generation to the next within communities through oral traditions, ceremonies, storytelling and rituals.

The establishment of a permanent cultural facility provides an opportunity to document and preserve some of this knowledge while ensuring that young people remain connected to their heritage.

The centre includes facilities associated with traditional knowledge, including a traditional leaders' court, offices and dedicated Nhamandlovu facilities.

These spaces can provide opportunities for elders and traditional knowledge with young people in a structured environment.

The importance of such facilities extends beyond the preservation

Culture is also reflected in language, customs, music, traditional ceremonies, craftsmanship, stories and knowledge of the natural

Preserving these elements helps maintain the cultural identity of the community, creating opportunities for visitors and researchers to better understand diverse heritage.

The long-term success of the Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre relies on community participation.

Minister Sanyatwe has encouraged local communities, artists,

entrepreneurs to contribute by donating artefacts that can be d

Such participation can ensure that the centre remains connect heritage it represents.

Traditional artefacts can provide important insights into how co celebrated, travelled and interacted with their environment.

When presented alongside oral histories and explanations from artefacts can provide visitors with a richer and more authentic c

The centre could also provide a platform for local artists and cr and market their work.

This could include traditional crafts, contemporary artwork, mu other creative products inspired by Shangwe-Tonga heritage.

The Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre has the potential to broaden offering by creating another destination based on cultural heritage.

Zimbabwe is internationally known for attractions such as Victoria Falls and Great Zimbabwe, but the country's tourism potential extends across rural and cultural landscapes.

Cultural tourism enables visitors to experience the traditions, history, music and lifestyles associated with different communities.

The Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre could therefore become part of a tourism route in the Midlands Province and surrounding areas.

Such development would have potential benefits beyond the cultural sector.

Visitors require transport, accommodation, food, entertainment and other services, creating opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Local entrepreneurs could develop complementary products and services, while tour operators could incorporate the facility into cultural and heritage itineraries.

Domestic tourism could also play an important role.

Schools, universities, researchers and Zimbabwean families could visit to learn more about the Shangwe and Tonga communities and their contribution to Zimbabwe.

Minister Sanyatwe has emphasised the importance of positioning the Centre as one of the pillars of national development towards Vision 2030.

The commissioning of the Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre therefore represents the opening of another public facility.

It provides an example of how cultural infrastructure can potentially drive national development through tourism, entrepreneurship, education and research.

The centre's value will ultimately be measured not only by the number of people involved in the activities, partnerships and opportunities generated around it, but also by the quality of the outcomes.

Government, traditional leaders, communities, artists, cultural practitioners and private-sector players all have a role to play in ensuring that the centre becomes a sustainable cultural institution.

Young Zimbabweans are among the key groups that could benefit from the centre's activities.

As technology continues to transform the way people consume and create content, young people can play an important role in documenting and preserving their cultural heritage.

The centre could provide opportunities for young people to participate in activities such as storytelling, photography, filmmaking, music, research and creative writing.

Young people could document oral histories from elders, record performances, produce documentaries and develop digital content to share Shangwe-Tonga heritage to audiences beyond Gokwe.

Such initiatives could help bridge traditional knowledge and modern technology.

They could also ensure that indigenous knowledge remains relevant rather than becoming disconnected from contemporary society.

The commissioning of the Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre adds to the growing number of institutions and initiatives dedicated to protecting cultural heritage.

Zimbabwe's cultural identity is made up of many communities, languages, histories and artistic expressions.

Dedicated cultural institutions can help ensure that these different voices are heard and preserved.

visible, documented and accessible to future generations.

The role of cultural institutions in national development was also discussed by Global Media in its article, The National Gallery of Zimbabwe - Anchoring the Nation's Re-engagement Drive.

The Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre can similarly serve as a platform for the preservation, education, tourism and creative enterprise interests of the community.

The immediate task following the commissioning will be to transform the potential into sustainable programmes and economic activity.

This will require continued investment, proper preservation of the heritage, effective management, community participation and partnerships with traditional and modern stakeholders.

Cultural entrepreneurs could develop locally produced crafts, traditional performances, experiences, performances, guided tours and educational programmes.

Artists could use the centre to exhibit their work, while cultural organisers could use the centre to organise workshops, festivals and other events.

Tourism operators could also incorporate the centre into regional tours, making it another reason for visitors to explore Gokwe-Nembudziya and surrounding areas.

With appropriate management and sustained community involvement, the centre could become an important cultural and economic asset.

The official commissioning of the Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre for the purpose of the preservation and promotion of Shangwe and Tonga heritage is a significant milestone.

For the local community, the facility provides a permanent space where traditional practices, languages, and celebrated knowledge can be transmitted and cultural identity reinforced.

For Zimbabwe's tourism sector, it presents another potential destination for cultural tourism, attracting visitors interested in the country's diverse heritage.

showcasing the country's diverse cultural heritage.

For artists, cultural practitioners and entrepreneurs, it creates a space where new opportunities can potentially emerge.

Minister Sanyatwe's call for the community to transform cultural heritage into sustainable investment opportunities places community participation at the centre of the facility's future.

The challenge now is to build on the foundation created by the centre, ensuring that the centre remains active, accessible and connected to the community.

If that is achieved, the Shangwe-Tonga Culture Centre can serve as a bridge between the past and the future, not only preserving the heritage of the past, but also as a platform for education, tourism, creativity and economic growth.

The commissioning therefore represents more than the opening of a new facility; it is an opportunity to demonstrate how Zimbabwe's heritage can be leveraged for the future, contributing to the country's social and economic development.

Read online:

<https://zimglobalmedia.co.zw/minister-sanyatwe-commissions-in-gokwe-unlocking-cultural-tourism-opportunities/zimgloba/>

Global News

President Mnangagwa Calls for Greater Global Trust and UN F
September 25, 2026 . Takasununguka Ziki

NEW YORK -- President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa has called for greater international cooperation, consistent application of international law and cooperation with global governance institutions as Zimbabwe prepares to take up a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2027-2028 term.

Addressing the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the theme "Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation," President Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe's community was meeting at a critical moment marked by armed conflicts, climate change challenges and rapid technological transformation.

He congratulated His Excellency Dr Rahman on his election as President of the 81st Session of the General Assembly and expressed Zimbabwe's support for the Secretary-General's leadership.

President Mnangagwa also paid tribute to Annalena Baerbock, Chair of the 80th Session and acknowledged United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, what he described as his final General Debate as Secretary-General.

He said the challenges facing humanity increasingly transcend national borders and require collective responses.

"No nation can overcome them alone," President Mnangagwa said, calling for a renewed focus on restoring confidence in multilateral institutions.

He called for international law to be applied universally and consistently, stating it should not be selectively applied to different countries.

Zimbabwe prepares for Security Council role

Zimbabwe is set to assume its seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2027-2028 term in January.

President Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe would approach its responsibilities with a focus on peace and development.

independence and a commitment to serving the broader international community.

He said Zimbabwe's foreign policy principle of being "a friend to all and a foe to none" would continue to guide its international engagement.

Among the priorities outlined are the promotion of preventive diplomacy, dispute resolution, stronger cooperation between the United Nations and regional organisations such as the African Union, and efforts to address transnational crime and illegal resource trafficking.

The President also stressed the importance of ensuring that Zimbabwe plays an active role in shaping the global peace and security agenda.

Call for Security Council reform

President Mnangagwa renewed Zimbabwe's call for reform of the United Nations Security Council, arguing that its current structure should better reflect the changing geopolitical realities.

He said Africa should have a greater voice in global decision-making, and the continent as "united, sovereign, independent and rising."

He also called for the removal of unilateral coercive measures, and the international community should pursue greater solidarity and support for Africa's development.

Development and global financing

President Mnangagwa linked international peace and security to sustainable development, noting the limited time remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He said developing countries continue to face substantial financial challenges and called for reforms to global financial institutions to address Africa's needs and risk premiums.

According to the President, addressing these structural financial issues is essential if developing countries are to accelerate investment and economic development.

Zimbabwe's domestic development agenda

Turning to Zimbabwe's domestic development programme, President Mugabe said the country was continuing to pursue economic growth through major infrastructure, food-security initiatives, climate-smart agriculture and rural industrialisation.

He said Zimbabwe was "open for business" and highlighted efforts to invest in infrastructure towards rural infrastructure while empowering women and youth.

The President said the Government remained committed to ensuring that economic growth reaches communities across the country.

He concluded by calling on the international community to protect the principles of the United Nations Charter, reject selective compliance and work to reform the international system for future generations.

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