

## **Introduction**

Zimbabwean football has become one of the most interesting areas to study considering that it has been perceived in various perspectives. Football is the most popular game in the world which has attracted a lot of followers while generating big income. This is a study of the administration of Zimbabwean football through the Zimbabwe Football Administration (ZIFA) focusing on how it has governed the beautiful game from 1980 up to 2017. ZIFA is a Member of FIFA, CAF and COSAFA.<sup>1</sup> FIFA is the International administrator of football, whilst CAF is the administrator of African football as a continent and COSAFA governing the Southern African football activities. ZIFA is affiliated to all these boards and adheres to their statutes.

The main focus will be on the administering of the national soccer of both both men and women and also the relationship of the body with the Premier Soccer League (PSL). ZIFA has the mandate to ensure that football in Zimbabwe is developed so as to match international standards. Therefore strategies which had been implemented from 1980 up to 2017 by the governing body will be analyzed on how they have impacted the game. Since the study is covering a period of 37 years, the transformations which have transpired overtime will be examined giving a deeper insight on how these transformations have impacted football in Zimbabwe. The governing body has been led by a number of executives each one of them being characterized with different aspects which have either or had either positive or negative impact on Zimbabwean football.

ZIFA is governed by its constitution which ensures the smooth running of football in Zimbabwe. The ZIFA Executive is made up of the President, the Vice President and the secretary general. There are board members for Competitions, Development, Marketing and Finance.<sup>2</sup> ZIFA has four regions which are Central Region, Eastern region, Northern region and Southern region all

being led by a chairperson assigned by ZIFA. ZIFA works with its close affiliates that are the Premier Soccer League and Women Football. There are also ZIFA councilors who sit in the ZIFA body.<sup>3</sup> The judicial boards are the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeals Committee and the Ethics Committee.<sup>4</sup> All these boards have been set so as to administer football effectively.

However ZIFA has been involved in a number of scandals from its coming into existence which have tarnished its image. This study will look on the scandals which ZIFA has experienced most notably the Asiagate scandal of 2007 to 2009. The board is also in a financial crisis which has been largely blamed on the mismanagement by the ZIFA executives.<sup>5</sup> This has become the biggest problem which has discredited the development of football in Zimbabwe. ZIFA has been plagued by corruption involving many individuals but this study will take a deeper look on what problems are being faced by the association and the implications on Zimbabwean football.

### **Aims**

To account for the history of Zimbabwe football association (ZIFA) governance of football and its position

To track developments which have emerged over time in Zimbabwean football administration

### **Objectives**

To assess the administration of football in Zimbabwe.

To examine challenges being faced in soccer development and administration.

To analyze the effectiveness of the Football administration

To analyze the relationship of the ZIFA board with its affiliates

To assess the role of ZIFA in promoting and improving football at all levels in Zimbabwe

To examine the future plans of ZIFA aimed at promoting Zimbabwean football

## **Research Problem**

This study on the administration of ZIFA aims on giving a clear picture on how the executives has handled Zimbabwean football, which is its governance of the national team, women football and the association's relationship with the Premier Soccer League. ZIFA administration has been also characterized with a lot of challenges and this study aims to find out what are the causes of these challenges and scandals which have emerged over time. Also the impact of these challenges will be analyzed in order to see the transformations which have been brought forward. Zimbabwean football has also been characterized with conflicts whereby the premier soccer league of Zimbabwe also showed discontent with the ZIFA board<sup>6</sup>, this study also looks at how these events have affected Zimbabwean football.

## **Historical Background**

Football in Zimbabwe was introduced by missionaries.<sup>7</sup> Missionaries had the mandate of governing football which was then used by the colonial administration for social control. Magirosa states that missionaries taught football to promote good behavior, discipline, sobriety and cooperation among the blacks in colonial Zimbabwe.<sup>8</sup> Darby states that, the colonial administration opted for a more direct rule. The white minority in Zimbabwe having seen the experiences from the neighboring South Africa where sports had practically worked on quelling

violent behavior, it was therefore justifiable for the colonial government to invest and promote sports as a means of social control. The colonial government set up the African Welfare Society (AWS) which administrated sports especially football.<sup>9</sup> This led to the formation of different football clubs including the first black football club that was Matabeleland Highlanders. According to Chitakasha, the first black team to be formed was Highlanders which began life as Lions F.C in 1926 and later changed the name to Matabeleland Highlanders.<sup>10</sup> Football in Zimbabwe during the colonial times was not restricted to any race as compared to other sports such as rugby, tennis and cricket which were only reserved for the whites, even though blacks were allowed to play the game the administrative positions remained under white domination.<sup>11</sup> Africans were not given the opportunity to run the football boards. In 1965 the southern Rhodesia Football Association (SRFA) was created which controlled all football competitions in the country mainly the Super league and the national team. It was affiliated to Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) the International mother body of football in 1965. Football in Zimbabwe acted as social equalizer whereby the game encompassed all races. More black teams were created such as Dynamos F.C which competed in the Super league which was governed by SRFA. The association also administered the national team though it has little exposure to compete with other international teams because of the sanctions which were placed on Rhodesia.<sup>12</sup> At independence in 1980 the board was renamed Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA). The same year ZIFA became an affiliate of Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) the managing body of African Football. ZIFA administration consists of the President and Vice President, it has four boards which are the boards of competitions, marketing, finances and development. It has also 4 sub regions which are central, eastern, northern and southern regions. Also there is the Premier Soccer League board and the women football.

## Literature Review

Football had become one of the most major games in the whole world and Africa as a continent. Zimbabwean football is an area of great interest to study especially its administration which is responsible for running the game. It is clear to state that with a good administration there will be also an assurance that the development of the game will run smoothly. Most scholars who have wrote on Zimbabwean football have not given full emphasis on how the game has developed much from the period 1980 when Southern Rhodesian Football Administration(SRFA) was renamed Zimbabwe Football Association(ZIFA) at Independence. L. Ncube in his thesis “The Beautiful Game? Football, Power, Identities and Development in Zimbabwe.” Much emphasis on how politics has impacted Zimbabwean football. According to L. Ncube, of particular interest to the study are three intersecting issues surrounding the game of football in Zimbabwe: power, identity, and development.<sup>13</sup> All three issues historically impact on the everyday lives of ordinary Zimbabweans. Critically, the study argues that power, identity and development converge on the football pitch centripetally before fanning out from it centrifugally.<sup>14</sup> L. Ncube gave an in-depth study which had opened up the impact of political spheres and identities in the development of football. This has revealed how football pitches have become battle grounds whereby power and identities had led to hooliganism and problems in Zimbabwean football. However, less emphasis was done on the dynamics of ZIFA administration of football since the FA became a more functional entity from 1980. Therefore this study will dwell much on how ZIFA administration has evolved overtime taking into consideration new developments in Zimbabwean football and how they have impacted the game.

N. Munyati asserts that for every organization to flourish there is need to set a strong administration.<sup>15</sup> In the case of Zimbabwean football to flourish there is need to dwell much on

its administration that is ZIFA. Sponsorship a very important aspect in the development of football which ensures that the game is run smoothly. S. Magonde and E. Nhamo in their article “Challenges faced by Zimbabwe Football Association on Securing Corporate Sponsorship”, the causes of sponsorship problems in ZIFA were analyzed. They stipulate that, ZIFA is facing challenges on securing corporate sponsorship so as to ensure the smooth running of the game.<sup>16</sup> Outlining some of the factors which are contributing to this challenge, which include socio-economic challenges, ineffective marketing strategies, maladministration and lack of funding from the government.<sup>17</sup> However, the problems of securing sponsorship is not an old phenomenon because there was a period when ZIFA had many sponsors knocking on their door ready to support the game. In such an instance, there is need to give a historical perspective on the trends of sponsorship tracing what facilitated the shift in sponsorship leading to problems. The scholars mainly focus on the importance of having corporate sponsorship and how it developed. The study intends to show how ZIFA secured corporate sponsorship and to show the genesis of challenges in securing it with the causes. Also its impact on Zimbabwean football.

Pannenberg states that, “The organization of football is vast and complex and numerous powerful men are involved in the sponsoring and running of the game. Many of them are primarily interested in satisfying personal needs.”<sup>18</sup> Pannenberg in his study “Football in Africa: Observations about political, financial, cultural and religious influences” stipulates on how powerful figures has been responsible for running football in Africa mainly for their personal gain and also the role of religion and culture in influencing the game.<sup>19</sup> However, there is need to pay particular attention to Zimbabwean football administration, how its administrators have contributed to the development of the game, looking whether there is genuine administration

which serves the interests of soccer in Zimbabwe. Issues of finance management should be looked into in Zimbabwean football how the administration has handled funds.

Rusvingo wrote about the “salary gate scandals” in the Zimbabwean parastatals including ZIFA looking on how the higher management personnel earned higher salaries at the expense of the development of local football. His emphasis is centered on the era of Cuthbert Dube only but it is more wiser to look at all executives that came into existence and analyze how they managed their finances in order to ensure adequate sponsorship of the game and also paying of players. As A. Pannenberg states, players in Africa are demoralized because they are paid less for them to be motivated to play the game.<sup>20</sup> According to C. Rukuni E. Groenink , Despite millions of dollars splurged into developing the game by the International Football Association (FIFA) and national governments, Zimbabwe does not experience much soccer development at all.<sup>21</sup> This gives a clear picture that there is a problem in the administration of football in Zimbabwe whereby the board members are being caught in scandalous acts, but it is of great importance to research and write more on what is causing these challenges and their implications on Zimbabwean football. FAIR further articulates that from 2001 to 2010 the Chief Executive Officers of ZIFA had been in conflicts with other board members but there is need to assess the impact of these challenges on Zimbabwean football. Pannenberg states that, mismanagement and corruption in football is a huge problem. He goes on to say, “A wealthy and powerful man takes a position within the football association or a club and then assumes total control. He or she uses the football association or club to rally supporters mostly for prestigious or political purposes. One consequence is that many employees in football organizations are hired as a favor not because they have the relevant skills and experience for the job.<sup>22</sup> More emphasis is being made by A.Pannenberg that African football is characterized with leadership crisis which

in turn is degrading the game. Since the author is writing using a wider range of referring to African football administrations as a whole there is need to look specifically at Zimbabwean football administration on how the administrators have been elected and brought development to the game. In other words there is need to research on the impact which is exerted on the running of Zimbabwean football.

M.K Chiweshe is in line with the view that corruption exists in African football and it has affected the sport negatively on its development. He further postulates that in the football administrations is where problems emanate.<sup>23</sup> Therefore, the thesis will provide a deeper insight on how ZIFA run its activities in ensuring a smooth running of the game that is the Premier Soccer League and both national teams of men and women football. Chiweshe also in his book *The People's Game: Football Fandom in Zimbabwe*, studies the creation of identities by football supporters through the types of regalia each club wears. The study stipulates that, flags are important markers of fan identity. The flags contain important symbols.<sup>24</sup> He also states that, football songs are a form of language that conveys meaning not only about the game but a society's culture in general.<sup>25</sup> M. K Chiweshe's study mainly focuses on how one can be considered a true supporter through adopting the norms of a certain clubs thus through regalia and singing songs during matches. He also writes about how football supporting has evolved through the wide participation of women taking into consideration that stadiums were a no go area for women. However the study is more based on clubs and supporters neglecting the administration of football in Zimbabwe.

J. Nyamayedenga in his thesis, "Great Khali or opportunist?", has wrote on football and gender identity, revealing how women who want to venture into football had remained marginalized and left out. The sporting arena has remained a restricted space for female participation due to strong



cultural and traditional practices and beliefs.<sup>26</sup> However, because history is dynamic it is of great interest to study how ZIFA has worked towards the development of women football considering the fact that it has been marginalized because of the stereotypes set up by the societies. Therefore there is need to track the history of women football in Zimbabwe and how it is transforming over the time. ZIFA as the administrating board of football has to be examined on how it handles women football in a way of promoting gender equality and support for women with the talent of playing soccer. Also there is need to view how domestic football has changed over time from 1980 when ZIFA was directly controlling the Super league up until there was the formation of the Premier Soccer League. Examining the state of football before and after the creation of a PSL board. The same should also be done on the national team football, analyzing how it was handled in the 1980s noting the developments which came over time. Its participation in different competitions with the help of ZIFA stipulating challenges and the strength of the governance of the team. Although many scholars wrote about football, this study intends to produce a clear picture on Zimbabwean football administration on local football that is the PSL, women soccer and the running of the national team so as to understand it better.

### **Research Questions**

What problems were brought through the transition from SRFA to ZIFA

What were the developmental strategies implemented by ZIFA in support of football

What changes have been brought forward in the election of every executive which came into office and specifically what changes has been made by the coming in of Philip Chiyangwa

How are the ZIFA funds secured and why the association is facing financial challenges

What is ZIFA implementing in order to improve Zimbabwean football

What if ZIFA's plans of developing Zimbabwean football fail to yield results, what are the alternatives?

### **Research Methodology**

The use of qualitative data was widely done so as to have well detailed information pertaining to the study. The researcher made use of the National archives of Zimbabwe in order to track the history of Zimbabwean Football which is scarcely accessible from other sources. Accessing information from the archives was also done so as to avoid bias from not well authenticated sources. Information from diaries, football magazines and books at the National Archives was retrieved. This helped the researcher to have adequate first-hand information which proved to be relevant to the study.

In depth interviews were conducted with former and current ZIFA officials so as to understand the Association better especially the Association's structure. Interviews with other individuals such as sports reporters, football players and supporters were also done. The use of interviews enabled the researcher to access certain information which is not recorded but proving to be relevant to the history of Zimbabwean Football.

Group discussions were conducted with football supporters whereby they gave their opinions and facts about Zimbabwean football. Following up football commentaries which edified the researcher's study. Attending local PSL matches was also done by the researcher where he

managed to interact with football fans and players asking random questions also observing the proceedings of matches and fans attitudes towards the game.

Through employing various methods approaches to this study, the researcher conducted a desk research analyzing the information which was accessed so as to strike a balance and avoid bias and distortion of information. As such, this was essential as it ensured the smooth flowing research of the History of Zimbabwean football.

## **Dissertation Layout**

### **Chapter 1- Zimbabwean Football from the Transition period (1980-1992)**

This chapter will focus on the Development of Football from the transition period that is when ZIFA came into being from SRFA. The nature of executives which were in existence will be looked into. The chapter will analyze different strategies that had been implemented by ZIFA on the development of football. Also examining how ZIFA governed local football, looking at the challenges faced during this period

### **Chapter 2- Football Governance and Creation of Sub Divisions**

This chapter focuses on the creation of PSL a move which has been considered as an act of fragmenting ZIFA. This chapter gives a deeper insight on the causes of the PSL formation, the nature of the PSL and the impact of the PSL formation to Zimbabwean football.

### **Chapter 3- Women Football in Zimbabwe and ZIFA**

The chapter stipulates much on how women football has developed overtime, considering the role of ZIFA in developing women football. The chapter will also consider the creation of the local women football league and the state of the women national team. Challenges faced by women in football will also be implored on how they have stood as a stumbling block to the development of women football

#### **Chapter 4- Corruption and Mismanagement in ZIFA**

The chapter dwells much on the acts of corruption and mismanagement that had characterized ZIFA over the time. Encompassing problems in gate takings and misusing of funds in the association. Scandals in Zimbabwean Football will also looked into taking into consideration the impact of these acts to Zimbabwean football.

## **Endnotes**

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3. Statutes of Zimbabwean Football Association, Article10(1), 2013
4. Ibid, Article 19(5),2013
5. C. Rukuni and E. Groenink (eds.), FAIR Transnational Investigation, “Killing Soccer in Africa”, <http://www.fairtransnational.org>, (accessed on 23 July 2017), 2010, p10
6. The Standard, 8 July 2016
7. L. Chitakasha, “Football in Zimbabwe: A brief History up to 1980”, article in the New Zimbabwe, 2014
8. M. Magirosa, “Racism and the beginning of football in Zimbabwe”, article in the Patriot, July 3, 2014
9. P. Darby, Africa, Football and FIFA: Politics, Colonialism and Resistance, (Frank Cass Publishers, London, 2002), p24
10. L. Chitakasha, “Football in Zimbabwe: A brief History up to 1980”, article in the New Zimbabwe, 2014
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12. Ibid
13. L.Ncube, “The Beautiful Game? Football, Power, Identities and Development in Zimbabwe”, (PhD Dissertation, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 2014), p49-50
14. Ibid
15. Interview with N. Munyati, Harare, 14 July 2017

16. S. Magonde, E. Nhamo, “Challenges faced by Zimbabwe Football Association on Securing Corporate Sponsorship”, *International Journal of Science and Research* 3(11), 2014, p5
17. Ibid
18. A. Pannenburg, “Football in Africa, Observations about political, financial, cultural and religious influences”, (NCDO Publication Series Sport & Development 2010), p10
19. Ibid
20. A. Pannenburg, “Football in Africa, Observations about political, financial, cultural and religious influences”, (NCDO Publication Series Sport & Development 2010), p10
21. C. Rukuni and E. Groenink (eds.), FAIR Transnational Investigation, “Killing Soccer in Africa”, <http://www.fairtransnational.org>, (accessed on 23 July 2017), 2010, p24
22. A. Pannenburg, “Football in Africa, Observations about political, financial, cultural and religious influences”, (NCDO Publication Series Sport & Development 2010), p10
23. M.K Chiweshe, “The Problem With African Football: Corruption And The (Under)Development Of The Game On The Continent”, *Journal of African Sports, Law and Business* ,Vol 2(20), 2014, p28
24. M. K Chiweshe, *The Peoples Game: Football Fandom in Zimbabwe*, Langaa Research and Publishing C.G, Bamenda, 2017, p13-15
25. Ibid
26. J. Nyamayedenga, “Great Khali or opportunist? The Herald’s framing of Kalisto Pasuwa’s coaching credentials prior to and just after guiding Dynamos FC to their historic fourth consecutive PSL championship in 2014”, (Media and Society Studies Dissertation, MSU, 2015), p23-24

## **CHAPTER 1-ZIMBABWEAN FOOTBALL FROM THE TRANSITION PERIOD (1980-1992)**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter covers the period from 1979 up to 1991 looking at the state of football during this era. Developments aimed at revolutionizing football are going to be analyzed through examining the strategies which were brought by ZIFA. How ZIFA managed to govern the National team and will be examined and how its administration developed football in Zimbabwe at national level. This period is also when ZIFA was governing the super league so this chapter also looks at how the executive managed the league. Taking into consideration the challenges which were faced by the executive and how ZIFA dealt with them in order to develop local football. This chapter also includes the changes in the administration of football which came into existence during this period mentioning the causes in these changes and also the impact to local football.

### **1.1 ZIFA's Executive and Administration of National Football (1980-1984)**

The shifting of football administration from the Southern Rhodesia Football Association (SRFA) to Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) set a new era in the Zimbabwean Football. In the late 1970s, black people were already involved in the administration of the game with John Madzima as the Chairman of the football association. Zimbabwean football was gaining its momentum to penetrate the football world since it had been isolated for a long period because of the sanctions which were placed on Rhodesia following the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965

and also the war which was in existence. According to L. Chitakasa, when Zimbabwe attained her independence in 1980, a new sense of optimism permeated the nation through all aspects of life. The country was ready for a great leap forward and sport benefited from being readmitted into the international arena after years of isolation.<sup>1</sup> One of the moves which were taken by ZIFA was to become an affiliate to Confederation of African Football (CAF) in 1980. This meant that the National team of Zimbabwe was now able to take part in the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) and also the local clubs competing in the African Club Competitions.

## **1.2 Structure of the Administrative Board and the Administration of the National Team**

Though all these developments were taking place, Munyati asserts that, the transition in administration from RSFA to ZIFA was not well managed because this is where problems started to emanate because of the weak structures which were in existence.<sup>2</sup> ZIFA from 1980 was run by an interim committee which was firstly led by Moroni Mushambadope whose term was short-lived lasting for three months and was replaced by Nelson Chirwa.<sup>3</sup> The executive board had six members which were the chairperson and vice chairperson, secretary general, fixtures secretary and two committee members.<sup>4</sup> According to N. Gumede the committee had six members that included the Chairperson as Nelson Chirwa, Vice Chairperson Mkwanzzi, Secretary General Peter Nemapare, Fixtures secretary Moosa Ismail and two committee members Ndumiso Gumede and Clifford Chiripamberi.<sup>5</sup> The ZIFA executive in 1983 was also facing a challenge that can be regarded as an issue of tribalism which led to the expulsion of Dumiso Gumede in the 1983 elections . N. Gumede stated that, “Regrettably for me I was forced out of ZIFA on the claims that there had been too many Ndebeles on the ZIFA committee yet it was just Mkwanzzi



and myself and they said one of you must leave and I was to be replaced by Gibson Homela.<sup>6</sup> The other committee members were retained back except Gumede who was eliminated.

The Zimbabwean national team first game was against Zambia which they won. The team was led by coach Joe Rugg appointed by ZIFA.<sup>7</sup> This made the Zimbabwean national team to gain attention from other teams across Africa such that it began to engage in more games. ZIFA also organized matches with international clubs which played against the national team of Zimbabwe. This enabled the national team to gain confidence by acquiring international standards of football. For example in 1983 Zimbabwe national team played a match against FC Zurich. ZIFA during this time was fortunate enough in securing corporate sponsorship which enabled the smooth running of the game. The former ZIFA committee member also stated that, during their time in office, the economy was in the hands of people who understood the responsibility of the corporate world towards sport and one did not need to send a proposal or begging bowl as companies came flocking to ZIFA offices with funding initiatives and the body even had the luxury of rejecting some of the sponsorship.<sup>8</sup>

In 1988 Zimbabwean football entered a transition from interim committees to a permanent administration. The interim administration of Job Kadengu as the ZIFA chairman was characterized with inefficiency and challenges. Mismanagement of funds was the major issue which rocked the administration leading ZIFA into a financial crisis. 1988 witnessed the transition from interim associations committee to a permanent one. The new executive headed by Jumbo Jet Nelson Chirwa inherited a very much discredited association that had been rocked by inefficiency and financial maladministration.<sup>9</sup> This view was also supported by Munyati who stated that, the election of Job Kadengu as the Chairman of ZIFA was controversial and this brought mismanagement because of the weak structures that were in place.<sup>10</sup>

### **1.3 ZIFA Administrating the Super League and Developmental Strategies for Local football**

ZIFA was also responsible for running the local football games for local clubs. L. Chitakasa says, “Great teams comprised the Super League which was run by ZIFA under the Chairmanship of Nelson “Jumbo Jet” Chirwa and sponsored by British American Tobacco (BAT).<sup>11</sup> Sponsorship of the game is very vital in making sure that it progresses very well and it was the duty of ZIFA as the administrating body of football to source sponsorship. The administration was responsible for creating match fixtures and ensured that all the clubs adhere to it. In 1983 the super league clubs and other clubs from the division one petitioned to the football body to raise the number of teams which were to participate in the league from 12 to 14. ZIFA organized games which were meant to increase the number as lobbied by the clubs. Administrative body tried to ensure that there are good relations with the football clubs by taking into consideration their concerns. The football Express magazine states that, the super league promotional playoffs had been organized by ZIFA, after it had been agreed that the number of teams be increased from twelve to fourteen.<sup>12</sup>

The super league was also characterized with professional coaches for example Trevor Carelse who was the Eagles F.C coach, he played a pivotal role by bringing new ideas for the team such as the promotion of junior skilled players into the game contributing to the improvement of club’s standards. The FA was working on developing the local football and make it internationally recognized organized matches with International clubs. One of the notable arrangements made by ZIFA was to bring the Zurich F.C a Swiss Club to come in Zimbabwe and play local teams as well as the National team. The 1983 football magazine stated that, “Bulawayo soccer fans recently thronged the Barbourfields stadium in their thousands to witness

a duel with no prize at stake between Highlanders and the International Swiss Club F.C Zurich.”<sup>13</sup> The aim of ZIFA was to enable the local clubs to grasp the standards of playing football whereby they were battling with an international team which was tougher in return making local footballers and acquire international standards. For example Moses Chunga became a prominent player who later went to play football in Europe in 1988. ZIFA at the time also supported the creation of junior soccer academies which were meant to develop young talents designed to boost the local league and national team, though the creation of these academies was a challenge. Munyati acknowledged that, one of the most important aspects in the development of football is the creation of academies because this is where young talents are molded and taught skills which are essential.<sup>14</sup>

#### **1.4 Challenges faced by ZIFA in the Transition Period**

ZIFA was also mandated to manage football clubs which meant that, though these football clubs had their own administrations, ZIFA had the powers to preside over matters of conflicts which arose. One of the most controversial matters which were faced by ZIFA was on the Supersonic Football Club in 1983. According to the Football Express magazine of March 1983, the committee of the Supersonic Football Club wanted the sponsors of the club to pull out because they found a new sponsor whom they liked best. The new sponsor of the Supersonic club Honorable Herbert Ushewokunze who was the minister of Home Affairs wanted to change the name of the Club to Zimbabwe Colts F.C but ZIFA rejected this move considering it as unconstitutional though the administration welcomed the Minister as the new sponsor of the club. ZIFA suspended the whole executives of the club because attempts to have ZIFA solved

the disputes proved fruitless and ended up suspending the whole executive committee of the club.<sup>15</sup> Ushewokunze used his influence to acquire the sponsorship position of the club and as a result controversies were created. As A. Pannenberg says that, football in Africa is something which is intertwined with finance and politics. Powerful figures in the society are the ones who take a prestigious position in running the FA or club mostly prestigious reasons and to rally supporters.<sup>16</sup> The Minister after being denied his moves on changing the name of the club he castigated the ZIFA chairman, Mr. Chirwa regarding him as inefficient. However, Chirwa justified the FA's decision by referring to the constitution which prohibited the changing of the club's name.

Before the election of the new permanent executive committee in 1988, ZIFA was in a state of confusion whereby the association was caught up in conflicts from its regional committee and Division One League champions. This was because ZIFA had taken a decision to reduce the number of league clubs from fourteen to twelve during the middle of the season. ZIFA's idea was that it wanted to reduce congestion on the game fixtures and also give more time for international fixtures and preparation time for the national team and also wanted the league matches to finish 30 October.<sup>17</sup> Inconsistence was a major problem in ZIFA's administration of the super league as they would change the setup of league clubs from time to time. The national football executive was also in financial turmoil as Jonathan Gapara the Interim Chair had announced that the Zimbabwe national team may not take part in the World Cup soccer preliminaries because of financial constraints. There was also discontent with local clubs due to the maladministration which was in existence. The administration appointed Zimbabwe Saints to represent the country in the Council of East and Central African Football Associations (CECAFA) club challenge Cup in Sudan but the club turned down this appointment as they

complained about the financial constraints they were facing. The Appeals committee was regarded inefficient, whereby certain decisions that were disputed by clubs, for example, Caps United secretary, Julius Chifokoyo appealed to the Sports Council against ZIFA Appeal Committee's decision to give Wankie FC two points after his club failed to travel to Hwange during the previous season.<sup>18</sup> All these factors saw the executive being blamed for poor administrating structures which made Mr Dumiso Gumede to call for fresh elections in a bid to normalize the situation and improve administration standards. The decision of reelecting Nelson Chirwa and his team to run ZIFA was brought forward by the Ministry of Sports who trusted Mr Chirwa that he was going to solve the embattled administration. The move seems to have paid dividends as the association has been put back on its feet, financially and administratively. Few would argue that ZIFA was in trouble by the beginning of 1988.<sup>19</sup>

Although the newly elected executive board was working towards developing the standards of football, the financial woes did not completely end by the coming in of the new executive because by the end of the season of 1988 ZIFA was still owing the Sports Council more than \$300 000 in unpaid annual levies for the 1986 to 1987 seasons. Furthermore, there were still issues of great concerns which rose with the clubs especially concerning gate takings. The gate takings which were released by the ZIFA treasurer, Frank Valdermarca were greatly disputed by the clubs. According to LORNHO Company Soccer Yearbook of 1989, the gate takings were as follows: clubs 46% of net income, ZIFA 20% of gross income, local authorities 20% of gross, Sports council 6% of gross and clubs will pay 16% more to match officials.<sup>20</sup> Super League clubs called on the Sports Council to scrap the levy and ZIFA. Also the local authorities to reduce their cut of the takings. The issue of gate takings turned to be a serious issue in Zimbabwean football as ZIFA and its clubs ended up in dispute with local authorities avoiding

the use of stadiums which were directly under the local authorities. ZIFA trying to normalize its relationship with the clubs agreed to reduce its gate takings from 20% to 16%.

Though ZIFA was working towards bringing better standards of football in the country, poor decision-making continued to occur in the running of the Super League. For example the ZIFA diary reveals that, in 1988 soccer fans were left stranded at Gwanzura stadium after the league match between Blue Line Aces and Black Rhinos was canceled at the last minute. ZIFA also faced a challenge in handling some of the club issues such as the Eagles FC which had problems with its administration and players. ZIFA handled the issue by stripping all the club's points and goals in the league. This move was disputed by Gweru United which was relegated from the Super League arguing that the decision robbed the club their place in the Super League. In this regard it can be stated that though ZIFA was working towards the development of football in Zimbabwe there were still problems which arose which acted as stumbling blocks in driving the game to another level.

### **1.5 Developments brought by the Newly Elected Committee (1988-1992)**

The newly elected body appointed Ben Koufie to be the coach of the national team in a bid to resuscitate the National football team. LONRHO Soccer Yearbook further articulates that, the appointment of Ben Koufie as national coach seems to have injected some new life into the national team. Their gallant performance in Malawi in the Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) Tournament, offered some glimmer of hope for the future of Zimbabwean football.<sup>21</sup> This was the first way forward towards the development of football by

the new executive but the greatest and notable move which was taken was the establishment of the Junior League which had been ignored for two years. This was important in the development of the game as stipulated in LONRHO that, the juniors are important raw material and a reservoir for refurbishing the clubs and not last the National team and Young warriors.<sup>22</sup> This was accompanied by the appointment of the director of coaching an initiative aimed on improving coaching standards. The initiative was welcomed by football supporters who were in discontent with the standards of football in Zimbabwe.

Player management was one of the concerns which were brought into consideration by the executive, that is the buying and selling of players. Among the football players there were those who matched international standards such as Moses Chunga. ZIFA ensured the smooth signing of Chunga by a Belgian club. According to LORNHO Soccer Yearbook, “Moses Chunga was signed by Belgian second Division side for a record US\$150000. The first transaction of its kind in the history of football in this country. The last international transfer in the country was that of Freddy M’Kwasha, then a Dynamos player who was signed by a Portuguese club in 1968 but the deal remains a mystery. Nobody today or even M’Kwasha himself can tell what happened and who pocketed the money because at that time there was not a recognized soccer body”<sup>23</sup> In this regard ZIFA was ensuring a transparent signing of players since it was the one which had the power to govern all football activities and avoid the scenario which happened to M’Kwasha which was a result of poor administrative structures. Chirwa determined to bring transparent in Zimbabwean football introduced strong structures which enabled the governing body to run smoothly.

## **1.6 Conclusion**

Zimbabwean football from the transition period entered a new era from the administration of SRFA to ZIFA. Implementation of various strategies which were aimed at developing the game was at the core of the FA. ZIFA's responsibility on running football in Zimbabwe during this period was characterized with successes and also challenges which posed as an impediment to the development of the game. However, this period laid the base of Zimbabwean football after a long period of isolation.



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## **CHAPTER 2- FOOTBALL GOVERNANCE AND CREATION OF SUB-DIVISIONS**

### **2.0 Introduction**

The PSL brought notable changes which made Zimbabwean football to experience a transition in its administration and league games. This chapter covers areas of interests such as the causes of the PSL formation, changes which came through the PSL and also noting the impact of such changes in Zimbabwean football.

### **2.1 Fragmentation of ZIFA through the Formation of the Premier Soccer League**

The Premier Soccer League of Zimbabwe came into being in 1992 when the local clubs decided to break away from ZIFA which controlled all soccer activities in the country. The move was in form of a unilateral declaration which resulted in some squabbles between the newly formed PSL and ZIFA which had been governing the Super League since 1980 covering a period of thirteen years. The individuals who were at the forefront for the formation of the PSL was Morrison Sifelani and Chris Sibanda.<sup>1</sup> However, L. Ncube goes on to mention a number of actors who pushed for a break away from the mother body ZIFA. Ncube states that, “Chris Sibanda, Morrison Sifelani, Wieslaw Grabolski and Victor Zvobgo are some of the administrators who advocated for a breakaway PSL executive to be ‘independent’ from the day to day control of ZIFA.”<sup>2</sup> In this regard one can observe that the formation of the PSL was a well-organized move which included the most powerful figures in the football fraternity and the end result was achieved as they wished in 1993.

Even though the new developments were greatly opposed by ZIFA, the creation of the PSL was not in violation of the statutes of FIFA since there is a clause in its constitution which stipulates that, the local league can run as an independent entity and can be an affiliate to the local mother body of football in a country.<sup>3</sup> N. Munyati in an interview asserted that, the move was a well calculated one which enabled its architectures to successfully achieve their goal using the FIFA clause which endorse the running independently of the league.<sup>4</sup>

## **2.2 Causes of the PSL Formation**

The formation of the PSL is a result of a number of factors. The drivers of this move saw and justified themselves, as they regarded ZIFA as incompetent enough in running the local league. One of the factors that justified the creation of the PSL was that ZIFA was overburdened with governing all football activities in the country. ZIFA as the mother body of football controlled all football games, that is the national teams, both men and women, area zones provincial football games, district games and also the Super League. Madzorera states that, at the time there was a realization that ZIFA had its hands full and the Super League suffered because it was not given the attention it deserved by ZIFA.<sup>5</sup> The Former PSL President Madzorera argues that, the formation of the PSL was a result of the observations that ZIFA was having a lot of roles in the running of football in Zimbabwe therefore there was need to lighten up the burden for ZIFA.

The actors behind the PSL formation justified their actions claiming that they want to revolutionize the local league. During the period in which the super league was administered by ZIFA, most football players played soccer on part time and only a few played the game on full time basis. The creation of the PSL was based on the fact that the league must be an income

generating entity which would enable players to embark on career building. In comparison between the English Premier Soccer League and the Zimbabwean league, the generating of funds was much different as the Super League was generating little than other European clubs.<sup>6</sup> According to Madzorera, the fight waged by the late Morrison Sifelani, who was the first PSL chairman and Chris Sibanda (first secretary general) to create an independent administration running the PSL has proved fruitful as it changed the landscape of the local game and introduced professionalism to the game.<sup>7</sup> In such a claim it is therefore relevant to state that the creation of the PSL lies on the fact that those who were on the forefront wanted to revolutionize the sport by making it an income generating game whereby players will live on and regard football as their source of living and also bringing professionalism which they claimed to have been lacking in ZIFA.

Most of the leagues around the world especially Europe were running independently and it was constitutional according to FIFA regulations. Clubs had excelled well and enabled to generate money independently for example English and Spanish Clubs such as Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, Barcelona and Real Madrid. These clubs became dominant in the football arena in which their leagues that is the English Premier Soccer League and La Liga ran independently. Sifelani and Sibanda who were playing the leading role in the formation of the PSL took advantage of the FIFA statute which gave permission to this move and were able to triumph in their grand move. Gumede stated that, “However, credit goes to those behind the move, Sibanda and Sifelani, although at the time it was a unilateral move and caused friction between PSL and ZIFA but the fact that there are very few elite leagues being still run by football associations vindicates those who forced the breakaway,”<sup>8</sup>

ZIFA was regarded as ineffective in organizing matches for the Super League which caused irregularities in the administration of the local league. According to LORNHO Soccer Yearbook, match fixtures for the Super League were lately arranged and this caused many teams to abscond matches.<sup>9</sup> Former PSL Chairman Madzorera reiterates that “Simple things like fixtures were a problem as a team would only know on Tuesday which team they are playing but now the fixtures calendar is released at the beginning of the year”<sup>10</sup>

Conflict and power ambitions can also be considered when looking to the formation of the PSL. ZIFA officials were caught up in conflicts which were detrimental and serious in the history of football. According Ncube, when Nelson Chirwa was reelected ZIFA President, the ZIFA board influence by people like Morrison Sifelani went on to craft a new clause in the constitution which stated that those convicted for dishonesty and criminal charges should not take leadership positions in football.<sup>11</sup> Morris Sifelani knew that Chirwa had been once arrested for stealing tyres.<sup>12</sup> In this regard one can observe that there was power struggle in ZIFA that had long existed and same accused perpetrator of these conflicts Morrison Sifelani was again in the forefront for the breakaway of the clubs from direct governance of ZIFA in 1992.

### **2.3 The Impact of the Fragmentation (PSL Formation)**

Many football fanatics had argued that the formation of the PSL brought remarkable improvements to local football in Zimbabwe. Even though the PSL became an independent board ZIFA remained the mother body of all football competitions and the PSL submitted to ZIFA as an affiliate. According to the ZIFA statutes, the PSL is bound to pay an annual subscription to ZIFA just like any other affiliate entities to the mother body.

The Sunday news reported that “While there was a bit of resistance then from ZIFA because people had become entrenched in their positions and there was the issue of gate takings and affiliation fees, however, sense prevailed everyone agreed to the creation of the PSL and our football has developed as a product.”<sup>13</sup> The newly formed PSL came up with its executive board and constitution which were in tandem with the ZIFA statutes so as to ensure a smooth relationship through respecting the mother body (ZIFA). Morrison Sifelani became the PSL chairman and Chris Sibanda the secretary general.

PSL formation has been credited for bringing professionalism in the local football league. This is because more attention was now being given to the development of the local league through a well-structured and strategic planning by the PSL. Some of the notable improvements which were witnessed through the formation of the PSL were in the creation of match fixtures. The PSL started to release the league fixtures on the commencement of the league season unlike ZIFA which announced its matches a week or four days before the match kick off. It is clear that sanity in terms of match fixtures was brought and this gave the clubs the ability to exercise and know in advance their matches which they are supposed to play. Ndumiso Gumede the former ZIFA Vice President also remarked that the creation of the PSL brought tangible change to the local league. Also professionalism to be seen when most clubs began to have offices unlike before when some club officials met in houses and discussed club business over tea while some had briefcase offices.<sup>14</sup>

The PSL became effective to the extent that the local clubs like Dynamos began to match and compete with other top African clubs such as Asec Mimoso of Ghana, Zamaleck of Egypt. Dynamos FC competed in the African Nations Championship of clubs and it managed to reach the finals. The excelling of the local clubs can be said to be a result of the PSL formation that

brought professionalism in Zimbabwean football. Ndebele states that, some of the milestones achieved in the league include reigning champions, Dynamos' feat in reaching the 1998 finals of the CAF Champions. Although Dynamos fell to Ghana's Asec Mimoso, the fairytale run has seen Dynamos, who hold the highest number of PSL titles, being ranked among the best in Africa. Their run in 2008 that saw them being knocked out in the semifinals has also weighed in on the rankings.<sup>15</sup>

#### **2.4 The PSL Great teams since 1992**

The formation of the PSL witnessed the continuation and immerging of great teams flourishing in the local league whilst some clubs began to lose their hold in the league. The inaugural season of the modern day Premier Soccer League had teams like: Black Aces, Black Rhinos, Black Mambas, Caps United, Chapungu, Darryn T, Dynamos, Eiffel Flats, Highlanders, Mhangura, Tanganda, Shu Shine, Hwange and Zimbabwe Saints.<sup>16</sup> The first league champions were Black Aces while Tanganda and Shushine were relegated.<sup>17</sup> The dynamics of local football in Zimbabwe began to be seen as prominent clubs like Shu Shine, Tanganda, Eiffel Flats, Darryn T, Gweru United, Rufaro United, Ziscosteel, Arcadia United, Lancashire Steel, Blue Swallows were losing their hold in the league competitions as they were relegated to play in the lower divisions.. Also witnessing the establishment of new clubs such as Platinum FC, Harare City, Ngezi Platinum, and Masvingo United. However, there are certain clubs that continued to maintain their stance in the league such as Highlanders, Caps United and Dynamos. The PSL formation made these clubs to become more prominent as they started to compete with other successful clubs around Africa. It is of great concern that the PSL formation brought new developments in the clubs which competed in the league since some witnessed their downfall whilst new clubs



emerged and other clubs strengthening their prominence in the league. A total of 74 clubs have played in the PSL since its establishment.<sup>18</sup>

## **2.5 Changes in Sponsorship**

The formation of the PSL marked a shift in terms of sponsorship in the local football league. Before the breakaway of clubs forming an independent board, ZIFA was responsible for securing corporate sponsorship for the super league which was at first sponsored by the British and American Tobacco (BAT). ZIFA enjoyed most benefits because the league was directly under its supervision but the tables turned when the PSL came into existence in 1992. The PSL directly became responsible for sourcing its own corporate sponsorship to keep the beautiful game running well. This marked a shift in responsibilities in the Zimbabwean football fraternity since ZIFA was only left with sourcing sponsorship for the national teams, regional, zonal, and district competitions.

Since 1992 up to 2017 various competitions had been played being sponsored with a number of partners which partnered with the PSL. In 1992-1993 when the PSL came into existence the National Brewery sponsored the league competition which was known as the Castle Premier league cup. More competitions began to arise such as the BP cup which was introduced in 1994. The Cup spanned for 9 years that is from 1994 to 2002 and in 1997 up to 2002 the BP Cup became the main competition in the PSL after the castle cup sponsorship was withdrawn. There was also the Charity Shield which was re-introduced in 1996, the Charity Shield was first introduced in 1898 up until 1934 under the Rhodesian clubs. This competition was sponsored by

Dairiboard in 2001 and 2002 and also by Econet in 2005. The PSL partnered with Econet which also sponsored the main league competition in 2004 and 2005.

The PSL clubs also competed on cups such as the Cosmos Challenge which came into the scene in 1998 and 1999, the Madison trophy of 1999 up to 2002. There was also the 2002 to 2003 OK Grand Challenge which continued in 2004 to 2005 as the OK Woza Bhora Challenge. The PSL sponsorship continued to vary overtime since it came into existence bringing into the scene sponsors such as the CBZ Cup which was sponsored by CBZ in 2006 and also the CBZ FA Cup of 2007 and 2008. However some of the sponsored competitions were just a continuation of what was already in existence. These include the ZIFA Cup which was once played in 1982 resurfaced again in 2001 up to 2005 being regarded as the ZIFA Unity Cup. Also the Chibuku Super Cup reemerged in 2014 after it was last played in the 1980s. In this regard it can be observed that the PSL as an independent entity was working towards bringing more competitions so as to diversify the league competitions in Zimbabwe.

The greatest sponsorship of all time was the Mbada Diamonds Cup which was introduced in 2011 up to 2014. The competition was launched by a diamond mining company Mbada Diamonds (Private) Limited. The company poured a whopping 1 million dollars into the first edition in 2011.<sup>19</sup> Mabika asserted that the Mbada Diamonds Cup was one of the most interesting competitions in the history of Zimbabwean football.<sup>20</sup> The same year in 2011, PSL also entered a sponsorship deal with Delta Beverages worth \$3,6 million. Given such a scenario it is clear to state that the PSL formation brought a variety of sponsorship deals with different partners across the country which made the local football more interesting. Apart from these competitions sponsor the PSL managed to secure TV rights from SuperSport which broadcasts Zimbabwean

local league matches, a deal which gives the PSL an income of five hundred thousand dollars per annum.

However, the PSL and corporate sponsorship has not been an easy road because of the problems they had been encountered. The PSL had been relying on one major sponsor that is the Delta Beverages which had also attracted other smaller sponsors such as Banc ABC, NetOne, and TM Pic n Pay. It is a fact that without a league financier, chances of other sponsors coming in would be minimal as there would be less excitement, with the game becoming dull and less competitive.<sup>21</sup> When the contract deal of the PSL and Delta Beverages came to an end the PSL was on the brink of conducting a league without a sponsor which meant that the clubs were to compete without receiving any funds. This was bound to have detrimental effects on the local league because the standards were bound to deteriorate. In 2010 Motor Action won the league championship but were not rewarded for their effort.<sup>22</sup> That same year, Charles Sibanda was crowned the soccer star of the year, but did not receive anything in return for his inspiring performances throughout the year.<sup>23</sup> All these were centered on the issue of sponsorship which made the local league to lose its value and demotivated the clubs and players.

## **2.6 Conclusion**

Zimbabwean football entered into a new stage in 1992 following the formation of the PSL. This marked a shift in the responsibilities of ZIFA in governing football since the PSL became an independent board. However, the move at first caused frictions with the mother body ZIFA which was not ready to give up its hold on the local clubs. The move was successful because it was supported by the FIFA constitution which endorsed it. This brought changes in many aspects

of Zimbabwean football, mainly the shift in sponsorship responsibilities and duties of ZIFA on local clubs. The PSL formation has been credited for revolutionizing the local league.

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## **CHAPTER 3- WOMEN FOOTBALL IN ZIMBABWE AND ZIFA**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter explores the development of women football in Zimbabwe, taking into consideration the development mechanisms and strategies that had been implemented overtime in favor of women football. The formation of clubs, national leagues will also be looked into analyzing how these initiatives have been effective in promoting women football. Women football at national level will be implored taking into consideration how ZIFA has stood to support women football from grassroots level up to the national level (the national team). Also the achievements that had been brought by women in football are to be mentioned also looking at the major challenges and setbacks impeding progress.

### **3.1 How Women Football Developed in Zimbabwe**

Women football in Zimbabwe started to develop in the 1970s though it was not seriously taken into consideration. Later in the 1990s when Leo Mugabe became the President of ZIFA, women football came into spot light in Zimbabwe. Cooper states that, “In achieving equality in the international football scene between the 1950’s and present, the African countries followed a pattern for their success that can be applied to other areas of national development. A brief history of the successful African football journey provides the background for developing the Football Development Model.”<sup>1</sup> This development Model entails that football developed from the grassroots levels which gave room for nurturing talents and equipping them with the necessary skills. Women’s engagement into football was also encouraged by the government

which wanted to bring equality, by raising the girls to participate in every activity and get rid of the marginalization of the girls.

Though women football became more popular in the 1990s, in the 1980s women were playing the game though to a lesser magnitude. Some of the women who had been considered to be the pioneers of women football in Zimbabwe in the 80s were those who came from families where their brothers were also footballers and would join football after being inspired by their brothers. The Herald reported that, when the sister of the Ndlovu brothers Evelyn, began playing football in the late 80s, she had no idea that she was starting a movement that would grow into a regional dominance and continental recognition.<sup>2</sup> Evelyn Ndlovu who is a sister to the most popular brothers of the Ndlovu family who were famous in the football fraternity, Adam, Madinda and Peter confesses that she was inspired to join football by brothers who were well known on the pitch. Brigdet Zimunya was also a woman footballer in the 80s was a sister to the former Highlanders goalkeeper Sydney. Mugadza the former mighty warriors captain also came from a footballing family and was lured into the sport by her family's achievements on the pitch.<sup>3</sup> In this regard one can observe that many women who engaged in football in Zimbabwe were mainly those who came from footballing families whereby they endeavored into the game through inspiration from their family members.

The development of football in the 1980s, with the dominant women football clubs were the Tabex Queens, Payline Queens, Dynamos, Highlanders Queens and Zimbabwe Saints Queens. During this period league competitions for women football were limited as people preferred to watch men football over women, the teams used to play as curtain raisers to men's teams. Women football was not taken seriously mainly because of the attitude of people in the communities who had set stereotypes that football is meant for man.



Women football in the 1990s was encouraged to be developed by the administration led by Leo Mugabe which greatly invested in junior and women football. Maseko in an interview with the Standard newspaper stated that, together with Chris Matema and Lester Katete, they were the pioneers of women's football in the 1970s with the formation of Dynamos Queens, Highlanders Queens and St Mary's among others. We started women's football back in the 70s, but it only became organized in the late 90s at the instigation of then ZIFA chairman Leo Mugabe.<sup>4</sup> Mugabe, who was chairman of the Zimbabwe Football Association from 1993 to 2003, thinks he did “a wonderful job”. He rapidly lists his achievements: starting the country’s first junior leagues, introducing women’s football and, most importantly, qualifying for the African Cup of Nations for the first time.<sup>5</sup>

During the period of Leo Mugabe academies came into spotlight which welcomed girls who had the passion to engage into football. Munyati the Founder and Director of the Aces Academy stated that, the academy was one of the pioneers which developed young girls talents in football, some of them who had achieved great names in football in the region and internationally.<sup>6</sup> Another Football Academy that had continued to develop young girls in football is the Grassroot Soccer. Grassroot Soccer first began piloting our original curriculum in Zimbabwe in 2003, and shortly thereafter established a flagship site in Bulawayo.<sup>7</sup> The organization worked hand in hand with ZIFA and also included women who were interested in developing girls in football. In this regard one can observe that the development of women football was something that started to gain momentum through the Academies which were coming into existence in the 1990s and early 2000s.

The Ministry of Education, Sports, Arts and Culture engaged with ZIFA in promoting girls soccer in schools. Football competitions in schools were no longer centered on boys only but

girls began to participate in football games which contributed to talent building. The setting up of National Association of Primary Schools League and National Association of Secondary Schools League had also played a role in developing football for girls in the country.<sup>8</sup> Local football games for women sponsored by local authorities across the country began to be conducted and this marked the spread and popularization of women football at grassroots level which had a positive impact in developing professional women football in Zimbabwe.

The development of women football was greatly endorsed in 1999 when FIFA the International Football Board introduced the FIFA “Forward” Development Program. FIFA stated that, The aim is to improve the way we develop and support football across the globe, so that the sport can reach its potential in every nation and so that everyone that wants to take part can do so without barriers. The introduction of this program was a great step forward in the development of women football as a certain amount of money was channeled in promotion of women football. The FIFA “Forward” Development Program Regulations stipulated that, we will dedicate more financial resources to investing in development: Up to USD 500,000 per year for each member association for running costs, based on incentives that encourage best practice. USD 750,000 per year for each member association for specific football projects such as new facilities and women’s and youth football, based on the contract of objectives. Each confederation will receive USD 10 million per year for football projects. Zonal/regional associations will receive up to USD 1 million per year for youth and women’s tournaments.<sup>9</sup> USD 50,000 shall be made available if the member association has a strategy for the promotion and development of women’s football.<sup>10</sup> FIFA conducted seminars with women in football giving them ideas of developing themselves and take football to another level. In this regard, the program was relief in promoting women football not only in Zimbabwe but Africa as a whole. The Vice President of ZIFA Omega

Sibanda stated in an Interview with Chronicle that, FIFA has an ambitious program of promoting the girl child and as ZIFA we are fulfilling that mandate as well.<sup>11</sup> By the turn of the century in the 2000 women football in Zimbabwe became fully established as it gained more support through the initiatives which were coming into existence.

Women began to advance from just playing football on the pitch but also engaging in coaching activities. This can be regarded as progress in women football development as the game was mainly coached and administrated by men. Women football in Zimbabwe has experienced a transition in its development trends by the coming in of Phillip Chiyangwa who had encouraged women to advance more by taking higher positions in women football. The Sunday News reported that, ZIFA president Philip Chiyangwa has urged women coaches to overcome fear and intimidation to scale greater heights in the most followed sport in the world.<sup>12</sup> Chiyangwa said possibilities are endless and women should not fear earning coaching badges that would allow them to even coach male teams at the highest level.<sup>13</sup> It was the first CAF D course exclusively held for women coaches in the country and was facilitated by top FIFA women coaching instructor, Jacqueline Shiphanga.<sup>14</sup>

The continued development of women football through academies, the Ministry of Education, Sports, Arts and Culture and the FIFA Forward Program, also the engagement of various stakeholders in communities have contributed effectively in the creation of women football clubs which facilitated the formation a league. Clubs strengthened and formed include the Inline Academy, Burrow Jets, New Orleans, Street Sets and Ubuntu FC from Bulawayo. Other teams formed include the Black Rhinos Queens, Cyclone, Chipembere Queens and the Flame Lily. The national team for women became more vibrant in the early 2000s which revealed that there was progress in the development of women football.

### **3.2 The women Super League**

A league is very essential in developing football in a country mainly because it will boost the national team. The ZWSL hope that the Mighty Warriors will have a bigger platform to select players for national duty.<sup>15</sup> Comparing women football in Zimbabwe and England, the Football Association is responsible for running The FA Women's Super League (and the WSL Development League), the SSE Women's FA Cup, the FA WSL Continental Tyres Cup, The FA Women's Premier League, The FA Women's Premier League Cup (and Reserve League and Cup).<sup>16</sup> It can be observed that the English support for women football has a wider base with various competitions unlike in Zimbabwe where the clubs struggle to play their league competitions smoothly. League competitions for women football clubs in Zimbabwe began in 1988 and with little concern. Mugadza the former Zimbabwe Saints Queens stated that, there was a national league running which was sponsored by Tabex and Payline companies and played cup games like Payline and Softex Trophy.<sup>17</sup> The national super league did not last for a long time and women clubs were playing in regional leagues which had little impact in the development of football.

In 2004 attempts to rescucitate the national super league were done but failed prematurely because of sponsorship issues. The Zimbabwe Independent reported that, Zimbabwe's proposed women's soccer premier league has failed to kick off due to lack of sponsorship. Nleya-Maseko who was the Secretary General of the National super league said, their division one regional and provincial division two leagues were running without sponsors. We had planned to set up a women's national premier soccer league at the beginning of this year (2004) but the league failed to take off due to lack sponsorship from the corporate world.<sup>18</sup> Teams in these leagues were currently failing to fulfill their fixtures due to lack of transport funds. Division one football was

played in the northern, southern and eastern regions while the division two league involves of all the country's provinces. Women football league was in a state of confusion whereby there was no proper and well established league mainly because of finances and lack of corporate sponsorship. Corporate sponsors were more interested in funding the PSL which had more support as compared to the women's league.

The national women super League reemerged in 2012 when Mavis Gumbo was the Chairperson of women football. This was after Marange Resources Company pledged to sponsor women football in Zimbabwe. The mega sponsorship deal, with Marange Resources Private Limited, was expected to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. The big package which included a sponsorship deal for the Mighty Warriors, all the junior national teams and the national football league.<sup>19</sup> The women football league lasted in 2013 and efforts to put a league back together had proved difficult with teams opting for regional leagues. Differences in women football created factions whereby the other group opted for regional leagues whilst the other was in support of the national league. Due to these factions sponsorship problems became a stumbling block in the continuation of the National Super League. ZIFA in its efforts to curb this spell of inconsistency in the Women Super league, in April 2017 ZIFA came with an initiative of taking responsibility in funding the league for women football. ZIFA undertook to sponsor a sixteen team National Zimbabwean Women's Soccer League.<sup>20</sup> The vice President of ZIFA Mr. Sibanda stated that, through the funds we get as ZIFA, we will pay for transport and referees' fees. We have managed to source uniforms worth about \$110 000 for the teams, while \$40 000 has been set aside for transport.<sup>21</sup> This marked the return of the national league for women in Zimbabwe which has been coming and disappearing from the scene in the football fraternity. The key issues

causing these mayhems being misunderstanding, lack of seriousness in promoting women football and sponsorship challenges.

### **3.3 The Zimbabwean Women National Team**

In the 90s women football was evolving to a more organized entity whereby the national came into being and started to compete in international matches and tournaments. This can be regarded as a shift in the state of football in Zimbabwe because women only played football at their clubs where they were marginalized and earned little support. The women national team of Zimbabwe first played its international match in 1995 during the administration of Leo Mugabe. The women's team travelled to South Africa where they played the South African women's side and won a 5-2 victory. Mugadza states that, the Zimbabwean women's team played against Banyana Banyana in South Africa in the Nelson Mandela Trophy Invitational at FNB stadium in 1995. The women's team played as curtain raisers to the men's game between South Africa and Holland.<sup>22</sup>

Even though the women's national team had little support as compared to the man's side, the women proved to be more determined and strong in bringing victory to the nation. The women's team participated in the CAF Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers in 2000 and won earning them a place in the competition which was held in South Africa. Zimbabwe was able to reach the semi-finals and was fourth in the tournament. This was a great achievement which was done by the women's side in football as compared to the men's side that had an early exit in the Africa Cup of Nations in 2002 after being defeated in the group stages. This is the reason why Munyati stated that, it is important for ZIFA to start investing more in women's football because there is a

lot of potential which can yield good results if it is fully utilized.<sup>23</sup> The women's national team which participated in the 2000 AFCON tournament included iconic individuals such as Daisy Mukwena, the late Thenjiwe Maguhudza, Tarisai Marufu, Yesmore Mutero, Fungai Nyamutukwa and Pretty Phiri.<sup>24</sup>

The women's national team continued to progress by qualifying again in Arica Cup of Nations in 2002 in Nigeria and also in 2004 in South Africa. The national team also participated in the COSAFA tournament in 2002 and 2004, they managed to come second and fourth positions respectively. In this regard one can observe that though women's football faced a lot of challenges especially the lack of support financially, they were doing better by bringing Zimbabwe on the map in terms of football. The team also commenced its participation in the All-Africa games in 2003, which continued to boost women football not only in Zimbabwe but also Africa as a continent. This showed some seriousness and concern over women football, mainly the women's team was greatly boosted by the FIFA Forward Program which poured in finances to its member associations in support of women's football.

However, the team which competed from the 2000 up to 2004 editions of the AFCON competitions was losing its popularity and the support of women's football in the country immensely reduced as there was little nurturing of talent of girls in football, mainly because of the squabbles which were taking place at ZIFA. From the period 2003 ZIFA started to face administration challenges which had a negative impact to Zimbabwean football including the women's side. Mugadza asserts that, the national team last competed in competitive football in 2007. When Moses Chunga was the head coach. After that year there was a lapse in women's football and the team was not registered to participate in any tournaments.<sup>25</sup> This was a major setback in women's football national team as the base of progress that was laid between 2000

and 2004 was destroyed. At the other hand the neighboring country South Africa which was the major rival continued to develop more in women's football whilst the Zimbabwean side remained stagnant and this made the South Africa to qualify for the Olympics in London alongside Cameroon representing the African continent. The women national team came back into action in 2010 after it had been out of action in competing major tournaments for three years. During the administration of Cuthbert Dube the women national team managed to participate and win the COSAFA tournament which was held in Zimbabwe in 2011.<sup>26</sup>

A new sense of optimism and progress permitted in women's football in 2016 when the mighty warriors (women's national team) qualified in the Olympics which were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The 1-0 win over Cameroon enabled the Mighty Warriors to rewrite their own piece of history by becoming the first Zimbabwean football team to qualify for the Olympic Games.<sup>27</sup> In 2016 the women's national team also qualified in CAF African Women Championship in Cameroon. Though they lost in these competitions the President of ZIFA Phillip Chiyangwa had done much in appealing and trying to source funds which was meant to support the women in the Women AFCON in Cameroon.<sup>28</sup>

The 2017 COSAFA women tournament which was held in Zimbabwe had also shown the resilience of the mighty warriors who unfortunately lost in the finals on a match they played against South Africa. The tournament showcased the talent which is in women who are in football such as Rutendo Makore who had netted more goals in the tournament winning the top goal scorer award.<sup>29</sup> The national women's team of Zimbabwe has a tremendous history which cannot be forgotten although there is need for full support that would enable them to reach higher standards. According to the FIFA rankings the Zimbabwean women national team is ranked at number eighty three whilst the men's team is at number one hundred and five.<sup>30</sup>



### **3.4 Challenges and Setbacks in Women Football in Zimbabwe**

Nyamayedenga states that, Soccer is a highly gendered sport which is essentially male dominated, mainly because the sport is seen as associated with aggression, competition and physical energy.<sup>31</sup> As such women football had been marginalized in most African countries including Zimbabwe where it has garnered little support from both the administration and fans. The society considers football to be a game for men as such this has generated less support for women who are in football yet they have the talent which needs to be nurtured. In the 1980s when women football in Zimbabwe was gaining its momentum, the clubs played as curtain raisers for men's matches which were more popular than the women's clubs. Even though there was a national league for women, only few clubs participated in the competitions as not all matches were conducted due to financial constraints. In 1991 the mighty warriors were supposed to take part in the AFCON tournament but withdrew before playing any match. This reveals that women football had been taken for granted that has abused women footballers who wish to reach greater heights.

Participation of women in football has been greatly affected mainly by lack of financial support. Nnadiogbulam states that, but life is still not fair especially where women's football is concerned. Every now and then, the plea for support of the women's game is continually sung like an anthem.<sup>32</sup> Mlauzi who was in charge of the national team when they qualified for the AFCON and the Olympics games lamented that the girls are receiving less support than men who are regarded as the first option whilst the women's team is the second. She stated that, Speaking about my team, we've managed two qualifiers within a period of six months but to date our players remain as poor as they were before they managed to achieve such historic feat for the nation. Instead of attaching support in celebrating that achievement by form of reward, all we got

is praise.<sup>33</sup> In this regard, the mighty warriors receive less motivation that could enable them to do better in football and also earn a living. One of the incidents which showed less concern for women football in Zimbabwe was when no effort was made to raise the \$34,000 the Mighty Warriors needed for their trip to Cote d'Ivoire in 2015. ZIFA could only give was an apology. Sports reporter Yvonne Mangudya reported that, The Mighty Warriors' trip to the Ivory Coast for the first leg of the Olympic Games qualifier had been cancelled at the eleventh hour because of the Zimbabwe Football Association's (ZIFA) failure to provide funds for the trip.<sup>34</sup> Nnadiogbulam asserts that, the Mighty Warriors have had to boycott training a couple of times in protest of unpaid match bonuses and allowances, money that seemingly remains unpaid.<sup>35</sup> The women had been given empty promises that had not been fulfilled which in turn demoralized them. The women cannot even boast of a functional national league, a far contrast to the men's League whose matches are broadcast on Television.<sup>36</sup>

Inconsistence has also characterized women football since in certain times they will be out of action for long periods of time thereby impeding progress. For example between 2008 and 2010 the national team did not play any competitive game that could be recognized. The Mighty Warriors Coach Sithethelelwe Sibanda also mentioned that women's national team needs to be exposed to more international games so as to boost the confidence of the players and also improve their fitness.<sup>37</sup> In this regard, women football is not exposed more to international games which will revolutionize the game quality of our team.

Abuse of women had been also another area of concern in Zimbabwean women's football. Since only a few women endeavored in football the administration such as the coaching positions of the national team and clubs were male dominated which resulted in the abuse of these women footballers. One of the most terrifying abuses of women in football was in 2004 when Yesmore

Mutero one of the Mighty Warriors who was determined in developing her career as a footballer was infected with HIV by the then coach Shacky Tauro. The BBC Sport news reported that, There have been frequent allegations that players have been exploited in national team camps and at their clubs. But matters came to a head earlier this month when striker Yesmore Mutero claimed that she contracted the HIV virus from a male national team coach.<sup>38</sup> ZIFA did little on this issue though the then Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Mashingaidze pledged that the association would deal with the matter. Six months after making the allegations, she fell very sick. Her family claimed no one from the country's national football association visited her during her illness until her death the following year. In such state of affairs, the abuse of women in football had passed as a challenge that needed more attention mainly through by encouraging women to take administrative roles in order to avoid such cases, which had been one of the major concern by Phillip Chiyangwa. Therefore, women football in Zimbabwe is need of full support from both ZIFA, corporate sponsors and the football fans who tend to put more focus on developing and supporting men's football whilst women football is left in the periphery.

### **3.5 Conclusion**

Women development in Zimbabwe has been a marginalized entity as the administration placed little effort in developing the game. Women in football faced stigmatization mainly because the game has been considered to be designed for men. However, women football proved to have more potential of bringing glory to Zimbabwe taking into consideration their successes. Women football was boosted through the FIFA Forward Program which assisted with finances towards

the development of women football. Women in football have experienced a lot of challenges which had have a negative impact on the development of women football.

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## **CHAPTER 4- CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT IN ZIFA**

### **4.0 Introduction**

Corruption and mismanagement in Zimbabwean football is not a recent phenomenon but it is something that can be dated back from the transition period when SRFA transformed to ZIFA. This view was strongly emphasized by Munyati who asserted that, the formation of weak structures at the transition period played a pivotal role in the mismanagement and failure that is in ZIFA.<sup>1</sup> He further states that the era of John Madzima who was administrating football prior to independence proved to be effective. The structures that were put in place ignored the marketing board which is very essential in making football an income generating entity.<sup>2</sup> Taking into consideration other FA like that of England, Wales and Spain they have placed structures that make football an income generating sector that would promote better livelihoods of players and those who are in the game. Weak structures that were in ZIFA made the FA to receive low income which then led to corruption and mismanagement among ZIFA officials which began to be noticed in gate takings.

### **4.1 The Problems in Gate Takings and Abuse of Funds in ZIFA**

The issue of gate takings was one of the major areas that sparked heated arguments in the Zimbabwean football also contributing to the breakaway of clubs forming their PSL. Munyati asserted that, moneys obtained from gate takings were not well accounted for during the era of Job Kadengu, whereby the funds were collected in bags after the match has ended and taken with



no proper channels of taking accountability.<sup>3</sup> In such instances, corruption and mismanagement of finances were bound to occur with the perpetrators going scot free. In 1988 the new gate takings percentages released by Frank Valdermarca brought arguments whereby the super league clubs were not in agreement with the percentages granted to ZIFA.<sup>4</sup> The statistics were as follows:

| <b>Entity</b>   | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|-------------------|
| Clubs   | 46% of net        |
| ZIFA  | 20% of gross      |
| Local Authorities                                       | 29% of gross      |
| Sports Council  | 6% of gross       |
| Clubs were supposed to pay 16% more to match officials. |                   |

The percentages of gate takings received by ZIFA were regarded as more than enough, though they were reduced from twenty to sixteen percent. ZIFA had gross takings of two million dollars in 1988 yet it had a debt of more than three hundred thousand dollars of unpaid annual levies for the 1986 and 87 season which had been accrued through mismanagement of funds.<sup>5</sup> From 1984 up to 1987 ZIFA faced serious financial challenges which even made the interim chair Jonathan Gapara to announce that the Zimbabwean national team was not going to participate in the World cup qualifies because of financial challenges. Gate takings were largely abused, which accrued debts and financial problems in ZIFA. Gumede in 1988 blamed the ZIFA interim executive for club's poor financial input and called for fresh elections in a bid to normalize the situation and improve administration standards.<sup>6</sup>

The abuse of football funds in Zimbabwe started to become more serious when Leo Mugabe assumed the office. Though his administration conducted a lot of reforms such as revolutionizing junior football, the administration was hugely criticized for its abuse of funds. SW Radio Africa reported that, His reign as Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) chairman was dogged with controversy over misappropriated funds. The national teams were always broke, in spite of large crowds attending football matches. He was later dismissed after a financial audit implicated him in impropriety.<sup>7</sup> The mismanagement of funds during his time in office especially funds which came from FIFA through the Financial Assistance Program(FAP) caused controversies which led to plots aimed at toppling him from the post, leading to his expulsion in 2002 being replaced by Vincent Pamire.

Henrietta Rushwaya had been included in a number of scandals during his term as the Chief Executive Officer from 2006 up to 2010 when he was dismissed from football. Rushwaya is said to have received a loan that was not accounted for. Rushwaya has equally been embroiled in a number of controversial transactions. She was arraigned in 2007 over allegations of theft involving US\$2 400.<sup>8</sup> The guardian reported that, Rushwaya secured a \$103,000 loan without authorization. The money cannot be traced. Henrietta Rushwaya was investigated and was found guilty of a series of financial irregularities.<sup>9</sup> Some of the irresponsible acts by ZIFA were experienced in 2010 when the gate receipts of \$640,000 from a pre-World Cup match against Brazil were not found at ZIFA offices.<sup>10</sup> This uncovers the fact that ZIFA officials had been corrupt and driving Zimbabwean football into the mad.

The most acute abuse of funds in ZIFA were experienced during the era of Cuthbert Dube. Dube assumed office from 2010 up to 2016 when he resigned from the office. A. Chivanga asserted that most of the financial problems in ZIFA were accrued during the administration of Cuthbert

Dube whose officials were corrupt and incompetent in football.<sup>11</sup> The Herald reported that, the country's football controlling body is staggering under a weight of a debt which has ballooned from about \$660 000, in March 2010 to about \$7 million in 2015.<sup>12</sup> During the first term of Cuthbert Dube as the ZIFA President (2010 to 2014) was when the financial debt of the association rose at an alarming rate. Ironically, ZIFA's Financial woes worsened at a time when the association received \$800 000 accumulated bonuses adding to the regular injections from of \$250 000 per year from FIFA. Funds which came from FIFA between 2010 up to 2014, mainly the Financial Assistance Program where not used for their intended purposes.

According to the Herald, the association blew more than \$2 million dollars in FIFA Funds, including \$522 000 that was requested for women, youth, Five-A-Side and Beach Football but never used for these programs between 2010 and 2014.<sup>13</sup> Also the official documents revealing that, ZIFA received more than \$3.5 million in FIFA funds with more than \$2 million of that coming in the form of the FAP funds. The misusing of funds received from FIFA came into spotlight in 2014 when the first ZIFA audited financial statements, covering the period 2010 to 2013 showed that more than \$700 000 could not be accounted for.<sup>14</sup> ZIFA received money amounting to \$124 000 from FIFA between 2010 to 2014 which was intended in developing Youth Football. However, during this period the Youth football structures deteriorated tremendously since nothing was invested towards this program. Women football received a huge amount of \$172 000 from FIFA from 2010 to 2014, but the chairperson of Women Football Miriam Sibanda complained that nothing was being injected towards the development of women games.<sup>15</sup> This led to his expulsion from being the chairperson after she continued to raise eyebrows among ZIFA officials concerning the issue. Other funds poured by FIFA during this period include \$94 000 for refereeing, \$61 000 for the domestic medical fraternity. \$294 000 for

Planning and Administration, \$16 000 for Event management, \$53 500 for Infrastructure and \$68 000 for other things.<sup>16</sup> ZIFA receiving such funds from the International board of football was not supposed to be heavily burdened by a huge debt, this shows the rampant abuse of funds in the mother body.

ZIFA in December 2014, accessed an overdraft facility from the CBZ bank but failed to pay which indebted ZIFA with an amount of \$1 968 633.<sup>17</sup> When the FA received the overdraft Mr Cuthbert Dube who was the President attached his personal property as collateral, which was then taken leaving ZIFA owing Dube an amount of \$438 222 in 2016.<sup>18</sup> This reveals the incompetence of ZIFA where by funds were being misused for other personal purposes sidelining the core business.

Misplacing of gate takings funds continued to occur in the FA, such incidents was when Zimbabwe played Guinea in 2015 in the AFCON qualifier. ZIFA reported massive gate takings of \$88 000 but then made a loss of \$12 000 amid revelations that four board members paid themselves \$4000 from the day's gate takings at Rufaro Stadium on September 6 2015.<sup>19</sup> ZIFA board member Tavengwa Hara's admitted that, he was paid by the association on the day the Warriors hosted Guinea. Even though the perpetrators were trying to cover their tracks on the scandal that they manipulated figures Hara made the final confession which showed that there was abusing of gate takings done by the ZIFA officials. The Herald stated that, The Bulawayo lawyer became the first ZIFA board member to admit he was paid on the night that Zimbabwe played Guinea as the tsunami triggered by accusations proceeds from gate receipts could have been abused continues to gather momentum.<sup>20</sup> Manipulation of figures rocked the Cuthbert Dube administration especially funds earned from gate takings.

According to the chronicle, Herentals college donated two buses for use by the warriors in their match against Guinea, but the on the ZIFA expenditure it reflected that \$3 000 was paid to Herentals, which the college denied for not receiving any funds from ZIFA.<sup>21</sup> The income and expenditure did not mention the \$20 000 which was donated by the PHD Ministries leader Walter Magaya which was meant for the players allowance, rather ZIFA reported that it paid \$22 000 from gate takings to the players.<sup>22</sup> In this regard, ZIFA's corruption and mismanagement can be clearly seen through its failure to account for the funds which were being manipulated.

#### **4.2 ZIFA's Failure to pay Coaches and Players**

Mismanagement of funds in ZIFA degraded the game in the country which have left the football lovers demoralized. Zimbabwe were banned to participate in the World Cup games after failing to settle a \$61, 000 debt owed to former coach Valinhos in 2010. The figure rose to \$81, 000 due to legal costs and interests. Government eventually paid the \$83, 500 debt before the doomed trip, after the qualifiers had already begun.<sup>23</sup> Valinhos was brought in by the Wellington Nyatanga led administration, which had taken office in 2006 and given a specific mandate of leading the Warriors to the AFCON and World Cup finals, but failed dismally after registering only two wins in the joint qualifiers. After he was shown the door he took up his matter with the FIFA Disciplinary Committee which proclaimed that his contract had been illegally terminated. The problems encountered by Valinhos were brought about by ZIFA's inept failure to remunerate him for about six months.<sup>24</sup> Between 2010 and 2014, ZIFA failed to agree to a settlement deal and eventually the FIFA DC was left with no choice but to ban Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe faced another lawsuit with former coach Tom Saintfiet claiming \$150 000 after a

short stint with the Warriors.<sup>25</sup> The lawsuit also threatened the country's participation in the 2022 World Cup set for Qatar. Saintfiet was handed a four year deal in 2010 but was deported back for working without a work permit. The debt was cleared by the current administration which came in 2016 led by Phillip Chiyangwa.

ZIFA at many occasions has failed to pay players of the national team, the act had greatly demoralized the players and in often times absconding training sessions. Football players who play in foreign countries earning better incomes had bailed the embattled association in many occasions. For example, midfielder Marvelous Nakamba paid for the Warriors food at the spacious Holiday Inn in Harare whilst the accommodation was facilitated by Former Dynamos player Desmond Maringwa.<sup>26</sup> Business persons such as Wicknell Chivayo has also contributed on paying the warriors coach, however Jonanathan Moyo criticized the move calling for ZIFA to look for corporate sponsorship rather than relying on individual benefactors.<sup>27</sup> In this regard, it can be observed that ZIFA has been inconsistent in paying up its players and coaches especially during the time when the association plunged into a huge debt. Unlike the government of Ivory Coast in 2017 which committed \$6 million to further the football interest and national pride of the country at the AFCON tournament.<sup>28</sup> Magonde et al stipulates that, "The Zimbabwe Football Association's image has been dented by poor governance. On many occasions players and technical officials were not being paid their allowances and bonuses on time showing lack of good governance"<sup>29</sup>

### 4.3 The Asiagate Scandal

The reputation of the Zimbabwean football mother body ZIFA was driven into disrepute by the Asiagate scandal. The Asiagate scandal was highlighted as the biggest scandal to have hit local football and has brought to the fore a great deal of challenges for local football.<sup>30</sup> The scandal took place between 2007 and 2010 when the National Team conducted matches against light weighed national teams from Asia. The Asian betting syndicates influenced the outcome of the matches by offering huge sums of money for Zimbabwe National Team to lose games.<sup>31</sup> X. Gwesela concurred that, match fixing is done with secret syndicates that cannot be easily detected.<sup>32</sup> The Asiagate scandals occurred for a period of four years only to be discovered in 2011. The Sports Commission demanded a report from the ZIFA board over how the Warriors flew out to Asia to play Thailand, a Malaysian club and Syria, without getting its clearance.<sup>33</sup> A record of 88 players took part in the 'fixed' games in the Far East and East Africa.<sup>34</sup>

The most prominent figures who were dealing with the Asian betting syndicate included the former CEO Ms. Henrietta Rushwaya, Kudzi Shaba, Jonathan Musavengana and Mr. Tafirenyika Chitsungo. According to the report presented to parliament on the investigations of the Asiagate Scandals, in 2013 it stated that, Rushwaya and another ZIFA employee sent a club side on a tour of Asia posing as Zimbabwe's national team. The tour was under the direction of a Malaysian gambling syndicate whose leader was allowed to sit on the bench during games.<sup>35</sup> The scandal encompassed different individuals from the football fraternity such as the referees, journalists, coaches, players and administration officials from ZIFA were paid great sums of money as bribes so as to sell games to the Asian football teams who wanted to bid in the World Cup Qualifiers. No proper channels of mobilizing players to participate in these games were done. The report stipulates that, players were phoned directly from the ZIFA office. However the

proper procedures in terms of the ZIFA requirements, if there is national duty, ZIFA is supposed to communicate with the secretariat to call up players and the players are then communicated through the league with their respective clubs.<sup>36</sup> In this regard, ZIFA officials who were at the center of the scandals were responsible for calling the players which greatly disrupted the PSL games. The scandals drew attention of the whole world including the international board of football FIFA. The scandals revealed the corruption and ignorance of those who run football in Zimbabwe as they showed that they do not have the game at heart rather they are opportunists who wanted to enrich themselves. However, the Cuthbert Dube led administration was able to unearth these scandals leading to the expulsion of the perpetrators from any football activities. Even though action was taken towards these scandals, the impact is still being felt in the Zimbabwean football. A. Mutasa states that, the Asiagate scandals have greatly coasted Zimbabwean football mainly by degrading it whereby a bunch of wolves (corrupt ZIFA officials) have devoured it.<sup>37</sup>

#### **4.4 Local Match Fixing in Zimbabwean Football**

Match fixing did not end with the Asiagate incidents only but also continued to occur in the Zimbabwean local football games that is the PSL. According to the report submitted to the parliament, in 2011 a match fixing stint was unearthed in the PSL whereby players, club officials referees and ZIFA board members were found wanting in these acts.<sup>38</sup> D. Rabson is of the view that, match fixing is mainly done for money. Therefore teams with stable finances take advantage of smaller clubs in the league that will consider the move as a way of bringing money in their club.<sup>39</sup> Chari believes that, match fixing is done in the PSL because players are poorly



paid therefore selling matches to other clubs will enable them to receive some money.<sup>40</sup> Match fixing in the PSL is something that is no longer of great surprise whereby the fans will be talking freely about how the matches will be fixed and the reasons behind it. For example, the current run of the league title of 2017 in the PSL had three prominent contenders which are Dynamos FC, FC Platinum and Chicken Inn all vying towards the title. Football fans argued that the match between Dynamos and Shabanie mine was fixed whereby Shabanie Mine was given money by FC Platinum so as to remove Dynamos from the title race.<sup>41</sup> Also mentioning that the match between FC Platinum and Caps United is most likely to be fixed in favor of FC Platinum so that they can get hold of the title by the end of the season since Caps United have got nothing to lose because they are already out of the title race. Manyumwa asserted that, match fixing is a game of sabotaging each other in favor of the other club mainly because it has a powerful force behind it (money).<sup>42</sup>

Match fixing devalues the local football as it reveals unprofessionalism in the game and also driving away the supporters as they will be left with no confidence in the local game. Munyati stated that, the deteriorating of Zimbabwean local football has made football supporters to opt for better and more professional leagues such as the Barclays Premier League of England, the Bundesliga of Germany and also the La Liga of Spain.<sup>43</sup> Match fixing has also an impact on how sponsorship deals will be conducted in football. The parliament report asserted that, the local match-fixing have damaged the image of the soccer in Zimbabwe as no one would want to put his last cent on an institution that gets money to lose games that gets money to sell the soul and national pride of a nation.<sup>44</sup> In this regard, match fixing has had a detrimental effect on Zimbabwean Football making it lose its value, all these problems coming from corruption and mismanagement.

#### **4.5 Politicization of the Administration of Zimbabwean Football**

Many football supporters in Zimbabwe have largely complained about the individuals that take the administration positions in the FA. This is because most of the administrations have been led by persons who had never played the game before but use their influence to gather support from the ZIFA councilors so that they can assume the post of presidency in the association. Pannenberg asserts that, “A wealthy and powerful man (sometimes a woman) takes a position within the FA or a club and then assumes total control. He (or she) uses the FA or club to rally supporters, mostly for prestigious or political purposes.”<sup>45</sup> As Pannenberg is saying this has been also the case of Zimbabwean Football whereby powerful persons in the political or business spheres assume the Presidency of ZIFA ending up doing the wrong things for personal gain. E Sibanda said, its high time our former football players must be active in the administering of the FA not opportunists who will end up abusing the post for personal ambitions putting the game in disrepute.<sup>46</sup> Former minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture David Coltart says the ruling party’s tight grip on Zimbabwe sport for the past two decades has negatively affected the growth of the sport in the country. ZIFA has always been in problems because most of the people are like political appointees.<sup>47</sup>

In 1993 Leo Mugabe took over the position of the ZIFA President a move that shocked and was criticized by many football fans. This was because Leo Mugabe was a politician and also related to the President of Zimbabwe R.G Mugabe. Mugabe was considered as a person who wanted to expand his political influence through football, that would enable him to be popular and also driving the interests of the party he is affiliated to. Former football administrator Ndumiso Gumede said; “What happened is that when Leo got in he brought with him a number of councilors who were aligned to the party. So until today, we still have a residue of those

councilors and they are the ones who sway the pendulum.”<sup>48</sup> This clearly makes it clear that politics has entered Zimbabwean football whereby they are forwarding their interests and garnering support. However, this had detrimental effects in the football fraternity as those with football at heart lost their confidence in the development of the game. Leo Mugabe reigned for a decade as ZIFA president until he was given a vote of no confidence because of the financial irregularities during his time in office which was discovered in the abuse of FAP Funds. There were views that Mugabe was using football to raise his profile as a politician as he went on to become a Member of Parliament in 2005. Gumede said in most cases the leaders were not there for the good of the game, but the party.<sup>49</sup>

In 2004 Rafik Khan became the President of ZIFA. Khan was the Zanu PF treasurer for Harare province when he was first elected into football office as chairman of the Premier Soccer League in 2001.<sup>50</sup> This reveals that politics and football in Zimbabwe had been inseparable since the game was administered by people who were in politics as experienced in the past years. In 2006, Henrietta Rushwaya came into the scene in Zimbabwean football as the CEO. Rushwaya was considered to be a ZANU PF apologist was at the forefront of scandals conducted in Zimbabwean football. Therefore, politicization of football has brought irregularities whereby the individuals who holds the post tend to further their own and their party interests whilst the game suffers.

#### **4.6 The Impact of Corruption and Mismanagement in Zimbabwean Football**

Corruption and mismanagement had devalued football in Zimbabwe. This has opened up room for opportunists who engage in the administration of the game to have access to loot funds and

enriching themselves. The love of Zimbabwean football which glimmered in the 1980s and early 90s deteriorated because of bad leadership that has drove the game into the jungle. Munyati is of the view that, attendance of football supporters in the local matches has been decreasing in the long run of Zimbabwean football mainly because of the deteriorating of the game and lack of professionalism.<sup>51</sup> The most annoying effect is that, securing corporate sponsorship had become a problem in the Zimbabwean football circles. This had been caused by the abuse of funds in ZIFA that had made sponsors to shun the association. Magonde et al reiterates that, “once the potential sponsor senses that there is corruption they do not want to give ZIFA their support because they fear that their money will be abused. Thus, the Zimbabwe Football Association lost out on sponsorship because of corruption.”<sup>52</sup> In this regard football cannot function properly because sponsorship is the core to the development of the game.

Women football continued to struggle in its bid to establish itself as an entity which drive the interests of women to showcase their talents in the game. This is because of the ignorance that had been in ZIFA towards women football and abusing their funds which they received from FIFA. Abuse of funds had also destroyed the junior policy which is very essential in developing football through talent nurturing. As a result this has led to poor standards of football in Zimbabwe. The Asiagate scandals had seen the national team of Zimbabwe being placed at a lower position on the FIFA rankings. Also corruption has been responsible for the financial debt which is faced by ZIFA. In all this, corruption and mismanagement in ZIFA has had a negative impact which has given tarnished the image of Zimbabwean.

## **4.7 Conclusion**

Corruption and mismanagement in ZIFA has been a major crisis in the FA which can be tracked back from the transition period when ZIFA came into light. Corruption and mismanagement had been mainly seen in the abuse of funds which had also accrued a financial crisis in the association. The Asiagate Scandals and match fixing had also tarnished the image of ZIFA and also compromised the standards of football in the country.

## **End Notes**

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39. Interview with D. Rabson, Kwekwe, 3 July 2017
40. Interview with F. Chari, Kwekwe, 18 July 2017
41. Match: Shabane Mine FC vs Dynamos FC, 28 September 2017
42. Interview with P. Manyumwa, Zvishavane, 28 September 2017
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## **CONCLUSION**

It can be concluded that Zimbabwean football from 1980 has been through different stages. The transition from SRFA to ZIFA at 1980 has seen football entering a new phase of being fully developed after years of less participation in the international circles. ZIFA was able to develop the game through implementing various strategies which laid the base of football in Zimbabwe after independence. The research unearthed that, though ZIFA was strategizing towards developing the game, there were impediments in the process, experienced in the administering of the Super League and also the national team caused by discontent among the executive members and also with the league clubs especially the period between 1983 up to 1987 when the FA was experiencing leadership problems characterized with incompetence. The researcher also found out that the problems in ZIFA eased when 1988 when a newly elected committee led Nelson Chirwa as new reforms were implemented aimed at developing the game, although frictions continued to exist between the FA and Clubs.

The research stipulates that discontent between ZIFA and the Super League clubs led to the creation of the PSL IN 1992. The birth of the PSL was greatly opposed by ZIFA which felt that its authority has been undermined. However, the PSL formation was a success because it was endorsed by the FIFA statutes which stipulated that the local league can run as an independent entity and also the clubs capitalized on ZIFA weaknesses in their governance of the Super League. Through the research findings, the PSL formation, brought new changes in the state of local football a sense of professionalism permeated the local league and also the shift in responsibilities for ZIFA.

The research has also dwelt much on Women football in Zimbabwe and its relationship with ZIFA. Women football has been marginalized in Zimbabwe and it has garnered little support both from the FA and the corporate world. This has been the major setbacks in the development of women football, though women in football have the potential of bringing glory to the nation. However, women football gained little momentum through the FIFA Forward Program which sponsored women in football with financial assistance, although the funds had been abused by the FA officials.

The research has figured out that, corruption and mismanagement in ZIFA has been the major issue which has placed football in Zimbabwe into disrepute. Corruption has been seen in gate takings whereby the funds were misplaced with none to account for them. Looting of funds in ZIFA has accrued a debt which has haunted the FA and will most likely to continue if no action is taken. Scandals have rocked the football fraternity in Zimbabwe which has reduced the standards of football at the same undermining supporters' confidence in the game. The researcher was able to the most pivotal areas of football administration in Zimbabwe that is ZIFA's administration, the PSL and Women football and the also the greatest impediment that has undermined the game that is corruption and mismanagement.

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