

## **City of Bulawayo and Umguza Rural District Council present MOU to stakeholders**

The City of Bulawayo is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Umguza Rural District Council (URDC) for the water, sewer and roads servicing of the Rangemore area.

Speaking at the implementation meeting of the MOU, the Town Clerk, Mr Christopher Dube said the MOU is a mutual partnership (understanding between BCC and URDC) which seek to work together for the harmonious development in planning, servicing and development of Upper and Lower Rangemore area.

According to the MOU, Bulawayo City Council and Umguza Rural District Council will be responsible for the actual planning and implementation of its programs as well as meeting financial obligations of running the program.

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor M. K. Moyo said “As policymakers we had seen it fit to address our problems jointly and that this consolidated effort will see the city gaining from the partnership.”

Urban developments like Emthunzini and Mbundane that do not have the complimentary services of water, sewer, refuse collection and roads have sprung up due to the need for urban housing.

The vision of the MOU is to provide the Rangemore area with water, sewer and solid waste removal services.

The MOU comes as a result of the continued developments in Rangemore which put pressure on the URDC which does not have the capacity to provide offsite services to high-density housing.

“The unlocking of Rangemore will go a long way to reducing the housing backlog which has persisted for decades in our city,” said Councillor Moyo.

He highlighted that urbanization has been a key driver to the formulation of the MOU between Umguza and Bulawayo.

The Chief Executive Officer of URDC, Mr Collen Moyo highlighted that the supply of services to the Upper and Lower Rangemore would not be the first time that Bulawayo provides services to Umguza.

Director of Engineering Services, Engineer Simela Dube said Upper and Lower Rangemore have a potential of 96 000 houses and thus present an opportunity for the much needed housing provision. There was however need to provide the necessary services.

“For you to say, you live in a city you should have water, sewer, roads and refuse collection,” he added.

He highlighted that the projections were that servicing would take 5 years as there was need to build a reservoir which would be connected to the Criterion waterworks. The servicing of the Upper and Lower Rangemore area is expected to cost an estimated will need 9.6 million.

Ends./