RUWA COUNCIL

THE MAYOR'S DESK

MONTHLY NEWS | JANUARY 2026

TOP NEWS

RUWA OFFICIALLY DECLARED A MEDICAL DISTRICT

Ruwa has officially been established as a Medical District, strengthening coordination and delivery of healthcare services through facilities such as Ruwa Polyclinic, Damafalls Clinic, the National Rehabilitation Centre, and Ruwa Clinic. This milestone improves access to professional medical care, including maternity services, and supports better health outcomes for the community.

RUWA COMMEMORATES ANNUAL PRAYER DAY

Ruwa Prayer Day was successfully held on 10 January 2026 at the New Council Offices, bringing together council leaders, church representatives, and residents to pray for unity, development, and the well-being of the town. The event reflected a strong spirit of cooperation and shared commitment to building a peaceful and prosperous Ruwa.

DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM MAYOR'S EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The Mayor of Ruwa has awarded scholarships to nine disadvantaged students, one from each ward, to help vulnerable children access education and build a better future. Through this initiative, Council is covering school fees, uniforms, and stationery while monitoring learners' progress to ensure continued support.

A Message from the Mayor

As the Mayor of Ruwa, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people of Ruwa for your unwavering commitment and continued support. Your dedication makes our work possible and inspires us to serve this community to the best of our ability.

For the year 2026, our guiding principle is "We Start to Finish." This means that every project that we plan and commence, we are committed to completing. It is not enough to start initiatives; we must see them through to their full potential so that the benefits reach every member of our community.

We have a number of important projects planned for this year, all aimed at improving service delivery, infrastructure, and the overall quality of life in Ruwa. These projects cut across all the 6 Programs in Council which are:

1. Corporate Governance & Administration
2. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
3. Social Services
4. Roads
5. Public Safety and security services
6. Natural resources and Conservation Management

Among these projects are:

- Purchasing a new refuse compactor to improve waste collection.
- Ongoing road maintenance and repairs to ensure safer and smoother transportation.
- Carriageway marking and improvements to local transportation infrastructure.
- Construction of a new ground reservoir at the water treatment plant to enhance water supply.
- GIS mapping of the Damafalls water network for efficient water management.
- Construction of a modern fire station to strengthen emergency response.

- Installation of street lights to improve safety and security.
- Upgrading the sewer network (10km) i.e Rusununguko, Chiremba, and Upfront.
- Procurement of Plant and Equipment ie 5skip bins,TLB,Tar Baby, Water bowsers and service vehicles to improve service delivery.

These are just a few of the projects we aim to accomplish, and each one is crucial in helping Ruwa achieve Minimum Service Delivery Standards as per the recently published SI 170 of 2025. However, achieving these goals requires teamwork. We cannot succeed alone; it requires collaboration between the council, our dedicated staff, and, most importantly, the residents of Ruwa.

As we move forward this year, I want to especially encourage all residents to **pay council rates** promptly. Your contributions are vital; they allow us to fund these projects, maintain infrastructure, and deliver the services our community deserves. Paying rates is not just a responsibility; it is an investment in the development and prosperity of our town. The achievements of Ruwa will safeguard our generation and future generations. I therefore implore you to be the guardian of our future by contributing to its success. I would like to also take this opportunity to invite our business stakeholders to contribute by giving back to the community that they operate in. This can be as small as setting up streetlights on busy and dangerous areas, taking up responsibility to maintain roads and servitude or even equipping our schools and clinics. Lets work together to build the Ruwa we want.

Together, let us make 2026 a year of progress, completion, and achievement. Let us ensure that what we start, we finish for a stronger, cleaner, safer, and more vibrant Ruwa.

Thank you, and may this year bring growth and prosperity to us all.

God bless the people of Ruwa. God bless Ruwa

Mayor M. Mataruka
Ward 4

RUWA SCHOOLS CELEBRATED FOR STRONG ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

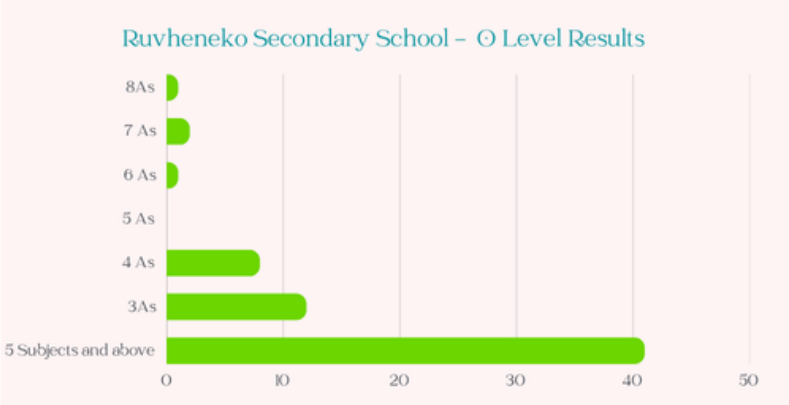
Ruwa Council has expressed appreciation to all schools within its jurisdiction for their continued efforts in advancing education and supporting learner development. Council has particularly commended the strong academic performance recorded by several local schools in the recent examination results.

Three secondary schools produced encouraging outcomes at both Ordinary Level (O Level) and Advanced Level (A Level), reflecting the dedication of teachers, school administrators, parents, and learners.

C. Hardy Secondary School delivered excellent results, exceeding expectations at both O Level and A Level. Several A Level students achieved high point scores, including results ranging from 10 to 15 points. Council praised the school for maintaining strong academic standards and consistent performance.

Points	Number of Students
15	4
14	6
13	3
12	5
11	4
10	6

Ruvheneko Secondary School also recorded impressive O Level results. A number of learners achieved outstanding passes, with some attaining more than ten Grade A passes. Council described this achievement as a reflection of commitment from both educators and students.



Zimre High School, though still relatively new, produced promising results. Council acknowledged the school's effort and commitment during its early years and expressed confidence that performance will continue to improve with sustained support.

At primary level, Ralph Junior School also performed well. A significant number of learners achieved strong unit scores, including 32 learners with six units, 17 with seven units, and 11 with eight units. Council applauded the school for its role in nurturing young learners and promoting academic excellence.

Units Obtained	Number of Students
6	32
7	17
8	11

In conclusion, Ruwa Council congratulates all schools, teachers, parents, and learners for their collective contribution to these achievements. Council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting both council and private schools, noting that investment in education helps shape the future leaders of the community.

Grass Cutting Programme Underway in Ruwa

Ruwa Council would like to inform residents that Grass cutting is currently underway in various areas within our jurisdiction.

This exercise forms part of Council's roads routine maintenance programme aimed at improving cleanliness, enhancing public safety, and maintaining the general outlook of our town.
Residents are kindly urged to cooperate with Council teams as they carry out this important work. Your understanding and support will help ensure the exercise is completed efficiently and safely. To date the roads that have been cut are Zimre Way, Dhauramanzi, Zimre Park and the cemetery. The grass cutting program is in progress.

Why Grass Cutting Is Important: Public Health and Safety

- **Pest Control:** Tall and damp grass provides ideal breeding grounds for insects and pests such as mosquitoes. Regular grass cutting helps reduce the risk of diseases associated with these pests.
- **Safety and Visibility:** Overgrown grass along roads, intersections, and pedestrian pathways limits visibility for both motorists and pedestrians, increasing the risk of accidents. Properly maintained verges improve sight lines and road safety.
- **Security:** Tall and neglected vegetation can provide hiding places that facilitate criminal activities. Keeping public spaces clear and well maintained helps improve security and promotes a safer environment for residents.

Call for Cooperation

Ruwa Council encourages residents to:

- **Allow Council teams access to public spaces during the grass cutting exercise.**
- **Avoid dumping waste or debris in areas that have been cleared.**
- **Support efforts to keep their surroundings clean and well-maintained.**
- **Residents to cut grass on their properties.**

Your cooperation and continued support are greatly appreciated as we work together to maintain a clean, safe, and well-managed town for all residents.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS RESTORED AT KEY RUWA INTERSECTIONS

Ruwa Council has successfully repaired the traffic lights at the Mutare Road–Zimre Turn-Off and Mutare Road–Windsor Turn-Off intersections. The lights had been out of service for some time after being damaged by two trucks, causing inconvenience and raising safety concerns for both motorists and pedestrians.

Council worked to repair the damaged infrastructure and restore normal operations. The traffic lights at both intersections are now fully functional, helping to improve traffic flow and enhance road safety in these busy areas.
Residents and road users are encouraged to observe traffic rules and respect traffic signals at all times. Proper use of traffic lights helps prevent accidents, protects lives and property, and reduces damage to public infrastructure.

Ruwa Council has called on everyone to drive responsibly and work together to protect public facilities so that the town's roads remain safe and orderly for all.

SOLAR STREET LIGHTING PROJECT BOOSTS SECURITY IN RUWA

Ruwa Council has installed 80 solar street lights along Chiremba Road and Tarisa Road as part of ongoing efforts to improve service delivery, enhance safety, and improve the appearance of the town.
The new lights are expected to improve visibility at night, making roads safer for motorists, pedestrians, and residents. They also add to the overall attractiveness of the area while supporting safer movement after dark.
Council has urged residents to protect the street lights, noting that they were installed using public resources for the benefit of the whole community. Any vandalism, theft, or damage affects everyone and slows down development efforts.
The project follows feedback from residents during the 2025 community consultations, where reliable street lighting was highlighted as an important need. Proper lighting helps reduce crime, improves security, and promotes safer neighbourhoods.
Residents are encouraged to contribute to safer streets by installing lights at their gates and around their homes. Business owners are also encouraged to light up their premises to help improve safety in commercial areas.
Ruwa Council says it remains committed to working together with residents and businesses to build a safer, brighter, and more developed town for all.

RUWA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL PRAYER DAY AT NEW COUNCIL OFFICES

On **10 January 2026**, Ruwa Prayer Day was successfully held at the **Ruwa Town House (New Council Offices)**. We give thanks to God for a peaceful and well-organised Prayer Day.

The event was jointly organised by **Ruwa Council** and the **Ruwa Ministers Fraternal**, in line with the annual observance of Ruwa Prayer Day. The purpose of the gathering was to seek God's guidance, protection, and blessings for the town of Ruwa, its leadership, and its residents.

During the gathering, prayers were offered for good governance, infrastructure development, unity, peace, development, and the well-being of all residents. Special prayers were also made for council leadership, service delivery, and the continued growth and prosperity of Ruwa.
The Prayer Day was attended by the **Mayor of Ruwa, Councillor Michael Mataruka**, councillors, council management, members of the Ruwa Ministers Fraternal, pastors from various denominations, residents, and other key stakeholders. The strong turnout reflected the spirit of unity and shared purpose within the town.

Ruwa Council extends its sincere appreciation to the Ruwa Ministers Fraternal, all church leaders, and residents who participated in and supported this important event. We thank God for the unity, peace, and guidance demonstrated during the Prayer Day as we continue to work together to build a prosperous and harmonious Ruwa.

A Healthier Ruwa: New Medical District Brings Services Closer to Home

Ruwa has officially been established as a Medical District, marking an important step in strengthening healthcare services within the town. This development is expected to improve coordination, management, and delivery of health services for residents.

The Ruwa Medical District includes Ruwa Polyclinic, Damafalls Clinic, the National Rehabilitation Centre, and Ruwa Clinic. Together, these facilities are working to ensure residents have better access to quality healthcare.

Currently, maternity services are available at Ruwa Polyclinic and Ruwa Clinic, helping expectant mothers access safe and reliable maternal care closer to home. These services are important in improving maternal and child health outcomes in the community.

Each clinic in the district is staffed with a General Medical Practitioner, while a District Medical Officer oversees the day-to-day operations of all facilities. The District Medical Officer reports to Provincial Medical Director Dr. Hove, ensuring alignment with provincial and national health policies.

Ruwa Council's Health Department continues working to improve public health services for both local residents and people from surrounding areas such as Goromonzi and parts of Harare who rely on Ruwa's facilities.

Damafalls Clinic, which opened in December 2025, is already providing primary healthcare services to the community. Although fully operational, the official opening ceremony is still pending. The clinic has significantly improved access to healthcare for residents in Damafalls and nearby areas.

Council also works closely with private healthcare providers to complement public services. Ruwa has a strong private health sector, with 18 registered private medical practitioners operating within the town. In total, there are about 156 healthcare-related facilities in Ruwa, including clinics, pharmacies, laboratories, dental surgeries, and radiography centres. This collaboration helps ensure residents can access healthcare services when needed.

Public Health Updates

Council continues to monitor disease outbreaks within the area. Current health concerns include cases of foot and mouth disease affecting the community, as well as acute respiratory infections, particularly among children under five. There has also been an increase in cholera cases in some surrounding areas. Residents are encouraged to report suspected cases promptly and seek medical attention early.

The Health Department is carrying out awareness campaigns, disease surveillance, and preventive measures to control the spread of illnesses and protect public health.

Commitment to Community Health

Ruwa Council remains committed to improving healthcare services, strengthening partnerships, and promoting disease prevention. Residents are encouraged to follow health guidelines and seek medical care early to protect their health and that of the wider community.

From Boreholes to Nutritional Gardens: Council and NGOs Team Up to Make a Difference

Ruwa Council continues to work closely with partners and stakeholders to improve the lives of community members. These collaborations help address critical needs in water, sanitation, education, health, and livelihoods, supporting sustainable development across the town.

One key partner, Oxfam, is solarizing boreholes and setting up nutritional gardens, with a focus on schools. This initiative has provided reliable, clean water to three schools, benefiting students, teachers, and staff, and creating healthier learning environments.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is also supporting community development. WFP has drilled boreholes in Solomio, Timire, and Damafalls, increasing access to safe water for residents and schools. WFP has additionally helped establish waste management centres in Solomio and Timire, keeping communities clean and promoting better environmental health. Ten local women have been trained to operate these centres, providing them with valuable skills and economic opportunities.

In support of livelihoods, WFP is currently setting up a Fowl Run for the community which is at 90% complete with 2,500 birds to seeded to residents in Damafalls, enabling families to start small scale poultry projects. These initiatives not only improve household nutrition but also create income-generating opportunities, contributing to community resilience. Currently WFP has given two schools 250 Birds each and feed as projects for schools.

Health and wellness have also been a priority. **Albino Trust Zimbabwe** partnered with the council to provide **free eye screenings** for community members, helping to identify and address vision-related challenges and improve overall health outcomes.

Through these partnerships, the council continues to foster meaningful collaborations that address essential needs, improve living conditions, and empower community members. Together with organizations like Oxfam, WFP, and Albino Trust Zimbabwe, we are building a stronger, healthier, and more resilient community.

Construction of Classroom Blocks

Council owned schools are currently developing and major construction is occurring in an aim to improve access to education. Most of the Councils schools have no capacity to enroll many students as we have peripheral developments with students utilizing the schools. All children should have access to education. With this in mind these are some of the developments under way in our Town.

1. Chiremba Primary School ECD block construction
2. Runyararo Primary School Blocks construction
3. Green Olive Primary School ablution block construction
4. Zimre Secondary Blocks construction.

We would like to appreciate ProDairy for donating furniture in the newly constructed ECD Block at Chiremba Primary. We continue to request our business stakeholders and residents to give back to the community and imitate the good work that other organisations and residents are doing.

Disadvantaged Students Benefit from Mayor's Education Assistance Programme

The Mayor of Ruwa awarded scholarships to nine disadvantaged students, with one beneficiary selected from each of the nine wards. This initiative was aimed at ensuring that vulnerable children are given an opportunity to access education and build a better future. Through the Mayor's Office, the Council covered school fees, stationery, and school uniforms for all the beneficiaries.

On 9 January 2026, the Mayor met with the parents and guardians of the selected children at the New Council Office Rates Hall. During this meeting, the Mayor explained the purpose and scope of the scholarship programme, emphasizing the Council's commitment to supporting children who are not attending school due to critical circumstances beyond their control. It was highlighted that the beneficiaries were carefully selected, with priority given to children who had completely dropped out of school. Some of the beneficiaries had been out of school.

The Mayor further clarified that the Council is currently providing support up to Grade 7. However, should any of the beneficiaries successfully complete their primary education, the Council may also consider funding their secondary education at a council-run school, subject to availability of resources and continued good performance.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the Council will monitor each child's academic progress through regular updates from their teachers. In addition, all beneficiaries will be required to attend council schools in order to remain eligible for continued support.

This scholarship programme reflects the Mayor's commitment to inclusive development and the belief that education is a fundamental right. By investing in disadvantaged children, the Council is taking a meaningful step toward breaking cycles of poverty and empowering the next generation of Ruwa residents.

Know Your Policy Makers

Board Chairman
CLLR M. Mataruka
Ward 4 Councillor

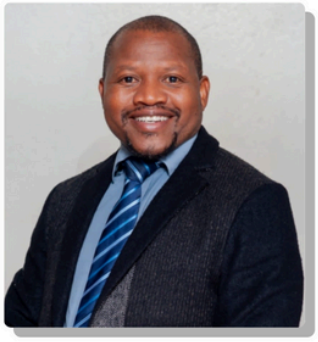
Vice Board Chairperson
PR Councillor S S Mhlanga

Ward 5
Councillor R Mawedzere

Ward 6
Councillor M Nganga

Ward 7
Councillor C Humbato

Ward 1
Councillor B Kadau



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Councillor G Ndawana

Ward 3
Councillor K. K. Goto

Ward 8
Councillor K Chivafa

Ward 9
Councillor W Chuma

PR
Councillor M Hwiza

PR
Councillor J Chirowodza