



Championing Arts Development

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NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE

PRESS STATEMENT

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

The Board of National Arts Council of Zimbabwe is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Elvas Mari as Director of National Arts Council of Zimbabwe with effect from 2 November 2009. Mr Mari has been the Acting Director of the Council since the retiring of the substantive Director Mr T Chipangura in November 2008.

Mr Mari was born in Bikita in 1964 and holds a Master of Education (Curriculum Studies) (1996) and a Bachelor of Arts General Degree both of them with the University of Zimbabwe (1985). He is also holder of several professional certificates including Certificate in Entrepreneurial Skills with Empretec, Certificate in Developing Capacity for Negotiation Skills and Conflict Transformation (UNDP), and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education.

Mari began his professional career as a teacher at Mashoko High School in Bikita, Masvingo in 1988/9, before transferring to work for the then Literature Bureau in 1990 and later to the Curriculum Development Unit (CDU) as a Principal Writer. While at CDU, he was seconded to be a member of the Secretariat to The Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Education and Training and thereafter joined the then Chinhoyi Technical Teachers' College as a Principal Lecturer. He joined National Arts Council of Zimbabwe in 2002 initially as Assistant Director (Arts Promotion and Development) in 2002 before being promoted to become the Deputy Director in 2005, a post he held until his present appointment.

Mr Mari, is a published writer of a Shona Textbook Secondary School Course, *Kodzero 1-4* and two poetry anthologies, *Mudzvabhange* and *Muti Usina Zita*. During his previous years at the NACZ, Mari made significant contributions to the development of flagship National Arts Council of Zimbabwe arts and culture programmes and projects namely, National Arts Merit Awards (NAMA), Culture Week, Arts Development Fund, Jikinya Dance Festival, Artist Voices, Provincial Festivals and Jerusarema Mbende Intangible Heritage project.

The Board believes that Mr Mari will consolidate these achievements and provide the leadership in the Council to develop and promote the arts and culture industries to be a significant contributor to socio-economic development of Zimbabwe. The Board congratulates Mr Mari on his appointment and wishes him well in his new position.

Mr Mari is married to Meria and they have four children Nyasha, Tapiwa, Vimbiso and Tavonga.

Dr T A Chitepo

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD
NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE