



ZIMBABWE ON THE BRINK: ATHLETES FLIRT WITH WORLD QUALIFYING TIMES IN ELECTRIC INTERPROVINCIAL SHOWDOWN

Harare - University of Zimbabwe | 25-26 April 2026

Zimbabwean athletics sent a powerful message to the continent and beyond this past weekend — the gap to global competitiveness is closing fast. At a pulsating Interprovincial Championships, a new generation of athletes didn't just win races they hunted world standards.



PASSION • PROGRESS • PRIDE

National Athletics Association of Zimbabwe
Office 86, 10TH Street, Gweru **Contact Details:** +263 773 508 621, +263 784 679 659 &
+263 772 376 067 **Email:** marketing@naaz.org.zw **Web:** www.marketing@naaz.org.zw

SPRINTS: FRACTIONS AWAY FROM GLOBAL STANDARDS

The men's 100m final was nothing short of elite theatre.

Ngoni Makusha stormed to victory in 10.44 seconds, a time that places him within touching distance of global qualifying benchmarks.

Hot on his heels:

- Takudzwa Manhanga – 10.63
- Lovemore Sande – 10.68

In the junior ranks, the future looks even more frightening:

- Tawananyasha Chimunya – 10.51
- Arab Chimuchembere – 10.54

World U20 benchmarks are now within realistic reach if progression continues.

200M: ZIMBABWE'S SPEED ENDURANCE EMERGING

The 200m delivered one of the strongest statements of the championships:

- Ngoni Makusha – 20.66 (Senior Champion)
- Takudzwa Manhanga – 20.96

These times edge closer to the sub-20.50 territory typically required on the global stage.

Even more exciting:

- Arab Chimuchembere – 20.68 (Junior Champion)
- Chimunya Tawananyasha – 20.78

Zimbabwe's juniors are now dangerously close to world junior qualifying levels — a major pipeline indicator.

400M: ONE-LAP EXCELLENCE SIGNALS GLOBAL INTENT

The 400m produced arguably the most world-ready performance:

- Derrick Matutu – 46.51 seconds

This is a serious international time, brushing against global qualification territory.

Behind him:

- Jeremiah Mawarire – 48.17
- Elias Chauke – 48.23

In the junior category, the depth is even more impressive:

- Emmanuel Uriga – 47.17
- Nyenyasha Chihora – 47.91

These are world-class development times, pointing to relay potential at global level.

WOMEN'S SPRINTS: PROMISING BUT JUST SHORT

In the women's 100m:

- Olivia Lunga – 12.47
- Valentine Datawa – 12.65

While still outside global qualifying thresholds, the progression curve is clear.

The juniors, however, showed greater promise:

- Shalom Sendi – 12.17
- Delight Maravanyika – 12.22

These times suggest Zimbabwe's next female sprint star may already be here.

MIDDLE DISTANCE: GLIMPSES OF COMPETITIVENESS

- Kelvin Bvekerwa – 1:52.63 (800m Champion)

A strong regional time — but still requiring a significant drop to hit world championship levels

