

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

**THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN FOSTERING NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT: A CASE OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZIMBABWE**

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ABSTRACT

This research project presents an assessment of the role played by the National Archives in fostering national development. The major aim of the project was to find out how the National Archives of Zimbabwe has been contributing and how it can contribute to development. In endeavoring to fulfill this task the researcher the researcher employed both primary and secondary research. The case study research method was the most favorable hence its adoption. Questionnaires and interviews were best suited for the research as primary data collection tools and they were distributed to Archivists at NAZ who were the target population. In collecting secondary data, data analysis was made on NAZ publications that included the Director' s reports, annual reports, the NAZ Act, brochures and pamphlets. The data collection was affected by financial constraints, time limits and the busy schedules of the respondents. Tables, pie-charts and graphs were used for data presentation. The research revealed that the National Archives could contribute immensely to development and the failure to make use of the archives was the main reason for African underdevelopment. The study revealed that development is a process that takes time and thus calls for the record that will ensure continuity in development and accountability. The National Archives truly serves the interests of the nation in as far as development is concerned.