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Asiagate

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Asiagate is the name of the match fixing scandal where the Zimbabwe National Team made unsanctioned trips to Thailand and Malaysia in December 2009. Then [ZIFA](#) CEO, [Henrietta Rushwaya](#) was accused of organising the trips and being the “core central point” in the scam which involved referees, players and journalists. A Malaysian national called Raja Raj was reported to have been the key instigator of the match fixing.^[1]



Henrietta Rushwaya

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On the trip, Zimbabwe lost 3-0 to Thailand; beat the Malaysian champions Selangor 3-0 before losing 6-0 to Syria.

An investigation into the scandal by the ZIFA Board of Enquiry which was headed by ZIFA board member [Ndumiso Gumede](#) found the following:

- a Malaysian betting syndicate paid Zimbabwe players US\$1,500 each to lose by a pre-agreed score-line.
- a member of the syndicate sat on the Zimbabwe bench and gave instructions when to concede goals.
- ZIFA programmes officer [Jonathan Musavengana](#) received “a bunch of US dollars” from a representative of the syndicate.
- players feared for their lives when a representative of the betting syndicate claimed they had cost him US\$1 million after losing the first game 3-0 instead of 1-0.
- Politician and Football Administrator [Henrietta Rushwaya](#) was in on the scam.
- The match-fixing may have been going on for three years, starting with the 2007 Merdeka Cup held to commemorate Malaysian National Day.
- [Method Mwanjali](#), tipped to be the new national team captain after [Benjani Mwaruwari](#) stood down, negotiated payments with the betting syndicate.
- An agent of the syndicate was at the Warriors’ camp ahead of a friendly match with Japan just before the start of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa in June.

most of the players involved in the corruption “now pose a big problem” for the national team.

Rushwaya and Jonathan Musavengana were suspended and eventually fired for their involvement.

About Pindula

Pindula is a place to find information about local things on the internet. We do it a lot like Wikipedia, except everything is hyper-local. We started work on Pindula because we needed something like it. There’s so little useful information about local things online and we’re working to change that

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References

1. [Nkanyiso Moyo, Match fixing: Rushwaya damned, NewZimbabwe, Published:18 October 2010, Retrieved: 26 April 2016](#)