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Zimbabwe United Passenger Company

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Zimbabwe United Passenger Company also known as (ZUPCO) is a state owned parastatal that administers government's public transport buses and commuters. It operates transport services that plies local and regional routes. The parastatal operates under the Ministry of Transport and is headquartered in the Belvedere area of Harare a few miles from Harare's central business district.

Zimbabwe United Passenger Company



ZUPCO BUS

Trading name
Formerly called
Industry
Genre
Founded
Headquarters
Key people

Zimbabwe United Pass
Rhodesia Bus Compan
Transport
Parastatal
1980
Belvedere, [Harare](#), [Har](#)
Obert Mpofu

Background

ZUPCO was formed in 1980 after the new [nationalist government](#) was formed taking over from the [Ian Smith](#) led government. Before independence, the bus company was run as a parastatal and it was known as the [Rhodesia](#) Bus Company. After transition, the company was renamed to Zimbabwe United Passenger Company.

ZUPCO Fleet

The ZUPCO fleet of buses was custom made for the Zimbabwean government by a Chinese vehicle manufacturer, First Automotive Group Corporation. The company which has been in existence since 1956 was previously known as First Automotive Works (FAW), from which the company derives the



name that is on the latest brand.

Routes

Locally, the fleet services most of the country's major highways. These include;

- [Harare](#), [Bulawayo](#), [Gweru](#), [Mutare](#), [Beitbridge](#), [Masvingo](#), Plumtree, Zvishvane, Kariba, Chinhoyi, Nyanga, Chipinge, Birchnough Bridge, Chivi, Zaka, Mutoko, Rusape among others. Besides local routes, the bus company also operates international routes for example from Harare to Lilongwe the Blantyre in Malawi and Harare to Lusaka the capital city of Zambia. It has also routes from Harare to Johannesburg in South Africa.

The Rural Bus Service

ZUPCO has purposefully invested and is constantly looking into ways of providing a safe and reliable service for our previously neglected rural folk. Thus the company provides daily scheduled bus service to many rural areas dotted around the country.

Urban Passenger Service

Urban routes include transport services from the respective residential areas to the Central business district in Harare. These include for example the Harare- [Chitungwiza](#) route. In line with being a market driven player in the industry, the company has also sought to alleviate the suffering of the urban consumer who is made to pay hiked fares during peak hours by commuter omnibuses. The company has therefore reintroduced the urban bus routes at an affordable fare during the morning and evening peak hours.^[1]

Regional Bus Operations

The company offers affordable, direct, safe and reliable bus services to regional countries such as Zambia and Malawi and South Africa.^[1]

Bus Hire Services

In addition to their normal scheduled bus services, ZUPCO also offers their clients the opportunity to hire their buses at affordable rates for their corporate functions, weddings, funerals, and other events.^[1]

Loyalty Service

The loyalty service is a discounted charge offered by the company to its regular customers especially those who commute international routes. It is whereby a customer reaches a certain number of trips using ZUPCO and is therefore awarded a discount of up to 50 percent.^[1]

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Acquisition of New Buses

In 2004, ZUPCO made great strides when it shipped 40 Isuzu conventional buses from Kenya's General Motors East Africa at a total cost of \$16,9 billion.^[2] It was the second time ZUPCO had purchased buses from General Motors. Earlier that same year, the passenger company took delivery of 100 Isuzu minibuses with a capacity of 33 passengers from the Kenyan company.^[2] It also awarded another tender in November 2003 for the supply of 150 conventional buses to replenish Zupco's heavily depleted fleet to four companies — Scania SA (30), W Damher (40), Pioneer Motor Corporation (40) and Gift Investments (40).^[2]

In 2012, the company acquired 100 buses from China at a cost of USD\$7 million. The buses of the FAW brand were meant to boost the country's income in its quest to recover from the hyperinflation era between 2002 and 2007.

In August 2013, ZUPCO acquired 51 buses valued at \$4,3 million as part of the organisation's three year strategy which was aimed at improving operations and maximising shareholder value. The new fleet which comprised 40 conventional and 11 luxury buses was meant to service inter-urban and rural routes.^[3]

Major Accidents

Harare-Nyamapanda Road Bus Disaster (18 Jan 2015)



Wreckage of [ZUPCO](#) bus after colliding with [Unifreight](#) bus

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Date: Sunday, 18 January 2015

Location: [Harare- Nyamapanda](#) Highway, 35 km peg

Involved: [ZUPCO](#) bus and [Unifreight](#) bus

Deaths: 26

Injuries: 45 injured

Cause of accident: Both drivers said to be speeding, Harare-bound Unifreight bus said to have encroached onto other lane.

Harare - Nyamapanda Bus Accident (4 Aug 2014)



[ZUPCO](#) Bus plunges into river

Date: Monday, 4 August 2014

Location: [Harare- Nyamapanda](#) Highway, 22 km peg

Involved: [ZUPCO](#) bus and [Mujawo Transport](#) haulage truck

Deaths: 13

Injuries: 18 injured

Cause of accident: Haulage truck was reversing and Malawi-bound bus came and side-swiped it, leading



to bus plunging into the river

Shurungwi Accident (Feb 2014)

Date: February 2014

Location: Shurugwi-Mandamabwe road.

Involved: ZUPCO Bus

Deaths: 4

Injuries: 12 injured

Cause of Accident: The Bus Swept away while trying to cross a flooded River

Musebezi River Accident (February 2014)

Date: February 2014

Location: Musebezi River, Midlands

Involved: ZUPCO Bus and Haulage Truck

Deaths: 4

Injuries: 1

Cause of Accident: Collision with a Haulage Truck

Zvishavane Accident (October 2013)

Date: October 2013

Location: Runde River, Zvishavane

Involved: Bus

Deaths: 14

Injuries: 16 injured

Cause of Accident: Plunged into Runde River

Kwekwe Accident (September 2012)

Date: September 2012

Location: Kwekwe

Involved: Zupco Bus and Private Car

Deaths: 4

Injuries: Noone was injured

Cause of Accident: Collision with a Private Car

About Pindula

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

To join the Pindula community of editors, please go to <https://contribute.pindula.co.zw?> or just get in touch with us on **WhatsApp: +263 77 770 7852.**

References

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