



Summary:

Forever Associates Zimbabwe

May 2024

The Forever Associates Zimbabwe (FAZ) trust, set up to help ZANU-PF win the 2023 elections, was established by associates and family members of Asher Walter Tapfumaneyi, the deputy director general of the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO).

FAZ's activities—including a large get-out-the-vote operation—may have helped the ruling party win the election. Observers, including Southern African Development Community (SADC) poll monitors, reported FAZ's presence at thousands of polling stations, where its reported links to ZANU-PF and the security services may have intimidated rural voters.^{1, 2, 3}

Both Tapfumaneyi and FAZ deny that the CIO controls the trust.^{4, 5} However, the trust deeds for FAZ help confirm Zimbabwean media reports about the spy chief's relationship to the entity. One trustee is a family friend who shared an address with a member of Tapfumaneyi's family.⁶ A second trustee is someone who has the same uncommon name as an official aide to one of the two deputy directors general of the CIO—the position held by Tapfumaneyi—raising the question as to whether they are the same person.^{7, 8, 9, 10, 11} Tapfumaneyi's son is named as a FAZ founder on its website, while Tapfumaneyi's wife also reportedly headed a local FAZ branch.^{12, 13}



Trustees of FAZ and directors and shareholders of FAZ’s associated company

Original FAZ Trustees (Trust Deed 2010)	Present-Day FAZ Trustees (Deed of Change 2022)	Forever Associates Zimbabwe Pvt Ltd Shareholders and Directors (2022)
Kudakwashe Munsaka	Kudakwashe Munsaka	Kudakwashe Munsaka (20%)
Tangisai Tapera	Tangisai Tapera	
Kudzaishe Mangidza	Brenda Nyika	Brenda Nyika (60%)
Fungai Jonga	Jesca Sheila Saruchera	Jesca Sheila Saruchera (20%)
Gillian Shambare	Nicksha Chipfakacha	
Trinity Ncube	Sharon Chiwara	
Farai Mutamangira	Lawrence Mhlaba	
Winifilda Chirango		

Another trustee is Tangisai Tapera, Tapfumaneyi’s second in command when he headed the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs (MSPA), a small ministry established during the 2009-2013 coalition period to support President Mugabe.^{14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21}

The MSPA was designed to carry out various deals away from prying eyes, according to someone in the security sector at the time.²² For example, following the diamond fever that swept through eastern Zimbabwe in the late 2000s, Tapfumaneyi, Tapera, and lawyer Gerald Mlotshwa set up two companies—Moosejaw Enterprises and Rosy Red Capital.^{23, 24, 25, 26} Later, Tapfumaneyi, Mlotshwa, and Tapera set up two other companies as part of an MSPA oil deal with Iran: Lionshow Trading in Zimbabwe and Lionshow Resources in the United Arab Emirates.^{27, 28, 29}

When asked about his role with FAZ or at MSPA, Tapera said that he wasn't at liberty to discuss any details.³⁰ Mlotshwa stated that he provided legal advice and was not a business partner to Tapfumaneyi, and he said that legal privilege prevented him from commenting further.

FAZ acknowledged that the trust was first set up under the auspices of MSPA but said that the trust has recently been reinvigorated by volunteers keen to campaign for ZANU-PF. Both Tapfumaneyi and FAZ reject the suggestion that the CIO helped establish the ZANU-PF affiliate. FAZ declined to identify its funders, claiming that it is financed by "well wishers who prefer not to be named."³¹

One small clue suggesting CIO involvement can be found in publicly available information: The main phone number for FAZ was once used by one of the CIO's mid-ranking officers, according a review of phone contact apps that store users' address books.^{32, 33} In addition, the presence of several of Tapfumaneyi's contacts as trustees or founders is indicative of a link, if not between the CIO and FAZ, then at least between Tapfumaneyi and FAZ.

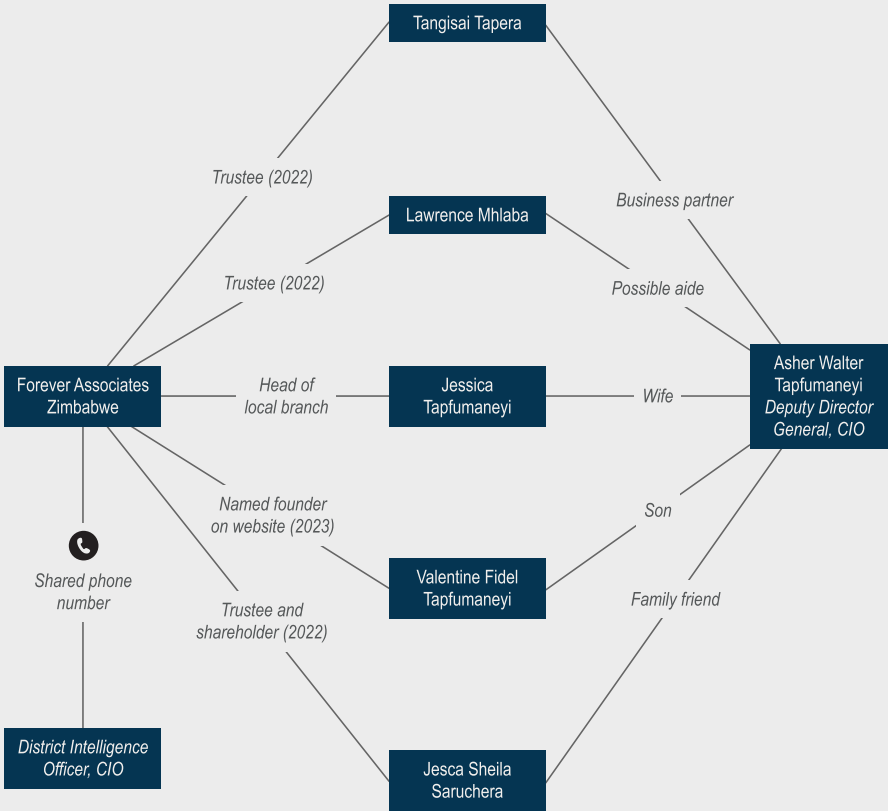
More details on the links between the MSPA, FAZ, and Tapfumaneyi are available in English on our website: www.thesentry.org.



Connections Between Asher Walter Tapfumaneyi and FAZ



Although Tapfumaneyi denies any connection to FAZ, several of the trust's founders and trustees have links to the CIO deputy director general.



Endnotes

- 1 Southern African Development Community Electoral Observer Mission, "Report on the 2023 Harmonised Elections in the Republic of Zimbabwe," September 25, 2023, p. 23, available at: https://www.veritaszim.net/sites/veritas_d/files/ZIM%20SEOM%20FINAL%20REPORT%20SUBMISSION.pdf
- 2 European Union Election Observer Mission, "Zimbabwe 2023 Final Report," November 17, 2023, pp. 5, 18, 34, available at: <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2023/EU%20EOM%20ZWE%202023%20FR.pdf>
- 3 CIO400 - Research and Advocacy Unit, Counselling Services Unit, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Veritas, and Heal Zimbabwe, "A Consolidated Report on Pre and Post Organised Violence and Torture During the 2023 Harmonised Elections in Zimbabwe," November 2023, available at: <https://researchandadvocacyunit.org/report/a-consolidated-report-on-pre-and-post-organised-violence-and-torture-during-the-2023-harmonised-elections-in-zimbabwe>
- 4 Forever Associates Zimbabwe response to The Sentry, June 24, 2023.
- 5 Joseph Cotterill and Kudzanai Musengi, "The Shadowy NGO Accused of Manipulating Zimbabwe Election Process," Financial Times, August 16, 2023, available at: <https://www.ft.com/content/b66cae06-a0da-4dbf-ae69-d91a40e69c89>
- 6 Names of the trustee and daughter have been withheld. See:
Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Notarial Deed of Trust, February 9, 2010, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.
Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Deed of Name Change, November 4, 2022, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.
- 7 The first FAZ trust deed (2010) lists the following trustees: Kudakwashe Munsaka, Winifilda Chirango, Kudzaishe Mangidza, Fungai Jonga, Gillian Shambare, Trinity Ncube, Farai Mutamangira, and Tangisai Tapera. In 2022, there was a deed of change, and Winifilda Chirango, Kudzaishe Mangidza, Fungai Jonga, Gillian Shambare, Trinity Ncube, and Farai Mutamangira resigned as trustees. Brenda Nyika, Jesca Sheila Saruchera, Nicksha Chipfakacha, Sharon Chiwara, and Lawrence Mhlaba were appointed as new trustees in 2022. Thus, the trustees during the 2023 election were Kudakwashe Munsaka, Tangisai Tapera, Brenda Nyika, Jesca Sheila Saruchera, Nicksha Chipfakacha, Sharon Chiwara, and Lawrence Mhlaba. In addition, the associated company, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Pvt Ltd, had three shareholders when it was formed in 2022: Brenda Nyika (60%), Jesca Sheila Saruchera (20%), and Kudakwashe Mvula Munsaka (20%). The directors of the company were the same three shareholders, while the company secretary was Brenda Nyika. See:
Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Notarial Deed of Trust, February 9, 2010, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.
Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, "Forever Associates Zimbabwe," June 2,



2022, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.

- 8 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Notarial Deed of Trust, February 9, 2010, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.
- 9 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Deed of Name Change, November 4, 2022, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.
- 10 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, “Forever Associates Zimbabwe (Private) Limited,” June 2, 2022, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.
- 11 A Lawrence Mhlaba was named as an aide to the deputy director general in the president’s department when attending a UN event. In addition, someone with the same name traveled in Mugabe’s entourage. See:
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, “Provisional List of Registered Participants,” November 2021, p. 843, available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PLOP_COP26.pdf
United States Department of State, “61st UN General Assembly: High Level Attendance and Requests for Meetings,” July 31, 2006, available at: https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06HARARE963_a.html
- 12 The Forever Associates Zimbabwe website lists the following personnel: Dr. Bongani Ngwenya, CEO/Founder; Kudakwashe Mavula Munsaka, Chairman; Gillian Shambare, Founder; Kudzaiishe Mangidza, Founder; Fungai Jonga, Founder; Samson Mangozhe, Founder; Trinity Mashava, Founder; Valentine Fidel Tapfumaneyi, Founder; Brighton Mubaiwa, Founder; Ruvimbo Tambara, Founder; and Trinity Mashava, Founder. See:
Forever Associates Zimbabwe, “About Us,” available at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20230627041330/https://faztrust.com/about/>
- 13 The Herald, “Zanu PF Rescues 5 Families After Huts Destroyed,” September 19, 2022, available at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20240110104536/https://www.herald.co.zw/zanu-pf-rescues-5-families-after-huts-destroyed/>
- 14 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Notarial Deed of Trust, February 9, 2010, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.
- 15 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Deed of Name Change, November 4, 2022, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.
- 16 The first FAZ trust deed (2010) lists the following trustees: Kudakwashe Munsaka, Winifilda Chirango, Kudzaiishe Mangidza, Fungai Jonga, Gillian Shambare, Trinity Ncube, Farai Mutamangira, and Tangisai Tapera. In 2022, there was a deed of change, and Winifilda Chirango, Kudzaiishe Mangidza, Fungai Jonga, Gillian Shambare, Trinity Ncube, and Farai Mutamangira resigned as trustees. Brenda Nyika, Jesca Sheila Saruchera, Nicksha Chipfakacha, Sharon Chiwara, and Lawrence Mhlaba were appointed as new trustees. Thus, the trustees during the 2023 election were Kudakwashe Munsaka, Tangisai Tapera, Brenda Nyika, Jesca Sheila Saruchera, Nicksha Chipfakacha, Sharon Chiwara, and Lawrence Mhlaba. In addition, the associated company Forever Associates Zimbabwe Pvt Ltd had three shareholders when it was formed in 2022: Brenda Nyika (60%), Jesca Sheila Saruchera (20%), and Kudakwashe Mvula Munsaka (20%). The directors of



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Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Notarial Deed of Trust, February 9, 2010, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.

Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Deed of Name Change, November 4, 2022, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.

17 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, "Forever Associates Zimbabwe (Private) Limited," June 2, 2022, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.

18 For a list of "founders" naming Valentine Fidel Tapfumaneyi, see:

Forever Associates Zimbabwe, "About Us," available at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20230627041330/https://faztrust.com/about/>

19 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Notarial Deed of Trust, February 9, 2010, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.

20 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, Forever Associates Zimbabwe Deed of Name Change, November 4, 2022, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.

21 A Lawrence Mhlaba was named as an aide to the deputy director general in the president's department when attending a UN event. In addition, someone with the same name traveled in Mugabe's entourage. See:

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Provisional List of Registered Participants," November 2021, p. 843, available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PLOP_COP26.pdf

United States Department of State, "61st UN General Assembly: High Level Attendance and Requests for Meetings," July 31, 2006, available at: https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06HARARE963_a.html

22 The Sentry interview with an anonymous source, 2023.

23 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, "Moosejaw Enterprises (Private) Limited," May 11, 2000, reviewed by The Sentry in 2024.

24 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, "Rosy Red Capital (Pvt) Limited," November 4, 2011, reviewed by The Sentry in 2024.

25 United States Department of State, "Military Expansion Fuels Diamond Chaos in Chiadzwa," January 9, 2009, available at: https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/09HARARE24_a.html

26 The Sentry interview with an anonymous source, 2023.

27 Ras al Khaimah Investment Authority, Lionshow Resources Limited incumbency certificate, December 21, 2011.

28 Zimbabwe Registrar of Companies, "Lionshow Trading (Private) Limited," February 29, 2008, reviewed by The Sentry in 2023.

29 The Sentry interview with an anonymous source, 2023.

30 The Sentry phone call with Tangisai Tapera, March 6, 2024.

31 Forever Associates Zimbabwe response to The Sentry, June 24, 2023.

32 Forever Associates Zimbabwe, "About Us," available at: <https://web.archive.org>.



[org/web/20230627041330/https://faztrust.com/about/](https://www.faztrust.com/about/) (last accessed January 2024).

- 33 The Sentry analysis of phone numbers associated with Forever Associates Zimbabwe using CallApp, Numbuster, CallerID, and PIPL, January 2024.

