

OBITUARY

Roy G Stephens

12 April 1935 – 27 November 2015

Roy George Stephens was born in Bulawayo in 1935 and lived his entire life in the city, contributing to the sporting, cultural and business community of the City.

He attended Milton Junior School, and then went onto Milton Senior where he was head-boy in 1952. Many years later, he served as the Chairman of the School PTA, at a time when the school was transforming itself at Independence.

He went to the University of Cape Town, and subsequently joined the Bulawayo Board of Executors and Trust Company in 1958. He retired after 42 years' service in 2000 as both Chairman, a position he had held for many years, and a Managing Director.

During this period, and through the Bulawayo Board, he served as Chairman of Falcon Gold Mines Ltd (Falgold) having steered it to its listing on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange. At the time Falgold was the country's largest gold producer. He was also Chairman of Olympus Gold Mines (Pvt) Ltd, Willsgrove Brick and Potteries (Pvt) Ltd, and a Director of Zimcor Ltd and Knight Frank and Rutley.

Roy was a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute London, and served as Chairman of Willis Coroon, followed by Alexander Forbes from 2000 to 2010, Associated Brokers International (Pvt) Ltd and was the Chairman of WFDR Risk Services at the time of his death.

In the mining sector Roy was a well-known figure for many years, representing the Industry on two Government delegations to India and Canada shortly after Independence. He was elected President of the Chamber of Mines, having served for many years on the Executive and as Vice-President. He was also Chairman of the Mining Industry Pension Fund. Following his retirement in 2000 he was elected as a Life Member of the Chamber of Mines.

The Zimbabwe School of Mines was both established, and located in Bulawayo, during this period, almost entirely due to Roy's efforts and persuasion. The Zimbabwe School of Mining is now recognised as the SADC Centre of excellence for mining, a credit to the City of Bulawayo, but a tribute to a determined son of this City.

For many years he served as Chairman of CABS (Matabeleland Board) and was a member of the main Board. After his retirement he served as CEO of ABUZ, and was also Chairman of the Bulawayo Publicity Association, on which Executive he served for ten years.

On the sporting arena, Roy captained Matabeleland Hockey, and went on to play for his Country. He was a member of the first National Team to travel abroad.

As a boy he grew up very involved with Boy Scouts, with his crew winning the annual Assegai Competition, and earning the first ever Kings Scout Award in Southern Rhodesia. He went on to become a member of the Raylton Rover Crew, one of the last surviving member. It was from his scouting days that Roy became interested in botany, a lifetime hobby that was immensely rewarding and resulted in some significant work done in the Matobo Hills.

Roy's great passion was the Matobo Hills. Apart from his depth of knowledge and love of all that the hills have to offer, he was a member of the Rhodes Estate Matobo Committee, and served as Chairman of the Matobo Conservation Society.

Roy is survived by Joan, his children Sally, Gavin and Desmond, and four grandchildren.