

Meteor flash causes big stir in city

Chronicle Reporters

A SPECTACULAR meteor or shower lit up the skies over central and south-western Zimbabwe from around 9.00 last night.

The meteors, basically chunks of rock from space smashing into the atmosphere, were seen over Bulawayo heading from north to south.

Fears that it might be an aircraft about to crash sent ambulances and the fire brigade and police vehicles and curious motorists racing down the Bulawayo-Esigodini Road towards a possible crash site.

The phenomenon was sighted by hundreds of Bulawayo residents and *The Chronicle* switchboard was jammed with calls from anxious inquirers.

However, a *Chronicle* team which drove 25km along the Bulawayo-Esigodini Road after reports

that the unidentified object might have crashed in that vicinity, could not locate anything.

More than 12 fire tenders from the Bulawayo City Council, The Civil Aviation and Airport Rescue Department including ambulances and police cars, which responded to the alarm spent more than two hours searching in vain for the crash.

The Chronicle team was told that the unidentified object was last sighted disappearing in the southern horizon, possibly headed for the Gwanda area.

The identity of the object and its final destination could not be ascertained last night.

Meanwhile *The Herald* reported that it was inundated with calls from most parts of Harare and from as far away as Kwekwe asking what was happening.

Mr Philip Savy of Mabelreign said it was the most spectacular shower of the several he had seen. Standing on the western boundary of Harare he said he first saw single meteors entering the atmosphere. But then the celestial display really

hotted up with at least two showers.

Bigger chunks were breaking up and scattering their fragments.

He thought some of the meteors might have been large enough to have landed in Zimbabwe.

Wife to pay main

IN an unusual case heard yesterday, Bulawayo magistrate Mr Misheck Matanhire, ordered a woman to pay her estranged husband \$200 monthly as maintenance.

The husband, Mr Israel Misheck Ndlovu, had applied for maintenance of \$300 per month from his wife, Ms Debra Mguni on the grounds that he

Court Reporter

was unemployed and that the wife was not supporting him.

Giving evidence in court, Ms Mguni said she had left the matrimonial home because Mr Ndlovu assaulted her. Although they were legally married, she said she had decided to

leave for the
"He assaulted me for a year, and I left him. I have not seen him since our child," she said.

In response, she said she was assaulting the husband because he was asking her to pay maintenance. She said she had reconciled.

At the end of the hearing, the magistrate asked what the wife was prepared to pay monthly accordingly. She said she had money with her and was prepared to pay the husband \$200 per month.

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