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CHRONICLE

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THE CHRO

Flying object remains mysterious

Chronicle Reporter

THE mystery of the object seen in the sky on Wednesday night by most Zimbabweans deepened yesterday with experts saying although it was sighted in the whole of Southern Africa, it had not been officially identified.

Officials of the Department of Civil Aviation in Bulawayo said the object believed to have been a meteor which appeared to have come from Zambia, was sighted by people in neighbouring countries including South Africa.

South African Civil Aviation experts are said to have sighted the object, and like their Zimbabwean counterparts, they were reportedly inundated with calls from people who wanted to know what it was.

A spokesman for the Bulawayo Fire Brigade said the object frightened many people who thought it was a plane that was about to crash.

He said the Fire Brigade responded to calls from residents of farms near Esigodini. A subsequent check by the Fire Brigade and Civil Aviation officials yielded nothing, he said.

"We contacted the army because it has facilities all over the country but when they told us that the object had also been sighted in Masvingo, we called-off the search," he said.

The secretary of the Bulawayo Astronomical Society, Mr Kim Curtis, said he had received conflicting reports.

According to Mr Curtis, a meteor could not be seen for more than 60 seconds.

Some residents of Kensington who saw the so-called meteor thought it was an aeroplane about to crash and they claimed that they could see smoke and flaming chunks falling off from the object.