
*MY LIFE AND MY LOVE FOR THE GREAT GAME OF GOLF
WHICH MADE ME CROSS PATHS WITH ONE OF THE
GREATEST HEROES OF ZIMBABWE – ALOIS TAKAWIRA
MANGWENDE*

Lewis Muridzo chitengwa

I come from the Mukwambo clan of Kwamurehwa, and my wife, Josephine, is also from Kwamurehwa. Through marriage, I am proud to be connected to the Mangwende family, a bond that has brought great meaning and strength to my life.

In those days, life often revolved around building meaningful connections, and one of the most impactful relationships I developed was with Alois. He was a man of remarkable vision and determination. Our paths first crossed through Solomon Mushonga, who worked at OK and was known for his sharp mind and collaborative nature. Solomon and I shared many rounds of golf together, and one day, he introduced me to Alois. Little did I know, this introduction would mark the beginning of a transformative journey.

Alois was a force to be reckoned with—charismatic, focused, and deeply committed to his goals.

Together, we visited Glen Eagles, a newly established golf course at the time. It was a place full of potential, but Alois saw more than just a golf course—he saw an opportunity to create something extraordinary. As the chairman, Alois took charge and led with an inspiring sense of purpose.

Under Alois’s leadership, Glen Eagles became a symbol of innovation and inclusivity. He worked tirelessly to secure sponsorships from companies under OK, ensuring that people from all backgrounds had the chance to be part of something bigger. His efforts brought diverse individuals together, fostering a sense of community and competition that was truly groundbreaking.

Our partnership flourished both on and off the golf course. Together, we achieved remarkable milestones, winning several prestigious tournaments. Among our victories were the Castle and African Distillers-sponsored championships, the TAP Open, the multiracial mixed Mashonaland Foursomes at Ruwa, and the Coca-Cola Trophy. Each triumph was not just a celebration of skill but a testament to the values Alois upheld: dedication, teamwork, and excellence.

What I admired most about Alois was his unwavering commitment to doing things the right way. He believed in meticulous planning and execution, leaving no room for shortcuts or half-measures. He often reminded us that success wasn't just about winning trophies; it was about upholding principles and setting a standard that others could aspire to. His disciplined approach inspired everyone around him, including me, to give our very best in everything we did.

Beyond golf, Alois and I shared many moments of camaraderie and deep conversations about life, family, and ambition. He had a unique way of bringing out the best in people, challenging us to dream bigger and work harder. Through him, I learned the importance of resilience, vision, and the power of collaboration.

My connection to Alois was further strengthened by my marriage to Josephine, whose family, the Mangwende, shares a proud and rich history. This relationship brought a deeper sense of belonging and added another layer of meaning to the work we did at Glen Eagles.

Reflecting on those years, my partnership with Alois stands out as one of the most impactful chapters of

my life. Together, we built more than just a golf legacy—we built friendships, fostered unity, and inspired a generation to believe in the power of determination and shared goals. Alois's influence remains with me to this day, a constant reminder of what can be achieved when vision meets unwavering dedication.