



Investing In People For
Social And Economic Justice

BREAKFREE

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development Newsletter

2019 1st Edition

FROM THE EDITOR

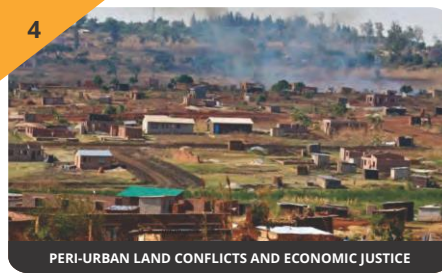
Angella Mandoreba



The 2019 First Quarter was indeed an eventful and busy period for the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) with numerous social and economic justice informed activities. The coalition started on a good note having set a strong pace for the rest of the year. This is despite the fact that the period was marred by both political and socioeconomic disturbances.

The struggle against social and economic injustice in Zimbabwe was catapulted to another level and this saw the government buying in to ZIMCODD's call for a national debt audit. As Zimbabwe is saddled with a public debt of over US\$18 billion both domestic and external debt, the January to March 2019 period registered an assertive public debt campaign characterised by immense policy research and analysis, interface and awareness raising meetings complimented by substantial online activism. ZIMCODD brings to you the 2019 1st Quarter BreakFree Newsletter carrying the coalition's core business of social and economic justice advocacy.

The current global economic system is fast altering individual countries' economic outlooks and Zimbabwe is no exception with the government embracing the neoliberal economic route evidenced by the operationalisation of the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP). In simple terms, neo-liberalism is an ideology that supports the growth of capital at the expense of social service delivery and manifests itself through, for example, tax incentives for the private sector, privatisation and austerity measures. It is worrisome that the adopted economic trajectory is leaving the general populace at the periphery of the whole national economic matrix flawed by lack of citizen engagement and participation. As a social and economic justice coalition, ZIMCODD continued and will continue offering alternative macro-economic policies that are pro poor in defense of citizens' social and economic rights.



ZIMCODD UNVEILS ZIMDEBT RESOLUTION STRATEGY

Zimbabwe has been in debt distress since 2000 and since then, there was no clear and sustainable debt resolution strategy. Nevertheless, as a social and economic justice coalition, ZIMCODD could not just sit back and watch the country plunge into a worse debt crisis. In response to this gap, ZIMCODD came up with a debt resolution strategy named Sustainable and Inclusive Debt Management Framework for Zimbabwe (SIDMaF), a paper that followed wide research and consultations with various stakeholders.

The launch of SIDMaF is a landmark publication for the coalition as ZIMCODD believes that it is a collective responsibility to address the macroeconomic challenges bedeviling the economy and the debt crisis in particular. Parliament, central government, civil society, international financial institutions and private sector are equally important in resolving the current debt crisis and

shaping a sustainable debt management framework going forward.

The economic crisis and the debt overhang in Zimbabwe has remained a national and global topical issue despite the looming debt crisis in other Sub-Saharan countries. The Zimbabwean case remains unique and challenging in that the country's indebtedness has been exacerbated by the huge debt arrears currently at 76% of the total external debt, continuous violation of legal and constitutional provisions, secrecy and exclusionary decision making by policy makers. Resolving the country's debt crisis therefore remains central in reforming the broader macroeconomic framework for Zimbabwe. For a full publication follow the link below:

<http://www.zimcodd.org/sites/default/files/research/ZIMCODD%20Sustainable%20and%20Inclusive%20Debt%20Strategy%20Paper.pdf>

SCRIBES ABOARD THE TRAIN HEADING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEBT MANAGEMENT IN ZIMBABWE



As ZIMCODD continues to steer its wheel towards sustainable public debt management in Zimbabwe, the coalition roped in members of the fourth estate in the struggle given that media reporting on debt contraction and analysis is vital in raising informed voices and demand for accountability among the citizenry. Towards the cause, ZIMCODD conducted media training on debt discourse on Thursday 21 March 2019 where journalists were challenged to effectively discharge their watchdog role in ensuring that the government abides by the Constitutional provisions in as far as public finance management is concerned.

The training came at the backdrop of the realisation that both private and public media journalists are not conversant with public debt issues bedeviling the

country and as a result they are not in a position to inform citizens on public debt contraction processes as well as calling for transparency and accountability in the sector. Participants were keen to understand the impact of public debt on the economy, the role of media in public finance management and best ways to bridge the gap between civil society organisations and the fourth estate. At the end of the meeting, media practitioners demonstrated an appreciation of public debt issues in Zimbabwe as they suggested that civil society organisations and journalists should collaborate towards the realisation of transparency and accountability in public finance management and economic governance in general. Of interest is the fact that more than 10 stories on debt were published following the training.

ACALL TO ACTION

By Nqobizitha Mlambo



The obtaining political and socioeconomic crises in Zimbabwe are a clear testimony of lack of a common/shared vision for Zimbabweans to collectively work together and find solutions to the crises bedeviling the country. What is therefore required is for ZIMCODD and other like-minded social movements to join hands with other critical stakeholders towards resolution of the country's mayhem.

The political instability fueled by the contested outcome of the 2018 harmonized elections, in particular, the Presidential results further worsened the situation in the country as there is no national cohesion and a solid national contract. The economic crisis is making the situation worse because since January 2019, the cost of living has risen with basic commodities like fuel being scarce in the country. The country's debt stock which has reached outrageous levels sums up the bad state in which the Zimbabwean economy is in.

The existing economic figures from the Bretton Woods Institutions, the United Nations Development Programme as well as the UN Human Rights Council indicate that Zimbabwe is plunging further into serious levels of economic uncertainty that will continue to have devastating effects on the poor. In its projections, the International Monetary Fund has postulated that the Zimbabwean economy is expected to experience a negative growth of -5% in 2019 whilst the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has indicated that over 70% of Zimbabweans are living in extreme poverty fuelled by drought, the country is experiencing. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) warned the Zimbabwean government that austerity measures without any safety nets to cushion the poor against the excesses of unregulated market economics and a regressive tax system are detrimental. In this regard, the socio-economic condition of the ordinary citizen continues to deteriorate despite the constitutional provisions of social and economic rights for citizens. Whilst it is the obligation of the government to provide social services like education, affordable healthcare, clean water, sanitation, roads and good jobs, the opposite is happening with bad governance and corruption being the order of the day. It is high time civil society organisations intensify the struggle towards the realisation of pro poor socioeconomic system as well as a comprehensive and participatory national debt.

Aluta Continua!!!

ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

By Nqobizitha Mlambo

Parallel to the 10th edition of the people's Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) in Cape Town South Africa which ran from the 3rd to the 6th of February 2019, AFRODAD, ZIMCODD and Human Rights Watch, conducted a side event to the AMI focusing on illicit financial flows (IFFs), human rights and developmental challenges posed by IFFs.

The side event attracted diverse AMI participants from different parts of the SADC region and other African states. Primarily the mentioned side event was a platform for AFRODAD to launch a study it conducted on IFFs. Mr. Rangariri Chikova of AFRODAD gave a presentation on the AFRODAD Malawi study. The study focused on assessing the political economy drivers of IFFs and corruption and the nexus between corruption and domestic resource mobilisation in the SADC region. In addition, the study touched on issues like upholding human rights in the mining sector as well as curbing IFFs for community development. Participants interacted with the findings of the study with most participants emphasising the importance of community based activism, where citizens in their different localities mobilise and escalate the fight against IFFs that are perpetrated in most cases by multi-national mining corporations in some cases by national governments.

After participants interrogated the study's findings and gave recommendations on the way forward in terms of how activism that is rooted in mining communities can help curb IFFs, ZIMCODD as represented by Mr. John Maketo, gave a presentation on "Strengthening Citizen Participation in Fight Against IFFs for Community Development." The presentation using empirical evidence clearly elucidated the developmental implication of IFFs on community development. Poor service delivery, unemployment/under-employment, corruption, and underdevelopment were some of the examples given as the direct effects of IFFs on community development. IFFs it was highlighted in the presentation are a direct result of neo-patrimonialism; transfer pricing, bad governance and weak institutions that can help curb and deal with IFFs. Mining communities continue to bear the environmental debt burden created by extractivism in their communities and this is compounded further by IFFs as most financial proceeds from mining communities are not reinvested back into the communities to transform the livelihoods and material conditions of the ordinary people.

Mr. Dewa Mavhinga of Human Rights Watch followed with a presentation on the "Implications of IFFs on Human Rights in Southern Africa." Mavhinga stated categorically that across the entire SADC region all countries are losing a lot of revenue to IFFs. He argued that the region loses more through IFFs than it receives in the form of aid and foreign direct investment. From a human rights perspective, IFFs have implications on access to justice. Ordinary mining communities in SADC cannot access the courts because of the cost associated with lodging a simple court case against mining corporations that perpetrate IFFs. Human rights to decent and sustainable lives as enshrined in most SADC constitutions as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are compromised by IFFs as most global mining conglomerates seem untouchable even to African governments despite the glaring evidence of being involved in IFFs.

Participants interacted with both the Human Rights Watch and ZIMCODD presentations. Robust discussions, comments, refutations and points of convergence emerged in the discussions. In their entirety, participants agreed that a new form of community based activism like that witnessed in the SADC region during the fight against colonialism must be revived if the region is to win the battle against IFFs.

If Africa in general and SADC in particular is to succeed in curbing illicit financial flows, fundamental structural changes in relation to governance and the systemic fight against corruption must be taken seriously. Paying lip service to the scourge of IFFs won't in any way help the region and continent. For sustainable human development and sustainable mining to be a reality, African leaders and mining communities must work together agreeing on a set of values that encompass the governance model requisite for democratic natural resources governance.

MONTH OF 'JACARANDAS' HOPE VANISHES INTO THIN AIR

Angellah Mandoreba



To the majority of Zimbabweans, the month of November 2017 presented a ray of hope, a break free from years of socioeconomic, political and democratic bondage as evidenced by the jubilant historical march by Zimbabweans across all divides against 37 years of misrule by the former president, Robert Mugabe. Hope, especially for economic rebirth was placed on the advent of the new dispensation as the incumbent government lured the hearts of many through high-sounding mantras placing emphasis on zero tolerance to corruption, creation of jobs and the most famous Zimbabwe is open for business mantra that has seen the current regime embarking on a globetrotting spree in the name of reengagement.

The socioeconomic and political happenings that rocked the country during the 2019 first quarter are a clear depiction of hopes facing impediments. Private and public discussions, whether social, religious, or political ended up with issues to do with the country's biting social and economic crises, with the majority of ordinary citizens expressing disappointment at the status quo. Nevertheless, of all the crises, fuel shortages and the

subsequent nerve wrecking price hikes ruled the roost with motorists spending nights at fuel queues and the unbearable high cost of living. The deterioration of public social services delivery also reached its peak, with public hospitals fast becoming 'death traps' marred by shortage of basic drugs and other medical necessities.

The economic and social decay comes in the wake of austerity measures operationalised through the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP). As the country is pursuing the neoliberal economic route and embracing the late British philosopher and political economist John Stuart Mill's quote, "I have learned to seek my happiness by limiting my desires, rather than in attempting to satisfy them." It is the ordinary citizens who are feeling the pinch whilst the elites are 'living large.' Austerity for prosperity has so far proved to be shouldered by the suffering poor through an unjust taxing system and inconsistent currency regime. In contrast, the elites have since proved that they are not prepared to live in accordance with their policies. This does not only spell more harm than good to the poor but further widens the inequality gap.

HWANGE RESIDENTS PETITION PARLIAMENT OVER WARDS

By Fairness Moyana

Hwange residents have petitioned Parliament to finalise the incorporation of wards eight to 15 located in concession areas in the Hwange Local Board (HLB) administrative jurisdiction as calls for attainment of municipal status intensify. HLB and three companies Hwange Colliery Company, Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC), National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) are running the coal-mining town of Hwange. Wards Eight to 15 fall under concession areas of HCCL, NRZ and ZPC while wards One to Seven are run by HLB.

The three companies provide accommodation to their employees and social amenities such as clinics, sewer and water management services. However, the companies have been struggling to maintain and provide services to residents under their concession leading to a deplorable state of affairs. According to the petition lodged on 12 March 2019 to the Speaker of Parliament, Advocate Jacob Mudenda, Hwange Residents Association wants Parliament to expedite the execution of the amalgamation of the quasi-authorities into one administrative entity.

The petition in part read:

'Acknowledging that Section 265 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe provides for local governance based on democratic principles, transparency, accountability and

institutional cohesion. Disturbed by the local governance for Hwange, which does not incorporate the general populace as part of the stakeholders for the locality. Concerned that the dominance of the local corporates — Hwange Colliery Company Limited, National Railways of Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Power Company has sustained a local governance system that excludes the general populace from governance issues. Now therefore the petitioners beseech the Parliament of Zimbabwe to exercise its constitutional role and address the following issues of public concern; "Review the policy that subjects Hwange local area to administration and governance by corporate and enquire into the operational modalities of the current governance matrix for Hwange with a view to making the necessary policy recommended to the Executive."

Residents expressed anger during a public meeting organised by HRA at delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing to ensure that the running of the affairs in the mining town are amalgamated. HRA co-ordinator, Mr Fidelis Chima said the failure by those involved to finalise the incorporation of Hwange Town prompted them to approach Parliament.

"We have also petitioned Parliament so that the two arms of the Government intervene to address the exclusion of

the concession area from the governance of the country. What is happening is against the Constitution that there are councillors who are unable to exercise jurisdiction over their wards," said Mr Chima. According to HLB chairperson, Clr Nqobile Mabheha the expansion and development of Hwange was being hampered by lack of commitment among involved authorities in incorporating the said areas. "Government resources and funding such as ZINARA funding for roads, funding for water and sewer provision does not get to the eight wards, hence you still find the majority of houses in Numbers 1,2,3,5 and Cinderella with communal toilets. Water supply and sewer management in NRZ and the other areas is deplorable. The area under the colliery does not attract investment as investors are sceptical about investing in a mine set up," he said.

The Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing in 2016 wrote to the HLB approving the inclusion of wards eight to 15 into the administrative boundary of HLB. In response to the letter, the councillors convened a special meeting the same year to deliberate on the approval and attend to a request to make an application for municipal status

PERI-URBAN LAND CONFLICTS AND IMPERATIVES OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE – THE CASE OF GOROMONZI

By John Masimba Manyanya

Background

In Africa, peri-urban regions have recently become the focus on calls for properly designed public policies because of rising land conflicts involving rich urban based elites in alliance with governments on the one hand, and poor rural villagers on the other. Peri-urban challenges tend to be complex, but the rights of local rural residents in determining how they should be governed at the local level need to be respected. It is important that communities in peri urban regions are able to exercise power over the types and quality of public goods and services they want and how the public finances are to be managed in the delivery of such.

Peri-Urban Management

'Peri-urban' refers to the outskirts, hinterland or outer frontiers of an expanding town/city. It represents 'overlaps' between urban and rural territories. As a 'landscape interface' between town and country; a 'rural-urban transition' zone where urban and rural social, economic and political values tend to clash. As land available for agricultural and pastoral allotments is reduced against the background of expanding demands for land by an encroaching city, there is overcrowding and a fall in financial benefits from the land among existing rural communities. Just as cities are fast expanding outwards, livelihoods of poor rural residents in peri-urban areas are endangered by land invasions by rural district authorities. This is often in alliance with corrupt officials, traditional leaders, local politicians and land barons. Conflicts around land use in peri urban areas tend to disadvantage rural areas because of issues like illiteracy in rural areas, and the considerable confusion that prevails about the issue of rights to rural land and consequently, differential land access in peri-urban areas. Rural residents are particularly vulnerable because, just as they have no entitlement to rural land (ownership of land is vested in the state), they have no vested interest in or power over local rural councils. This weakens their socio-economic status and the political power to represent themselves and negotiate for their best interest.

Peri-Urban Land Conflicts in Zimbabwe

Since the 1990s, Zimbabwe's media is filled with cases of land repossessions, population displacements/evictions and conflict in the urban fringes (Epworth, Goromonzi/Chinyika and Domboshawa) and in small towns like Murewa, and Bindura. Zimbabwe's peri-urban land conflicts are fuelled by high demand for urban land, high income inequalities, lack of proper markets in rural frontiers of expanding cities, and corruption. Urbanization or large public/private investment projects are an

unavoidable reality in the world of today. Zimbabwean law allows clear procedures to be followed in resolving land-related conflicts. Responsible authorities, (municipalities, councils, companies,) and also wealthy land barons are bound to operate within the framework of the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act, as well as the Urban Councils Acts. This highlights the need to follow proper procedures as prospective land owners strive, or compete to become new owners of surrounding rural lands on which they may wish to develop their industrial, residential, infrastructural, and commercial investments. Part of the reason here is that the growing competition for rural land means that the rural poor who had been living on this land also risk losing their homes, their life investments, and their livelihoods, as they are displaced. This explains why poor rural communities tend to be vulnerable in the ensuing conflicts with land-hungry authorities, land barons and investors.

The Case of Goromonzi

Goromonzi District covers a large portion of Harare's peri-urban region as it stretches from the East to the West of the city. From 1990-2016 many communal residents in Goromonzi lost many hectares of farms and pasture land as a result of urban encroachment, and through direct activities of the Goromonzi Rural District Council, some of which led to violent incidents. Approaches used by the Goromonzi Rural District Council in managing land conflicts in Chinyika, have been in conflict with many provisions of the national Constitution. Since 1990s, land has been by the Goromonzi Rural District Council without due notification to local residents, without due respect for communal lands rights and without consideration of 'all relevant circumstances' as specified in the Constitution.

The experience of Goromonzi depicts a configuration of powers and influences at five levels; firstly (wealthy influential, city based elites and land speculators and barons), secondly (traditional leaders, including chiefs and headmen), thirdly (council officials) and fourthly (politicians), and fifthly (communal residents). Whilst a communal resident qualifies as the more indigenous or original settler on the land, they are the poorest, the weakest economically and therefore the most vulnerable in the vicious local struggles for the dwindling land resource. There are far too many loopholes for corrupt land dealings at the expense of vulnerable communities. There is very little to stop elites from the city to circumvent procedures and protocol, bribe a local chief or council official or use influence of a local politician to earn themselves vast pieces of ground for a pittance, in comparison with the market value of that land.



In the absence of a proper regulatory and policy framework for systematic intervention in the urban fringes, ad-hoc, knee-jerk policy reactions become the order of the day, leading to land losses by the poor; displacements, relocations, dislocation of livelihoods, marginalisation and the deepening impoverishment. This all endangers socio-economic rights in local areas; rights to potable water, food security, education, health, economic opportunity, gainful employment, secure and decent shelter, justice and protection of human dignity. Without proper or adequate planning systems in place, service delivery plummets and peri-urban frontiers quickly degenerate into slums. The poor in urban and peri-urban are caught in a web of insecurity, low income, environmental hazards and unsatisfied human needs. The poor face unsanitary living conditions, malnourishment, exposure to infectious organisms and toxic chemicals as well as lack of health services.

Peri-urban slums therefore reflect the failure by policy makers and planners to address massively expanding population demands for urban land, in the context of extreme scarcity of resources. There is need for local communities to be sensitized about their rights, so that they have deeper appreciation of their socio-economic environment, including the risks and vulnerabilities threatening them. The same local residents have, through local residents associations, important role to play in building awareness and confidence as they engage policy makers, traditional leaders and local administrators about governance related concerns affecting their livelihoods. This reduces the vulnerability of peri-urban communities to economic injustices resulting from gaps in the regulatory and policy framework. In the long term there is need for serious attention to laws and policies that protect vulnerable rural communities lying in the path of expanding cities.

POSITIONING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN 2030 VISION



The government of Zimbabwe introduced the Command Agriculture Scheme (CAS) in the 2016/17 farming season as a strategy to boost local food production and guarantee food security for Zimbabwe after financing towards the sector had drastically slumped following the Fast Track Land Reform Programme. The scheme targeted farmers near water bodies who could put a minimum of 200 hectares under maize per individual. Each farmer under the scheme was required to produce at least 1000 tonnes of maize and commit 5 tonnes per hectare towards repayment of advance loans in form of equipment and or inputs.

The government is currently implementing the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) a first policy framework meant to operationalise vision 2030 running from September 2018-2020. Vision 2030 is an economic thrust driven by liberalisation strategies aimed at economic growth rather than sustainable development. There are serious implications to agriculture for women smallholder farmers supported by Command Agriculture as the TSP proposes the shrinking of agricultural subsidies as well as promoting the private sector to participate.

It is against this backdrop that the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) provided a platform for smallholder women farmers in Goromonzi, Gokwe and Chipinge to scrutinise the Command Agriculture Contract Scheme, identify gaps within the scheme and develop strategies for advocacy around the continual availability of state funding towards the scheme in the context of economic neo-liberalisation.

Issues raised by women smallholder farmers

- Government must establish a clear and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism that ensures that beneficiaries of command agriculture inputs and other facilities can produce and are willing to repay the money they owe.
- Clear criteria used to select beneficiaries are long overdue so that government does not run losses by supporting none deserving farmers with farm inputs and implements.
- Smallholder farmers have been unable to access loans because banks demand collateral which most farmers do not have;
- Farmers are skeptical that if the CA scheme is privatised, private financial institutions may not support farmers who do not have title deeds to their land since the constitution stipulates that all land belongs to the state;
- Farmers recommended that the government should protect them through various subsidies, especially in times of inflation because farming business is no longer profitable as their proceeds are rated on the parallel market thus eroding the farmers' income;
- Smallholder farmers are not happy with the regressive 2% tax eroding their hard-earned income as they now pay the government twice through electronic transactions;
- Most women smallholder farmers in Checheche do not own land, they lost it to Green Fuel.

ZIMCODD SEJA FIGHTS FOR PENHALONGA SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

My name is Lloyd Sesemani, I am a ZIMCODD Social and Economic Justice Ambassador based in Penhalonga, Manicaland.

Penhalonga community is endowed with natural resources including gold and timber and it is my wish to see Penhalonga realizing more in terms of development but alas it is completely the opposite. Companies come and go leaving the community with polluted water, deep pits and huge slime dumps. It was upon realisation of such irresponsible resource exploitation by multi-national companies that I became a social and economic justice activist in 2014. ZIMCODD trainings and mining indabas capacitated me to stand for the rights of my community. In addition, my advocacy and communication skills improved through the trainings.

Furthermore, with the help from ZIMCODD, I participated on Diamond Fm, Radio Talk-Show on the topic The Investor I Want where we discussed community issues. The programme became popular among communities who are now demanding free prior informed consent before any operations start in their areas. This demand by the communities delayed the reopening of DTZ OZEGIO Company intending to reopen. It is critical for SEJAs to participate in addressing issues affecting their communities and exercise their social and economic rights.



#EVENITUP

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) in partnership with OXFAM in Zimbabwe participated in the Global Week of Action against Inequality which ran from the 18th to the 25th of January 2019. The struggle against inequality was conducted in communities and media platforms. Two community meetings in Epworth and Mutare were held as part and parcel of activities lined up globally in the Week of Action against Inequality under the Fight Inequality Alliance.

Besides community meetings, ZIMCODD also utilised social media platforms like Twitter, Blog site and Facebook to engage in online activism through sharing information on the Week of Action Against Inequality. This was done so that the campaign could have wide outreach targeting both citizens and people across the globe. Online activism also targeted the elites who were gathered in Davos during the same period so that they could be made aware of the terrible state of inequality in Zimbabwe and the world over for them to have a look at our recommendations for addressing inequality and bettering the lives of the ordinary citizens. The Week of Action against inequality campaign as spearheaded by ZIMCODD was a great success with immense impact. The activities both online and in communities were a step in the right direction towards building a vibrant people's movement against inequality, poverty, deprivation, social and economic injustices as well as poor service delivery.



CITIZENRY PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL IN DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESSES



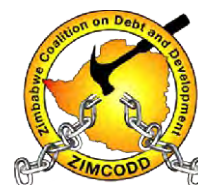
Pic: Service delivery conference in Tsholotsho

Rural Communities Empowerment Trust (RuCET) held public service delivery conferences in Nkayi and Tsholotsho. Whilst the service delivery indabas focused on providing a platform for citizens, local leadership and solution holders to engage on service delivery issues, the indabas provided communities with a platform to come up with collective advocacy agendas towards the fulfilment of their socio-economic rights.

Key issues discussed

- The conferences centred on the participation of citizens in budget allocations, community development, decision making processes, public policy formulation and implementation. The assumption is that once the citizens and stakeholders are informed about the development processes in their communities, it becomes easier for them to hold duty bearers accountable.
- Development of a framework to ensure that local authorities and residents make collective decisions on issues that affect their own development and to ensure collective advocacy for local resources to benefit the locals.

- Emphasis was placed on the need for a sound and clear public finance management and fiscal reporting for local authorities towards effective administrative and social service delivery.
- Recommendations were made on the distribution of finances under devolution.



Investing in People For
Social And Economic Justice

5 Orkney Road, Eastlea, Harare
Email: zimcodd@zimcodd.co.zw
Tel/Fax: +263-242-776830

Website: www.zimcodd.org

Facebook: Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development
Facebook Account: Zimcodd Zimcodd
Twitter @zimcodd1