



*Investing in People for Social & Economic Justice*

## **The Inhuman Demolition of Vendor Stalls and Tuck Shops Should Stop**

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) is concerned by the indiscriminate and inhuman demolitions of vending stalls and tuck shops in Harare and Chitungwiza. Given that the informal sector is the main source of employment for the majority of Zimbabweans, the actions by the government are causing untold human suffering at a time when citizens are grappling with the continually deteriorating economic and social conditions. It is ironic that the operation is also being carried when the government is calling for a national dialogue towards nation building.

### **Concerned by:**

- The demolition of vending stalls and tuck shops without serving sufficient notice to the concerned informal traders.
- Demolitions without proper consultations.
- The number of people whose livelihoods have been affected.
- Government's blind eye on the socioeconomic realities of the country.
- Use of military and police personnel to evict vendors yet there are local authorities mandated to regulate informal traders.
- Perpetual human suffering at the hands of securocrats.
- Lack of alternative sources of livelihoods against the backdrop of high unemployment rate in the country.
- Continuous violation of national and international laws guiding displacements.

### **Recommendations**

ZIMCODD therefore recommends the following:

- The government must stop demolishing informal traders' properties forthwith and allow a smooth transition to 'smart cities and towns.'
- The government must compensate informal traders for their assets and wares lost and destroyed during demolitions.
- In case of evictions, notice of 90 days minimum should be served to the concerned informal traders.

- Government should come up with an inclusive legal framework towards formalizing informal trading in support of small scale income generating projects to achieve its Agenda 2030.
- Dialogue and restoration of trust between government and the informal sector is long overdue. This should emerge from a broad-based consultation among all stakeholders.

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