



Investing in People for Social & Economic Justice

Press Statement

Investigations in relation to COVID-19 related procurements

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development noted with appreciation recent work by investigative journalists in Zimbabwe which unearthed alleged cases of corruption involving politically exposed persons.

The fight against COVID-19 indeed goes beyond addressing the health requirements and transparency, accountability and good governance remain at the heart of fighting the pandemic. It is a collective responsibility that involves citizens from across the social, economic and political divide. The media equally plays an important role in holding duty bearers to account especially in the mobilisation and utilisation of public resources. The recent initiative undertaken by journalists in the likes of Hopewell Chin'ono and media houses like ZimLive in unearthing the recent irregularities in the procurement of COVID-19 supplies are indeed commendable and positive step towards the realisation of transparency and accountability in the management of COVID-19 resources.

Scrutinising cross border transactions tackle corruption and movement of illicit financial flows. The corruption scandal did not only impact on people's health but the right to life as codified in the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

ZIMCODD further commends efforts by agencies such as the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) for acting on the information provided by whistle-blowers and taking swift action in investigating and prosecuting the perpetrators of the public procurement scandals. The swift response and collaboration by the Interpol is quite commendable. ZIMCODD hopes that all relevant actors will expedite the investigations, prosecution and trials of the accused persons. Previous experiences of catch and release pertaining to similar corruption cases should not be repeated. Pending corruption cases should be concluded and perpetrators brought to book.

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