

“Your Weekly Read on Debt, Development & Social & Economic Justice”
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Youth Leaders Bootcamp: Calling for youth Leadership on Social & Economic Justice

Young people should be leading the movement for social and economic justice. They should front society’s aspirations for equal rights and efficient social service delivery. They should be standing up for the less privileged, the economically marginalized and the vulnerable people in society. Youth should rewrite the script that shapes how to think, behave, and champion for social justice in difficult and closed spaces like Zimbabwe.

The energy, zeal and demographic strength of young people must be harnessed, nurtured and groomed. At the youth leadership boot camp that shall run from the 19th to the 21st of November 2020, there will be youth and mentor led workshops and activities designed to build skills in communication and how to pitch effective social and economic campaigns. Lectures on tax justice, social justice and pro-poor alternative economic and public policy activism will form part of the extensive agenda for youth empowerment.

The activist bootcamp will target youth with keen interest in social and economic justice activism who are part of the ZIMCODD Youth and Governance Hubs in Harare, Gweru, Masvingo, Bulawayo and Gweru. Modelled as a retreat, the youth camp will facilitate youth to learn and cross pollinate ideas in a non-formal environment. The activity which is aimed at nurturing activism and value driven leadership in youth will directly benefit 40 youth from across the country.

The aim of the Activist Bootcamp is to strengthen and capacitate well-rounded cadres that will become Social and Economic Justice Ambassadors (SEJAs) capable of advancing the ZIMCODD mission and vision. The objectives of the bootcamp are:

- To build the skills and knowledge of youth Social and Economic Justice Ambassadors;
- To strengthen the voices of youth for in-depth public policy discussions, analysis, policy formulation and research;
- To facilitate learning and sharing of effective strategies that can work in the context of continued shrinking civic and political space; and
- To increase youth participation in economic governance processes.

With ongoing victimisation and intimidation of youth activists, ZIMCODD created this bootcamp as a safe space for youth to be trained on creative activism and strategic influencing within a restrictive political and economic environment. The youth activist bootcamp is designed to cater for the different and sharp distinctions between what male and female youth and other different categories of youth experience as they try to navigate the socio-economic malaise that characterises Zimbabwe.

The bootcamp seeks to trigger robust, radical and ideas-based youth activism which has declined because of the socio-economic crisis in Zimbabwe that has turned young people into become survivalists and the toxic political terrain which is characterised by militarisation, violence and political polarity. Participants of the bootcamp will become leaders in shaping in-depth public policy discussions, analysis, policy formulation and research and information sharing in the context of a shrinking civic and political space. Overall, the camp seeks to strengthen youth participation in economic governance processes and self-organising.



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