

STATEMENT



Remembering the departed while remaining vigilant

The Zimbabwean Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) would like to take a moment to remember all its members, their family, friends and every Zimbabwean who has succumbed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have seen our staff and members affected directly and indirectly. It has been unbearable to see us losing those that are dear to us as a result of the pandemic. Although death is a path for all of us, this pandemic has left us shattered.

As an organisation that seeks to promote social and economic justice, human dignity, the sanctity of life is at the core of our values. The losses have wrecked us, but we draw strength to become more vigilant. We send a message of hope and strength to all of our members and their family and friends and remind them that they are not alone.

Although we have been bruised, we remain grateful to all our stakeholders' steadfast and creative efforts to forge ahead since the pandemic befell us in 2020. As the situation around COVID-19 continues to evolve, we take pride in the resolve to maintain social distancing, to mask up, sanitise and getting vaccinated. It hasn't been easy to adapt and be adept to these new ways, but together we have had to unlearn, learn and relearn.

Our goal has been, and continues to be the promotion of mechanisms that provide and protect the health and wellbeing of every citizen. In so doing, we will not cease to demand accountability and transparency in the way national resources are used to fight the pandemic.

We continue to navigate the rough terrain of the "new normal" and pave ways for community engagement so that citizens continue to learn and participate in public finance management whilst we continue in the work that we are passionate about- *Investing in People for Social and Economic Justice*.

We take pride in how all of us have embraced the responsibility to protect one another's health and support one another during the times of need and how we all work towards championing rights under extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

Our accomplishments have been hard-earned. Yet during this time of loss and sacrifice, we have also made gains- we have learnt that the pandemic does not discriminate, that we are each other's keeper and that old proven ways of hand and respiratory hygiene are critical whilst advancements in vaccine surely can reduce the impact.

May the souls of all our dearly departed rest in eternal peace.

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