

# STATEMENT



Friday 25 June, 2021

## **Statement on the Arrest of Alice Kuvheya of the Chitungwiza Residents Trust**



Above: Alice Kuvheya



The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development condemns the illegal and unconstitutional arrest of our member Alice Kuvheya the Director of Chitungwiza Resident Trust (CHITREST.)

We condemn the police for arresting Kuvheya for speaking out against the demolition of structures by the Chitungwiza Town Council. The demolitions were done without sufficient notice to residents and without providing an alternative livelihood support for the affected residents. Alice Kuvheya is a Zimbabwean citizen with constitutional rights that include the freedom of expression and should be allowed to exercise the same.

By expressing her reservations on the council's move to destroy the ordinary people's homes and centres of livelihoods, Alice was well within her rights as a residents' leader and Zimbabwean to speak out freely as is expected in an open and democratic society.

We call on the government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, to facilitate timely

delivery of justice for Alice Kuvheya. The act of arresting Alice Kuvheya not only silences, intimidates and marginalise women from participating in economic development but also contravenes Section 14 (1-2) of the Constitution which provides that:

- *The State and all institutions and agencies of government at every level must endeavour to facilitate and take measures to empower, through appropriate, transparent, fair and just affirmative action, all marginalised persons, groups and communities in Zimbabwe.*
- *At all times the State and all institutions and agencies of government at every level must ensure that appropriate and adequate measures are undertaken to create employment for all Zimbabweans, especially women and youths.*

Women and youths constitute the majority of the informal economy in Zimbabwe and government must be seen to be promoting the empowerment and uplifting of women and youths if at all the National Development Strategy (NDSI) goals are to be a reality.

Government must equally deal with the concerns raised by Alice Kuvheya through dialogue so that long lasting and sustainable solutions can be found to the challenge of economic informality, illegal structures and the citizens' dire needs to lead sustainable livelihoods in an economy that is not producing any jobs.

**Justice for Alice Kuvheya!**

**Stop the Demolitions**