



# PRESS RELEASE

**ZIMCODD**

Friday, 11 March 2022

## **The Herald Publication on ZIMCODD's participation during Public Consultations on the Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) Amendment Bill: Facts of the Matter**

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) notes with great concern the article by a correspondent for the Herald Zimbabwe dated 10 March 2022 titled “**Participants welcome PVO Amendment Bill**”, where allegations of the organisation being involved in bussing and ferrying of people from Harare and Masvingo to attend the Gutu consultation were made. The article alleged that the organisation did this through someone by the name Prosper Tiringindi purportedly an employee of ZIMCODD. The smearing of the organisation's name and image in both print and online media have necessitated this press release to share with the public and concerned stakeholders the facts of the matter and setting the record straight regarding the organisation's participation in the PVO Bill public consultations.

### **What does ZIMCODD do in Zimbabwe?**

Since inception in 2000, ZIMCODD is and remains a social and economic justice coalition dedicated to facilitating citizen's involvement in public policy and advocating for socioeconomic policies that are people centred and pro-poor. The coalition's mandate is to take action in redressing the debt burden and social and economic injustices through formulation and promotion of alternative policies. Much still needs to be done in this area and as such we opt to remain in our lane and run our course until the debt burden on Zimbabwe is reduced to sustainable levels, until the ordinary people are earning a decent livelihood, have decent jobs, receive decent health and education among other social and economic rights.

### **What role did ZIMCODD play during the PVO Bill public consultations?**

The Bill was gazetted by government on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 and subjected to public scrutiny with Parliament inviting all citizens and organisations to participate by way of giving either written or oral submissions during the public hearings. As a membership-based organisation, ZIMCODD raised awareness on the proposed amendments across the country and encouraged **its members** to attend and participate which is within the organisation's civic duty and mandate given by its membership. This does not warranty it running a political agenda against the PVO Bill.

## **What are the true facts of the matter?**

Contrary to The Herald article dated **10 March 2022**, Prosper Tiringindi is neither an employee nor a member of ZIMCODD. The above mentioned has no association with the organisation at all and was not in any way contracted to mobilise or ferry citizens from Harare and Masvingo to Gutu for the PVO Bill consultations on behalf of the organisation. Members of ZIMCODD who participated in the public consultations did so out of their own will and in their own right and there was no monetary incentive as purported by the article. It is regrettable that the correspondent who wrote the story defeated one of the core principles of journalism, which is the principle of ‘Truth and Accuracy’. ZIMCODD would therefore like to set the record straight and:

1. Distance itself from the alleged busing of people to Gutu from Harare and Masvingo purportedly through one Prosper Tiringindi.
2. Demand Herald Zimbabwe to issue an apology for the erroneous or otherwise deliberate mention of ZIMCODD in the article cited above to the effect of smearing the organisation’s image.
3. Set the record straight that there was no consultation of ZIMCODD by the writer to verify facts either in writing or in-person which is a journalistic standard.

It is ZIMCODD’s hope that Herald Zimbabwe will positively act accordingly and respectfully by way of correcting this anomaly. Should a legal remedy be necessitated by lack of corrective action stated above, the organisation will not hesitate to do the needful.