

## THE WEEKEND READER

“Your Weekly Read on Debt, Development & Social & Economic Justice”

4/22/22



### A Peek into the National Development Strategy I Abridged Civil Society Monitoring Mechanism (CISOMM) Report

The National Development Strategy (NDS) I is recognised as an ambitious blueprint that is well-crafted. However, the high expectations associated with the NDSI are gradually collapsing due to the unavailability of granular and disaggregated data consistent with the NDSI Key Result Areas (KRAs) indicators and measures. The Zimbabwe National Statistical Agency (ZIMSTAT) has not yet produced statistics that are linked to NDSI targets. This lack of critical information restrains the monitoring and tracking of the policy – discounting the thoughtfulness of the policy discourse thereof. To circumvent the data limitations, appropriate proxies were considered in place of NDSI indicators and measures where necessary. The CISOMM observed that the NDSI missed most of its targets in 2021.

#### CISOMM KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

##### PRIORITY AREA 1

###### Economic Growth and Stability of National Development

Most fundamentals were unstable in 2021 despite the economy expanding by 7.8%. With the exception of growth, other KRAs variables grossly missed their targets, an indication of retarded progression towards Vision 2030. The CISOMM advocates for the reform of the auction market if growth and sustainability are to subsist.

##### PRIORITY AREA 2

###### Food and Nutrition Security

Zimbabwe recorded a bumper harvest in 2021 but this did not reduce food poverty. Economic and climate shocks and low adoption of climate-smart technology impinge food and nutrition security. Resilience building is key, given challenges confronting food systems in the country if equity to accessing healthy and nutritious food is to be attained for all, taking into account environmental sustainability.

##### PRIORITY AREA 3

###### Moving the Economy up the Value Chain

Whereas there is limited progress in agro-processing and the development of green industries in value addition – missing the 2021 set targets, industrial capacity utilization surged in 2021. For enhanced structural transformation and domestication of value chains, policy inconsistency, funding challenges and infrastructure deficiencies must be addressed forthwith.

##### PRIORITY AREA 4

###### Transport, Infrastructure and Utilities

The state of Zimbabwe's transport, infrastructure and utilities development is below the targets of the NDSI. Priority should be given to water, energy and transport as they are major pillars that affect not only economic buoyancy, but the general standard of living of Zimbabweans. The appalling statistics of poor service delivery need urgent attention to redress the situation.



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## **PRIORITY AREA 5**

### **Digital Economy**

The Priority Area on Digital Economy performed fairly well although there is limited access to state data and interoperability. Internet access improved across the country although pricy data charges limit internet usage. Government must ensure that rural and urban schools have adequate infrastructure that supports ICTs, subsidize data for learning institutions and promote interoperability.

## **PRIORITY AREA 6**

### **Housing Delivery**

Housing delivery is still wanting as it failed to satisfy its targeted housing variables. The government stalled various housing programs (Housing flats in Waneka, Senondo, Shamrock, Florida, Dombotombo, Bindura, Mufakose, Seke, Tynwald and Mabelreign). The co-option of the private sector and pursuance of low-cost housing is expedient in reducing housing backlogs.

## **PRIORITY AREA 7**

### **Human Capital Development and Innovation**

It is almost impossible that this area has developed significantly given the deterioration witnessed since 2019 due to the economic meltdown buttressed by the COVID-19 pandemic – decimating the learning processes. Addressing the aged industrial grievances in the education sector, curbing brain drain, investing in ICTs for learning and reducing education inequality will improve equitable human capital development.

## **PRIORITY AREA 9**

### **Image Building, Engagement and Re-engagement**

Zimbabwe's image building, engagement and re-engagement process is off the rail, and it is imperative for government to prioritize key reformations related to free and fair elections, rule of law, property rights, compensation of white farmers, security sector reforms, improve the Ease of Doing Business if meaningful results are to be achieved.

## **PRIORITY AREA 10**

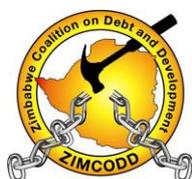
### **Devolution and Decentralization**

Whereas a number of projects kicked off courtesy of devolution and decentralization, this priority area missed its performance targets in 2021. The government ought to improve the efficiency of budget implementation as budget allocations are less than the stipulated 5% of the total budget whilst disbursements to provinces and local authorities were lagging, thereby stifling finalization of projects.

## **PRIORITY AREA 11**

### **Youth, Sport and Culture**

Sport and Culture targets were affected by restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic whilst targets for the youth were modestly addressed. Increased political will by the Government is expected in creating an enabling environment for the Youth whilst scaling budgetary support for youth projects given that the sector is in excess of 67% of the total population.



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## **PRIORITY AREA 12**

### **Social Protection**

Poverty remains a menace given increasing vulnerability compounded by COVID-19 induced shocks. Scaling the social protection spending goes a long way in addressing meagre social safety nets that do not alter the welfare of the vulnerable.

## **PRIORITY AREA 13**

### **Environmental Protection, Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management**

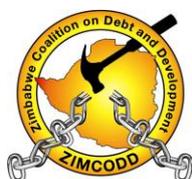
The NDSI failed to meet all the targets for 2021 largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic which affected the tourism sector, ill-implementation of climate resilience strategies and limited action in the rehabilitation of mining dumpsites. It is expedient for government to invest political will in managing natural resources to thwart the natural resource curse, resource conflicts, illicit activities in the mining sector and improving transparency around natural resource management.

## **PRIORITY AREA 14**

### **Governance**

Albeit data limitations, key measures such as corruption, the Mo Ibrahim Index, property rights index, service delivery and other governance indices missed their 2021 targets. There is need to advocate for independence of anti- corruption institutions such as ZACC and NPA for them to execute their mandates in a professional and ethical manner.

For more information read the CISOMM report [here](#)



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