

DEVELOPMENT WATCH

*Civil Society's
National Indicative Program
Monitoring
and
Advocacy*

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EARTH DAY

Annually, April 22 is designated as World Earth Day, for the purpose of the global community to introspect on the dire consequences of unsustainable human practices. As such, the commemoration comes at no better time than now when the world is grappling with the manifestation of global warming, with its resultant phenomenon climate change.

Locally in the case of Zimbabwe owing to lack of high industrialisation we are beginning to witness bouts of climate variability, shifts in weather patterns; a development that ought to ring alarm bells to accelerate SDG 13(Climate Action) to



avert a climate catastrophe in the not-so-distant future.

Climate change as a term has in the past few years become a buzz globally and in that regard for the benefit of all and sundry what is Climate Change?

Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates. These changes have a broad range of observed effects that are synonymous with the term.

Changes observed in Earth's climate since the early 20th century are primarily driven by human activities, particularly fossil fuel burning, which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth's atmosphere, raising Earth's average surface temperature. These human-produced temperature increases are commonly referred to as global warming. Natural processes can also contribute to climate change, including internal variability (e.g., cyclical ocean patterns like El Niño, La Niña and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation) and external forcings (e.g., volcanic activity, changes in the Sun's energy output, variations in Earth's orbit).

What Are the Causes of Climate Change?

The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil

fuels, such as oil and coal, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere—primarily carbon dioxide. Other human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

While some quantities of these gases are a naturally occurring and critical part of Earth's temperature control system, the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ did not rise above 300 parts per million between the advent of human civilization roughly 10,000 years ago and 1900. Today it is at about 400 ppm, a level not reached in more than 400,000 years. These numbers are quite intriguing.

Why is Climate Important?

Scenes of flooding and storms show us just how much weather and climate can affect our lives.

Climate affects nearly every aspect of our lives, from our food sources to our transport infrastructure, from what clothes we wear, to where we go on holiday. It has a huge effect on our livelihoods, our health, and our future.

Climate is the long-term pattern of weather conditions in any particular place.

We know that our climate is changing due to humans, and these changes are already having a big impact on our lives.

It's important that we understand how the climate is changing, so that we can prepare for the future

Studying the climate helps us predict how much rain the next winter might bring, or how far sea levels will rise due to warmer sea temperatures.

We can also see which regions are most likely to be affected by extreme weather, or which wildlife species are threatened by climate change.



Community's Participation Key to Waste Management



Despite the existence of national and local legislations seeking to intensify the collective efforts of local authorities in the provision of solid waste management projects in the country, Zimbabwe remains less privileged on employing advanced technology on waste management.

Observations around many urban centres or municipalities dotted around the country paints a gloomy picture of the status quo with regards to municipal practices in solid waste management.

Population increase, urbanization and irregular expansions in municipal areas are some of the major factors exacerbating the negative environmental development, resulting in increases in the quantity of solid waste generated over the years. More so, the development is turning grave in all Urban dwellings and surrounding communities due to ever-growing levels of pollution.

Nonetheless, without dwelling much on these sad developments undermining Zimbabwe's urbanization thrust; research has shown that success in managing municipal waste is underpinned on several factors such as strong political leadership, strengthened networking with other stakeholders, and active participation of community members. Another strategy to address the problems of solid waste management is the use of low cost and local technology.

And if we are to zero in on all these

strategies, one that's appears to outweigh the rest in terms of positives is active community participation since communities form the heart and soul of our society, hence their relevance to the development mantra.

As such, conventional wisdom around the world can never be nothing short of a magic wand in reinstating the need for a holistic approach involving the community in addressing the perennial challenge of pollution bedevilling our once majestic Urban centres.

Of late, there has been a lot of discourse around coming up with effective ways to better manage garbage or other household waste and recycling is one of those concepts that has been weighed up. Recycling is a buzzword for an environmentally friendly way to manage waste, a more comprehensive approach to doing so is summarized by the "Three Rs": *I. Reduce: Buy only what you need because a better way to reduce waste is by not creating it. II. Reuse: If you have to acquire goods, try getting used ones or obtaining substitutes. III. Recycle: When discarding your waste, find ways to recycle it instead of letting it go to landfill.*

As a nation, we are generating more garbage and we don't know what to do with it. Ineffective or irresponsible disposal of this waste is contributing to environmental pollution and pose a public health risk. We are running out of space in existing landfills. Citizens are discovering that there is no easy way to get rid of the garbage they once assumed could be buried or burned and



forgotten

Current disposal methods threaten our health, safety, and environment, and pose additional indirect costs to society. Most industrial, commercial, and household waste is now being placed in landfills or surface impoundments. Waste treated in this manner may contaminate groundwater, rivers, and streams.

When waste is burned, it releases hazardous gases into the air and leaves toxic residues in the form of ash. These hazardous waste byproducts find their way into humans and animals in one form or another.

In Zimbabwe we are only recycling a small percentage of waste. The benefits of recycling come not only from selling recycled materials and conserving resources but also from reducing expenses or from "avoided costs."

However, is it disheartening to note that recycling awareness among the community is not high and low public concern is the cause for limited recycling. It is herein that key institutions such as local authorities, government arms namely Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Ministry of Health, civic society organisations (CSOs) should pursue this path vigorously and ensure awareness creation for recycling is achieved. Therefore, awareness creation plays an important role in making sustainable waste management, in fact the 3Rs principle a success.

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TORIRO HOLDING HIS SACK OF RECYCLABLES

Standing on the side of a not-so frequented dusty road camouflaged by trees and a thicket of grass, Peter Toriro (not real name) lays down a sack strapped on his back resting for a while before proceeding. And on approaching close to this seemingly all too common feature of daily rigours for survival from a challenging Zimbabwean economic, one is prompted to weigh up assumptions regarding the motive of the middle-aged frail looking male figure clad in soiled clothes coupled with a face mask, evidently a regard of Covid-19 prevention measures

Undeterred by the presence of a handful of passersby, the quite at ease Toriro has the pleasure to give courtesy in the

form of 'masikatii' (good afternoon in Shona) to everyone passing along the way. He happens to be among the few individuals in the town who, after failing to obtain decent work, gathered the guts to venture into the less glamorous but unchartered territory of waste picking as a source of livelihood.

"I have been surviving on picking waste for a couple of years now. Initially it was a fallback plan to my loss of formal employment and subsequent failure to find another job," quips Toriro. He sales the recyclables to merchants in Chinhoyi for US\$0.30cents equating to Zimbabwean \$30 per kilogramme.

With average weekly earnings of US\$30-40 and a monthly income ranging between US\$120-160, he brags about being able to break even in terms of sustaining his family through paying rentals, school fees for the kids, buying food in addition to other overheads.

"I can't complain much since I am capable of taking care of my family through the small amount. Not much but it makes a difference though," he says, while urging others to step forward and show to society the untapped potential of waste picking and recycling to the economy.

Data on recycling activities or the 3R principle in Zimbabwe is so negligible and it all points to lack or absence of institutional mechanisms with regard to implementation. It also lays credence to the informal manner under which it is being implemented. Not only is this eminent in Zimbabwe, but it appears to transcend geographical boundaries within the context of most developing countries if we are to go with trends.

Providing a detailed and comprehensive discourse around recycling in developing countries is taxing and requires committing a significant amount of time into research work but there are benefits that accrue through embracing and scaling up of the 3R principle.

A 2013 assessment by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the United States of America provides some food for thought regarding the rate of time at which various household waste require to decompose.

ITEM	TIMEFRAME
Paper towel	2-4 weeks
Plastic bag	10-20 years
Newspaper	6 weeks
Plastic Film Container	20-30 years
Apple Core	2 months
Tin Can	50 years
Waxed Milk Carton	3 months
Rubber Boot Sole	50-80 years
Plywood	1-3 years
Plastic Cup	50 years
Wool Sock	1-5 years
Aluminum Can	80-200 years
Cigarette Butt	1-75 years
Diaper	450 years
Beverage Bottle	450 years
Monofilament Fishing Line	600 years
Glass Bottle	1 million years

2013 assessment by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The same EPA report justifies the significance of waste recycling from an economic sense through elaborating its many benefits in addition to circumventing pollution, enhancing sanitation as well.

Recycling generates industry: As communities recycle, there will be a growing supply of materials generated. In order to utilize these recycled materials, manufacturing facilities will emerge to find uses for them. As more recycling plants are built and more products are manufactured, we will gain a greater understanding of the entire process.

Recycling creates jobs: EPA estimates that recycling 10,000 tons of materials would create 36 jobs compared to six for landfilling the same amount (EPA, 2002). Some communities have formed working partnerships with workshops for the disabled, developed and administered job-training partnerships, or otherwise found work for unemployed labor in recycling programs.

Cost avoidance of recycling: For years, recycling has been hampered by the belief that it should make money. That may be true for some recyclables, but not for others. Rather, recycling should be thought of as a cost-effective disposal option. It usually requires fewer government subsidies than landfilling or incineration. It saves natural resources and helps protect the

environment. Lower taxes, energy savings, and a cleaner environment are the real “bottom lines” in favour of recycling

Since human development is all about expanding citizen capabilities to fend for themselves, it appears recycling could prove one piece to the jigsaw puzzle and a masterstroke towards giving impetus to economic blue-prints such as **National Development Strategy (NDS1)** in the case of Zimbabwe.

Over and above all, the ultimate link between the attainability or failure to enjoy certain fundamentals specified within the scope of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals framework namely SDG 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17 (No poverty, Zero hunger, Good health and well-being, Clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, Decent work and economic growth, Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Reduced inequality, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action and partnerships for goals respective).

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A Success Story About Tujatane Trust and Nyaminyami Community



Tujatane Trust is a community-based organization that seeks to empower and capacitate the underprivileged and vulnerable communities along Zambezi Valley. The communities' vulnerability has been a result of BaTonga people's displacement from Zambezi Valley to pave way for the rising lake Kariba which gave way to increased poverty. Tujatane Trust strives to bring the communities together to achieve sustainable development holistically.

In the year 2021, Tujatane Trust earmarked to embark on a massive capacity building of marginalised and impoverished societies in Nyaminyami, mainly those vulnerable groups, who are lagging behind in terms of education and schools infrastructure development. Tujatane Trust has collaborated with Munamata community and the local leadership of the area to meaningfully address the various developmental challenges that continue to rope in the future advancement of the School. Munamata is one of the poorest and marginalised rural schools in Nyaminyami. The school had no any significant aspect of future improvement in terms of infrastructure development. However, we found the situation to be pathetic as only a single and uncompleted shed was visible at Munamata Primary School.

The whole community was negative and reluctant about doing any form of developmental inputs for the upliftment of the school. Munamata School was totally forgotten in terms of

infrastructure advancement. "We were hopeless and totally reluctant to participate in the school development. We never dreamt that one day this school would be in a state of having even a single block, like what I am witnessing here".

Village Head Chitate was quoted, as he was speaking to Tujatane Trust Director Mr. Stephen Murota for thanking him with the



positive humanitarian interventions and responsive towards the efforts elevated upon the rehabilitation of the school. "We recognize your total commitment and unwavering support towards capacity building of our community to realize their own development," Village Head Chitate added.

On the other hand, the Munamata School Head has also appraised Tujatane Trust as he has proved that there is superb in our continued human-centered development interventions approaches. "This is appreciated by many citizenry in Nyaminyami. Tujatane's human development approach is so democratic and more impactful," commented Munamata School Head Mr. Martin Rwenhamo.

At the same time, Tujatane Trust is spearheading the human rights protection and promotion programmes that equally transforms the livelihoods of vulnerable and impoverished groups in Nyaminyami. Tujatane impart this knowledge and skill to the community, through capacity building workshops and trainings, mainly to build community resilience and for self-sustainability. "We have a network of 48 Peer Educators across the district, who are ward based and help Tujatane to identify and document any cases of human rights violations and or gender-based violence." Said Mr. Murota.

"Many Parents at Munamata were boycotting sending their children to school, some were not paying fees and even withdrawing their children from attending the school lessons sighting high staff turnover, which resulted in poor performance and poor results. This was due to the poor environmental state of the school." lamented Mr. Rwenhamo.

It is this year when Tujatane Trust, with support from a network of its partners; The Egg foundation, Civic Forum on Human Development and NANGO, had given the Munamata community a sympathetic nod by interventions on a critical assessment to assist the local leadership to conscientise community to realize the future of their children.

Alternatively, the refurbishment of Munamata Primary School is a paradigm shift to create a new conducive teaching and learning environment to meet the minimum standards expected in all schools to operate in a safe environment, without risking children and teachers to the pandemic outbreaks of COVID-19.



Munamata Primary School, still doesn't have adequate infrastructure and personal protective equipment to cater for emergencies in period like that of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreaks. The expectations are focused on improved hygiene, social distancing, and PPE supplies and among others as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The work was not even easy and it was unusual for a

community-based organisation, like Tujatane to reawakening the community that has been lost its hope for the past many years.

We politely taught the community to understand that charity begins at home and it is only the master or owner of the dog who could have a better understanding of its new tricks.

Our rural communities should not undermine themselves, because of their poor status quo and lack of external empowerment interventions. They should also realize that at one point and the other, they have richness within themselves and treasurer to bequeath for their prosperity. The power is within their ability to rediscover themselves. It is also equally tantamount and invaluable asset, which could take them extra mile if well utilised. Their conscience and a will to succeed is a very paramount resource that renders no money to buy any energy. This is a crucial aspect that people of Munamata had never realized in their life time.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Stephen Murota is a Director at Tujatane Trust and writes in his own capacity.

Therefore, views expressed are personal.

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Towards Youth Development: A brief Introspection of National Development Strategy (NDS1)

The National Development Strategy which is a predecessor of the Transitional Stabilization Program (TSP) came at a time when young people in Zimbabwe are faced with an array of challenges ranging from abject poverty, unemployment, mental health, exorbitant education, unavailable health care, shrinking of civic space to develop and innovate, arrests among other. As the strategy is being used as an engine to achieve vision 2030, a positive step, however, this vision must be premised on inclusivity, meaning to say young people who constitute a larger percentage of the total population must be part of the driving force for the strategy.

For Zimbabwe to achieve an empowered and prosperous Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030, all its citizens regardless of different political views must be part of the agenda. The NDS1 apart from being too ambitious as other policy documents in Zimbabwe since the new millennium highlights key economic and political issues that can transform the country. The NDS1 aims to deliver broad-based transformation, new wealth creation, and expanding horizons of economic opportunities for all Zimbabweans, with no one left behind. It also projects to grow the economy at an average of 5% for the next five years, maintain fiscal deficits averaging not more than 3% of GDP, lower inflation to within the SADC inflation target range of 3% to 7% by 2025, increase forex reserves to at least six months' import cover by 2025, market-determined exchange rate regime, maintain public and publicly guaranteed external and domestic debt to GDP at below 70% of GDP, maintain a current account balance of not more than 3% of GDP, create at least 760,000 formal jobs over the five years, improve infrastructure development in energy, water, sanitation, roads, and housing and accelerate value addition and beneficiation in agriculture and mining.

Taking a look at what the NDSI wants to achieve on paper, one would agree Zimbabwe is moving in the right direction.

However, there are key factors that need to be addressed for the strategy to achieve its objects, realizing that if all targets are met it is mostly the country's young people who will benefit, for example, employment creation, sustainable environment, quality education, and health care among other. The strategy cannot achieve its objectives in isolation, Zimbabwe needs to address its political instability which has affected its growth over the past decades, corruption is rampant, there is bad diplomacy while the strategy aims at foreign direct investments through re-engagement.

As much as the NDS1 speaks of youth inclusion and mainstreaming youth, and women; the NDS1 needs to facilitate effective participation of young people outside the tokenistic citation in the document. There is a need for a clear framework on how youth will participate, benefit, and what resources are being committed in all sectors of the economy and beyond the capital venture fund. In the past blueprints, most of the issues raised on youth started and ended on paper, without the political will to put resources forward.

There is a great opportunity to make the NDS1 work for young people, given the discussion around the Zimbabwe Youth Act, whose principals were passed by the cabinet. The enactment of the Youth Act will aid and concretize on youth development, give direction on youth programs, the Act must be followed by adequate resource support to young people, backed by skills to young people, which allow them to innovate and contribute to the economic growth. Other stakeholders such as development partners and the private sector must be motivated come-forward to complement the government through availing resources on youth participation, and development covering all sectors spelled out in the NDS1.



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WOMAN DEFIES TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP STEREOTYPE



HURUWE – Joyce Mamina (59), a female village head in Chief Dandawa's area of Hurungwe district, is proving that women in leadership can work well in communities to serve the interests of justice at local level in roles traditionally preserved for menfolk.

NHAU MANGIRAZI

In her past two years in office, Mamina, known as Sabhuku Mhosva, who lives in Deve, ward 24, has excelled in the discharge of her duties despite the resistance she initially faced.

She hails from Deve, a rural outpost located about 100 kilometres west of Karoi farming town. “The road has not been easy, given that we are living in a patriarchal society. Some men were reluctant to appreciate my rulings. I nearly gave up as I could not stand the heat. When I took over, some males never respected me when I called them to order during traditional court sittings. Some were rude and undermined my authority,” she said.

“It was a challenge and I was about to give up as I felt I had no constituency of my own although I had the mandate from Chief Dandawa. I however decided to soldier on and face the challenges head-on.”

Mamina says Chief Dandawa has also been a pillar of strength as he has encouraged her and other female traditional leaders to be firm while stamping their authority.

Born in a family of six, Mamina never thought she could land such a powerful traditional post which has made her a focal person for food aid programmes and agricultural input schemes, among other development initiatives that require mass mobilisation.

Mamina took over as village head after the death of her husband Dickson Mhosva in 2019.

“My husband was the traditional leader as a village head here since 2000 after taking from his late father,” she said.

“Following my husband death in 2019, my family decided that I must take over the post as I was acting for six months when my late husband was bedridden. I was around and helped him during his tenure in office. I have three grown-up sons who are working in Harare and Gweru who said they could not come back home to take over their father's traditional post and I was officially given the reigns by Chief Dandawa late in 2019. He has been our beacon of wisdom as he teaches us how to handle cases without bias for justice to prevail.”

Mamina explained that the “village court” has been functional as usual. She further explained that before her husband's death she was already being “groomed” to take over.

“I was helping him preside over traditional matters brought before him for arbitration, especially social conflicts, boundary feuds, among others. It worked well as I was indirectly being groomed to be what I am today as a traditional head,” Mamina said.

“We have had our village court operating as it used to do during my husband's days. The jury has always been there and I just work closely with them for guidance and we have never strayed as a committee on judgments.”

Mamina said her sons are supportive of her role as the village head and do not interfere with her rulings.

“Once in a while when the sons come home they usually ask me what has been going on and are very supportive of my role. It gives them hope and pride because I am just and fair in my approach to justice in the community,” she said.

“My promotion to be substantive village head does not mean to say there are no males in our family. My sons voluntarily gave me the option to take over after their father's death. Now I have enjoyed it as local villagers support me during our regular developmental meetings. We are now united.

“At times, I take the opportunity to counsel young girls to be wary of early sexual activities that may fuel early marriages.”

She said those who initially undermined or doubted her were now warming up to her work ethic.

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